

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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- ▶ Nearly \$500,000 from 'arson fund' given to churches across U.S. — Page 10

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Board acts on CP budget goal, camp plans

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Sept. 6 approved a \$28.2 million 1996-97 Cooperative Program budget, elected Eugene Cotey as its president, and approved Tim Holcomb as Church Growth Development Group leader.

All three elected officers were unopposed.

In another major action, the Executive Board approved a concept plan from the Central Administrative Committee, for master plans of Camp Carson and Camp Linden, to serve as "the guiding blueprint for the development of both properties."

Master plans for both camps were presented by committee chairman Conyer Walker and discussed.

The board approved the committee's request to "empower the Central Administrative Committee to begin implementation of the Master Plan at both camps on a pay-as-you-go basis."

The request also pledged that the committee will bring to the board regular progress reports, proposals for beginning any new phase of work, and all proposals regarding the financing and budgeting of construction.

The CAC was "empowered to employ architects, engineers, and contractors to con-

duct work as necessary within phase schedule and budget framework as approved by the board."

The CAC also was authorized to begin selection of architectural/engineering firms and general matters or specific areas of both camps, including both main lodges.

All design work, it was agreed, would be paid from available Golden State Mission Offering funds, with major construction subject for approval of budget and financing by the Executive Board.

The board, meeting at the Baptist Center here, also elected Eugene Cotey, retired pastor from First Church, Murfreesboro, as its incoming president.

Michael Smith, pastor of Second Church, Memphis, is vice president, and Reed Dixon, layman from First Church, Sweetwater, was chosen secretary.

Tim Holcomb, former Sunday School Board employee and currently associate pastor of South Main Church,



PRESIDENT OF THE Executive Board, Herbert Higdon, left, presents new officers, from left, Eugene Cotey, retired pastor, First Church, Murfreesboro; Michael Smith, pastor, Second Church, Memphis; and Reed Dixon, member of First Church, Sweetwater. — Photo by Connie Davis

Pasadena, Texas, was approved as CGD group leader, effective Oct. 1.

Bill Wilson, who had been serving in that post, will continue as Ministry Coordinator with four groups reporting.

Holcomb served 12 years at the SSB, most recently as a manager supervising schedules, budgets, and field services. He had also been involved in training events and designing products.

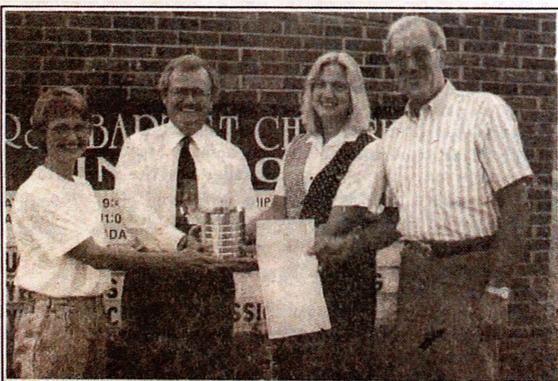
The budget recommendation of \$28,192,138, is a 4.5 percent increase over the current budget. Presented by Paul Medley, Budget and Program Committee chairman, the presentation was discussed briefly

before approval.

During the discussion, Joey Rosas, Memphis, reminded board members of the SBC-mandated dissolution of the Education Commission. "This means there is no longer a strong SBC advocacy for Christian liberal arts education.

"We do not want to restrict or hold back on our colleges. I just want to say an affirming word of support for our colleges," he said. Rosas also said he was grateful for the convention-approved endowment program for Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Belmont University.

— See page 2



BURNING A NOTE representing the payment of a \$120,000 debt are leaders of First Church, Pinewood, in Nunnally, from left, Cindy Leeper; Donnie Craig, former pastor who founded the church; Jeanie LaCasse; and Wes Gray. The event took place on Aug. 4 along with a celebration of the 12th anniversary of the church and a homecoming.

For Hurricane Fran victims

Cleanup workers requested

For *Baptist and Reflector*

ing to Bearden.

BRENTWOOD — The North Carolina Brotherhood office has requested help from Tennessee following Hurricane Fran, reported Tim Bearden, Tennessee's Brotherhood director.

Volunteers willing to travel to one of the stricken areas and do clean-up work are needed, especially Sept. 12-14, said Bearden.

A TBC Brotherhood Disaster Relief team left Sept. 6 for Wilson, N.C. to assist with feeding victims of the hurricane, only to be rerouted home later that day, accord-

The 25-person Brotherhood delivery team was en route to Knoxville, when notified that the need for food services was not as severe as first thought.

Mickey Caison, on-site disaster relief coordinator; and his North Carolina counterpart, Richard Brunson, made the decision. The need for clean-up volunteers was reported by Brunson at press time of the *Baptist and Reflector* Sept. 9.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood office at (615) 371-2025. **BGR**

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Board acts on CP budget goal, camp ...

— Continued from page 1

In the budget request, board members also approved a recommendation "that any coverage be shared according to the existing budget allocations," and Program Statements of the TBC be brought into agreement and support of the changes brought about by the restructuring of the SBC and the remodeling of Executive Board ministries.

Walker showed board members designs of the master plans for Camp Linden and Camp Carson.

He said the initial phase should be completed prior to the December Executive Board meeting. "We don't anticipate any major fund raising," he reported, adding, "We may ask some deep-pocket individuals

for help." He estimated the long range master plan would be 10 to 15 years in development.

Probably the main thrust, Walker said, was to make both camps better equipped for adult ministries. There will be new motel accommodations at both camps eventually, he said.

For Carson Springs Baptist Camp and Conference Center (new name), and Linden Baptist Camp and Conference Center, a 10-year project with turn key completion would cost \$8.6 million and \$4.8 million respectively, he added.

There will not be any construction before reporting to the Executive Board with specific requests.

The Kemp Group of White Oak, Penn., is the consultant being used for the project. The drawings can be viewed at the Baptist Center, Brentwood.

During the report on the camps, questions were asked about the feasibility of expansion. TBC camps are experiencing increased requests by groups who want to use Tennessee Baptist camps rather than camps from other



EXECUTIVE BOARD employees recognized Sept. 6 for work anniversaries. From left, Walker Wright, BSU director, University of Memphis, 10 years; Roy Miller, program associate, Sunday School, 10 years; Adam Hall Jr., BSU director, UT-Martin, 25 years; Pat Poindexter, administrative secretary, Church Music, 10 years; Maurice Hays, BSU director, Jackson State, 10 years; and Elizabeth Farmer, Administrative Assistant, Missions, 10 years.

Porch reports August CP gifts show increase

"Cooperative Program gifts from Tennessee Baptist churches during the month of August totaled \$2,635,170. CP gifts for fiscal 1995-96 total \$24,093,220.

"The year's total is an increase of \$1,639,912 over the same period for the previous fiscal year.

Throughout 1995-96, Tennessee Baptists have continually demonstrated their commitment to missions, Christian education, and a variety of ministries across the state through their CP giving." — James Porch, Executive Director. **B&R**

sources, said William Maxwell.

Eugene Cotey remarked that "if we make our camps like some of the best in other state conventions, we will be doing a great thing."

Giving a report from the Relocation Feasibility Study Subcommittee, Russ Dunham, chairman, said the committee is still negotiating with Brentwood.

"We hope our current work is completed within a few weeks," he said. "We are studying this and have not moved toward thinking that a move would be best. There are still many things to consider."

The study came out of the May Executive Board meeting and impact of major road construction on Maryland Way and loss of Executive Board

property. "We are looking at the pros and cons of moving," he said. **B&R**



BILL WILSON, right, welcomes **Tim Holcomb** to Executive Board staff position.

Group expresses views with meetings, newsletters

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A news story from Associated Baptist Press Sept. 4 reported on a movement in east Tennessee that would change the powers of the elected Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

This comes despite a state-wide effort in 1992-93 to give Tennessee Baptists statewide opportunity to express themselves on election processes.

A motion was approved at the record-setting annual meeting in Gatlinburg, to initiate a committee to study the processes. More than 2,200 messengers attended that meeting.

A balanced committee of conservative and moderate Tennessee Baptists arranged for several regional hearings. Tennessee Baptists were urged to express themselves particularly on the election processes

involving the Executive Board and other major convention committees.

Attendance was much less than expected though the sessions were announced well in advance.

The special committee reported to the convention in November 1993. Messengers at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, referred three proposals and deleted two others. According to convention officials, the spirit of the report was being carried out even before the convention met.

Apparently centered in Chilhowee Association, the major thrust of the group would give the president appointive powers.

Two pastors in the group Guy Milam, Springview Church, Maryville, and former member of the Executive Board, and Charles Bailey, Laurel Bank Church, Louisville, were contacted by a ABP newsman.

Bailey, Milam, and others in Chilhowee, have formed a Conservative Baptist Alliance. They have held meetings and circulated at least two newsletters.

Bailey said the alliance represents 35-40 pastors who regularly attend the association's ministers' conference. He said, according to the ABP story, that moderates have dropped out of that group.

The second letter apparently was mailed to about 1,300 people in eastern Tennessee. Bailey said the group will have at least one "statewide" mailing prior to a rally set for Oct. 15.

The group expressed concerns which they blame on "years of dominance by moderates on our various state boards and agencies." The letter said that if the efforts to change the presidency failed, they could do nothing, divert funds, or form another convention.

Reference was made to a retired pastor of Monte Vista Church, Howard Olive, who was elected to the Executive Board last year. A field worker for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Olive has previously served on the board.

Olive submitted a letter to the *Baptist and Reflector*, which somehow reached ABP, in which he took issue with some of the figures noted in the Bailey-Milam mailout.

Bailey said he accepted Olive's figures on percentage of Chilhowee churches represented on state boards, but "the point's still the same."

The mailout had decried what it called lack of representation on boards and committees from Chilhowee.

The first mailout urged pastors to send the maximum allowable number of messengers to the 1996 annual meeting in Nashville. **B&R**

(Editor's note: See editorial on page 5).

Marching along together is best way

From a friend: "If a stealth bomber crashes in a forest, will it make any noise?"

Interesting question. It might be asked in a different way with different subject matter. Will the sounds of differences and arguments be heard about the steady harmony of cooperative ministries in Tennessee?

Psalm 134 is a short one, but it is packed with wisdom and good advice for the body of Christ in today's world. Yes, even Tennessee Baptists.

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity."

"It is like precious oil running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's [the priest] beard, down upon the collar of his robes."

"It is as if the dew of [Mount] Hermon were falling on Mount Zion."

"For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even forevermore."

Another friend remembers that he once tried to calm down an irritated brother in Christ, who felt he had been wrongly treated. His efforts were repulsed, and the brother angrily retorted, "No, I don't want reconciliation; I'd rather be mad."

Paul, the peripatetic apostle of Christ, told the Corinthians, "Examine (check up on) yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?" (II Corinthians 13:5).

Jesus, with deep compassion, said as he saw the hapless and harassed crowds of people, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." He was talking to the disciples about the people who were like sheep without a shepherd, but who were available to hear and respond to the Good News. He told the disciples to ask God to send out workers into his harvest field.

In today's scene, disciples may be too busy clamoring about political righteousness and composing theological tests to impose on others.

Have we Tennessee Baptists become like stealth bombers?

And if we judge, do we judge by the criterion of self, or the criterion of Christ Jesus?

Again, some words from Paul, the itinerant preacher, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." That comes in the middle of those great admonitions in Romans 12. That makes good reading before we judge each other.

More from Romans, in chapter 12:5-7, the advice reaches across all boundaries that seem to separate Christians. He says, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Tennessee Baptists are doing some great work for the Lord. There are thousands upon thousands working in his vineyard. We are committed to serve him through all the ministries, Partnerships Missions, Disaster Relief, colleges and schools, agents of missions, evangelism, education, and the rest.

There are bonafide differences among Tennessee Baptists, from border to border. The landscape is different, the language is different, the people are different, the politics are different, the economy, the spiritual gifts are different, our churches are different.

Yes, even Baptists are different. But should any of this keep us apart, should any prevent us from walking together and serving Christ together?

Satan likes to magnify those differences until they split us apart and prevent us from being the mighty

army that Christ can use so well.

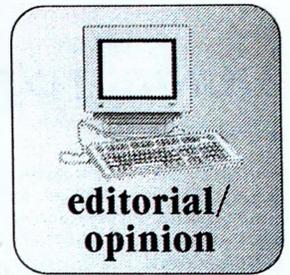
Here is the situation. Some Tennessee Baptists feel they and their churches have not had enough involvement in service on committees and boards. A group from Chilhowee Association has chosen to organize and be heard. They have meetings and a newsletter. They have declared intentions to try to change the TBC if necessary, to give the president appointive powers. There may be others, with varying opinions.

We have heard counsel for and against reporting on these. Sometimes in life, such counsel comes from those who don't see both sides of the issues. However you feel about it, we feel compelled to report. The news story is found on page 2 of this issue.

There has been no suggestion from any TBC leadership that this news be ignored by the *Baptist and Reflector*. But the editor, and probably others, feels that internal strife is too costly in money, lost friendships, loss of unity, and lost opportunities in worldwide ministry.

Advice is not always easily given or received. Where there are questions about the direction of the Convention, mediation is the answer, not angry conflict. The Scripture verses quoted in this editorial are not quoted with a pious attitude. They seem to be helpful in this atmosphere. They are conciliatory, but not without responsibility. All of us are responsible for our actions. And all of us must be sure we are acting in Christ's name, not ours.

Let us come together. No one wins in spiritual fights. Let Christ be the Mediator. *B&R*



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Reporter: "Congressman, you've had 40 years of political life. What has been the most important thing you have learned in all those years?"

Congressman: "I have learned that it is not so much whether you win or lose in life. What really matters is how you placed the blame."

Take this truth

Excuse making is one of society's greatest problems today.

Thomas Bacon said, "How easy a thing it is to find a staff if a man be minded to beat a dog."

In *Nights with Uncle Remus*, Joel Chandler Harris wrote, "No 'pollyg ain't gwine ter make ha'r come back whar de biling water hit."

I like Elbert Hubbard's epigram, "Don't make excuses — make good."

Memorize this Scripture

The invisible things of him ... are clearly seen ... so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to take responsibility for my decisions. ■

Life can be exciting; try hitching rides, washing feet

I guess it's hard to determine how far down under Australia really is. The best way is to go there — see for yourself. Spiritually, they are home-folks.

The group of 36 Tennessee Baptists who traveled "down under" earlier this summer learned there is more to Baptists there than just having different expressions and accents in language.

Aussies, they call themselves, and it didn't take long for us to feel at home.

We quickly found that prayer and a family attitude about church in the Greater Wollongong area seem to be two basic priorities.

Our group of eight was assigned to Thirroul Community Baptist Church. Thirroul, like a dozen other towns, hugs the southeastern coastline of the Illawarra region.

We found a home for that two weeks of cooperative missions.

In fact, the mission turned out to be a two-way mission. Thirroul Church minist-

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

tered to us even as we ministered with them day by day.

David McGrouther is the vivacious young pastor. Full of energy and innovative, it was tough to try to follow him. Physically, I mean.

I think he has always been that way. We might say, a bundle of energy. But it is more than that. Most of his energy is spiritual — and that drives him.

After a sunrise prayer time with 25 or 30 pastors, four of us ventured up on Mount Keira — which overlooks the towns below. It was a perfect day for spiritual blessing. Ray Luck and I had joined Pastor McGrouther and June Bock. We rejoiced in the moments of grandeur.

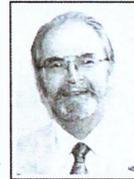
On the way down, winding the tortured

curves on the most circuitous route. I was able to probe my friend David. He had been warm and gracious, but I took these precious minutes to seek his heart.

I learned he is a man of enormous faith. I learned also that he loves the church with incomparable passion. He is a true servant of the living Lord, and he and his family, especially his wife Yvonne, revel in sacrifice.

Have you ever felt dry spiritually about not reaching your goals in witnessing? David McGrouther cures that by hitching rides on the highways and witnessing to the lost people God sends him. Did you ever need something badly and try to do it for yourself? David asks God for those tough solu-

tions. At a recent service at Thirroul, Aussie friends have told me, they washed feet. Now is that surprising — if you think we should follow Christ's example? ■



ALLEN

It's good to be a member of God's family

As members of the family of God, we are responsible for one another in several ways.

We have the responsibility to care for one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, and help one another.

Read these words from I Thessalonians carefully:

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

"See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all," (I Thessa-

think about it

— by Ken Clayton, pastor, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory

lonians 5:14).

Each person's needs are different. Some need a warning, some need comfort, some need to be held up by stronger arms, but all of us need patience.

We can never have enough patience. We will always need for others to be patient with us.

Someone has said, "People are like islands. Sometimes you have to row around them before you know where to land."

As we get to know each other, care for

one another, and especially when we learn to pray for one another, we will understand how we can best demonstrate the love of Christ to one another.

It is a privilege and a great responsibility to be a part of the family of God. We enjoy the privileges of being involved with that family as members.

It follows that we should also rejoice in the opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ to others.

We do that by being responsible members of the family of God ourselves, and by sharing his never-ending love to other members of the family. ■

Annual retreat for Women on Mission set for Sept. 20-21

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual Retreat for Women on Mission, emphasizing worship, inspiration, fellowship, and training, is scheduled Sept. 20-21 in Jackson.

Sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Tennessee Baptist Convention, the two-day meeting's theme is "Joy for the Journey." The meeting will be held at First Church, Jackson.

Registration begins at 1:45 p.m. Friday, and "early bird" conferences begin an hour later.

The seven conferences, which will be repeated at 3:45, include these topics: Being Who You Are, Dee



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WILLIAMSON

Weddle; Growing Spiritually, Carol Richardson; Clean up the Clutter, Carol Pharris; Beyond the Basics for Women on Mission, Debbie Miller; Journey in West Africa, Dottie Babcock; Journey in Mississippi, Dottie Williamson; and Prisms: Being God's Light.

Babcock is a missionary to Ivory Coast, and Williamson is a missionary associate with the Home Mission Board, and directs a multihousing ministry in two Mississippi associations. Calvert, of Ashland,

Ms., wrote *Prisms: Being God's Light for Missionaries through Prayer and Ministry*.

A general session features the theme "Knowing Whose You Are," with testimonies by Babcock and Williamson. Nelda Seal, retired WMU executive director for Louisiana, will have a Bible study, and Calvert will present Prayer Prisms.

Sessions at 8:30 and 9:25 a.m. Saturday are scheduled. A general session at 10:45 addresses "Growing into Who You Are." Katharine Bryan, executive director Tennessee WMU will interview Babcock and Williamson. Seal and Calvert will close out the program which will adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Registration fee is \$10. A Baptist Nursing Fellowship meeting is set for Friday evening. ■

World Changers offers singles missions work

For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Single adults now have a missions opportunity designed especially for them.

The Brotherhood Commission's World Changers department offers pre-packaged, hands-on, week-long missions projects tailored just for the unmarried adult, according to George Siler, who led conferences about the mission opportunity during the 31st annual Single Adult Labor Day Getaway at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 30-Sept. 1. The Labor Day conferences are sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board discipleship and family development division.

Siler, who works for the Brotherhood Commission, provided nail-driving experiences prior to evening worship services to show single adults a few construction activities they would perform if they participated in the mission experience of renovating houses or building churches. Women who could drive a nail completely into a 2x4 with four strikes of the hammer won a T-shirt. Men had to drive the nail in the plank with two strikes.

"We involve young people and adults in a missions experience that teaches them servanthood and exposes them to opportunities to further the Gospel," Siler said. "The world we seek to change first is the participant's. If we can focus on the experience of the participant so they truly develop a heart for missions, then they will be able to meet the needs of the people they serve — and change their world."

World Changers started in 1990 as a pilot project for high school students. ■

Unlimited bingo could fuel gambling in Alabama

By Jennifer Davis
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Bingo. The past time of many senior citizens. The game played next to the cake walk at carnivals to raise money for high school band uniforms. A form of fund-raising for various nonprofit organizations.

Such an innocent game. How could it ever cause any problems? But, in Alabama, controversy has arisen. That controversy deals with a proposed amendment to appear on the Nov. 5 ballot that would do away with limits on the monetary amount of prizes offered on bingo games in Jefferson County.

While the amendment seemingly only affects one area, opponents say the state is in danger of falling prey to the gambling industry if the amendment passes.

Daniel R. Farnell, a re-

search pathologist who has done extensive research on the gambling effort, said the amendment would allow governing bodies of any of the more than 30 cities and towns in Jefferson County, as well as the Jefferson County Commission, to set the limits for prize money at bingo games.

"Apparently, some legislators want us to believe the proposed amendment is harmless," said Farnell, of Hoover, Ala.

He added legislators claim the amendment calls for the upper limits on the size of bingo prizes to be set by the legislature, rather than individual city and town governments in Jefferson County approving the proposed local law.

The proposed amendment reads: "Relating to Jefferson County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that the monetary amount of prizes for the playing of bingo shall

be established by local law."

The amendment is intended to change existing Amendment 386 to the Alabama constitution, which permits bingo games in Jefferson County but strictly limits the amount of money offered in prizes.

The Alabama constitution currently states prizes given by any nonprofit organization for the playing of bingo games shall not exceed \$1,200 in cash or gifts of equivalent value during any bingo session or \$2,400 in cash or gifts of equivalent value during any calendar week.

Tony Petelos, chairman of the Jefferson County House delegation, said the purpose for removing the prize limitations on bingo is to allow organizations to change prize amounts to adjust for inflation and cost-of-living increases — \$1,200 in 1996 is not the same as \$1,200 in 1979 when the limit was established and passed.

But Petelos said limits still need to be established. "This amendment would just allow local law to set the limits rather than constitutionally," he said.

Farnell warns Alabamians not to be misled — opening the door for unlimited bingo would allow for more sophisticated gambling to plague the state.

"The proposed amendment, if adopted, will in effect be comparable to repealing Section 65 of the Alabama constitution, which now bars operation of lotteries and casino gambling in Alabama," Farnell said, adding bingo is simply a form of lottery limited to relatively small prizes. "Large prizes convert bingo to a full-fledged lottery."

Farnell noted an amendment to legalize bingo had to be adopted in Jefferson County because Section 65 of the constitution prohibited bingo, calling it a form of lottery. ■

How to develop a happy home for your family

families matter
— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

The apostle Paul, sick, in prison, and over the age of 40, wrote an inspiring letter to a church in Philippi. In that letter he warns of four things which can rob us of our Christian joy and four things that can prevent us from losing our joy. I would like to apply these to the home by approaching four deterrents of a happy home and four determinants of a happy home.

The four deterrents of a happy home are perspective, people, possessions, and problems. Our perspective is the way we view our circumstances. As we have noted, Paul was in prison, sick, and 40-something. He did not let his perspective of even these circumstances rob him of his joy. In the second chapter the apostle describes how some people were giving him problems, but he refused to allow people to rob him of his joy. In the third chapter he addresses the effect that things and possessions have on our happiness. We are all in danger of letting the



BARKLEY

desire for possessions or the fear of the loss of possessions keep us from being happy. In the fourth chapter of this little letter, the apostle addresses the problems that we all face. Most of these revolve around wrong thinking and wrong feeling about perspective, people, and possessions.

The apostle suggests four determinants of happiness in the home. Warren Wiersbe calls these the single mind, the submissive mind, the spiritual mind, and the secure mind. We can face the problem of perspective with the focus of a single mind. The apostle said that for him to live was Christ and to die was gain. We deal with problem people by having a submissive mind.

The apostle uses the examples of Jesus Christ, himself, Timothy and Epaphroditus to show how the submissive mind allows us to have happiness in the face of problem people.

We use the third determinant to deal with the problem of possessions which rob us of our happy home. This third determinant is the spiritual mind. Paul has three analogies that he uses to help us understand the spiritual mind.

Wiersbe reminds us that Paul says that we must be like accountants with right values (I count), athletes with right vigor (I press), and aliens with right vision (I look). Each of these aspects of the spiritual mind will provide the way to keep possessions or the lack of them from robbing us of our happy home.

The final determinant is the secure mind. The apostle reminds us that we can face all our problems triumphantly when we have a secure mind. The security of mind is the product of God's peace (vv. 1-9), God's power (vv. 10-13), and God's provision (vv. 14-23).

It should be encouraging to each of us that we can face the deterrents of our happy home (perspective, people, possessions, and problems) with four strong determinants found in the right mind (single, submissive, spiritual, and secure). *BR*



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

We are coming to the end of an extremely busy and fruitful summer with volunteer missions projects.

Our Tennessee teams have met many different needs at home and abroad, enabling churches, associations, and conventions to do what they could not have done by themselves.

Let me express my heartfelt thanks to the thousands of you who have served all around the world this summer. You have left a mark on the lives of everyone you have ministered to in Christ's name.

Each one of you has seen God uniquely work in lives. Each volunteer has experienced God working to overcome obstacles. For some it was the obstacle of money, and you watched as God provided the resources.

For others it was getting the time off from your job, finding someone to care for your children, or adjusting to the new foods and culture. However, as a result, you have had a tremendous opportunity to touch lives as well as have your own life touched.

I hope each of you has had the opportunity to share your experiences with your church. Your enthusiasm is one of the best ways to encourage other church members to be involved in future volunteer missions activities.

If you are looking for missions speakers in your church, why not consider one of the many Tennessee Partnership missions volunteers. Let them share with your church their rich missions experience.

God Bless,

Leroy



SHARP

Belmont University athletes revisit Poland

By Betty Wiseman
For "The Macedonian Call"

Ten student athletes from Belmont University, Nashville, accompanied by Betty Wiseman, associate professor, health and physical education, recently returned from Poland after working two weeks in Warsaw, Krakow, and Bialystok.

I am the former Belmont ladies basketball coach, and now God is giving me opportunities to get student athletes involved in sports evangelism mission trips. For six of the students and myself, it was our second trip to Poland in two years. Our mission again to Poland was to work with high school students, play basketball, share Christ, and be spontaneous to the needs and opportunities as they arose.

En route an unexpected delay in Pittsburgh, Penn., caused us to miss our Polish flight out of Newark, N.J., that evening. It provided us with our first encounter with God's "unexpected blessings" that would be afforded us throughout the trip.

After a frustrating two hours in Newark, trying to find a motel at 11 p.m., we settled for our delay. We were just happy to be together in a strange place with all our luggage.

A call to SBC home missionaries, Nancy and DeLane

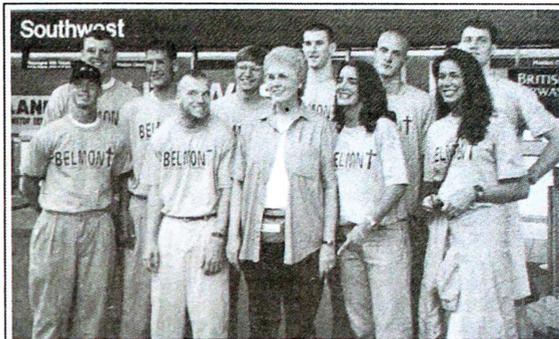
Ryals, who lived 10 miles from our motel, provided us a promise of safe passage the following day to the airport. Our first unexpected blessing came when the Ryals came for us and provided a two-hour tour before going to the airport which included the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Not one of our team members had ever been to New York or New Jersey.

The following Monday, we began our ministry in a local high school in Warsaw. Our first classroom visit was an English class. The teacher said, "We are studying about the Statue of Liberty. We would like for you to tell us about it and give us your impressions."

I wanted to fall on my knees, but I smiled. As I found my seat, I fought back the tears and thanked God that he was in control and not me. It was a joyous and humbling experience as we shared about the Statue of Liberty.

The opportunities to witness in the high school in Warsaw, the freedom we had in that school, only God could orchestrate that door.

Later, we were in Bialystok. It was one hour before game time when we arrived at the local gymnasium. This was the last game of our trip; our last opportunity to play ball and share Christ before heading



THE MISSIONS TEAM of basketball players from Belmont University pauses at the airport before leaving for Poland. Left to right are Kevin Fields, Jeff McGinnis, Kerry West, Keith Tenpenny, David Weatherspoon, Betty Wiseman, Chris Goode, Amber Gibbs, Seth Peltus, Abby Benton, and Gary Rankhorn.

back to the States.

While the players went into the dressing room, I wandered into the gym.

To my surprise, I discovered a packed and overflowing crowd waiting to see the Americans play. We had heard this was a "good" team. What we did not know was it was Poland's professional team. We were a "tune up" game for the Polish team as they prepared for the European championships.

I was overwhelmed and what would I say to my team before they took the floor. Several thoughts filled my head. We had played games against Warsaw's best club team, played against, and with, high school teams, played with church groups, conducted clinics, and played exhibition games.

I knew what the guys would say when I told them around

1,500 people were waiting for them to take the floor.

"We didn't come here for this, Coach Wiseman," they echoed. "Competition is not what we are about on this trip. We are a mission trip. How did this happen?"

God provided the answer as we searched our hearts, prayed, and felt his powerful presence and peace. We did not come to compete like this, but God had set the stage. The people had come to see a basketball game with the Americans, but what they did not know was God had brought them there to hear a witness for Jesus Christ.

It was one of the most moving experiences I have ever encountered as Kevin Fields and Kerry West, both of Hendersonville, told at halftime why we were there. Then they shared their personal relationship with Christ. The people listened and they heard. It was a first in Poland, a witness for Christ at a major sporting event. (We also found out that the game was televised at a later date.)

We were also privileged to give our witness in Krakow before 600 people at a joint worship service of six denominations on a Sunday morning. This service was also a first in Poland, several denominations coming together to worship. Each day, each opportunity reminded us that God was in control.

— See Belmont, page 6

Belmont team available to speak
The Belmont University missions basketball team is available to give testimonies, lead worship services, youth groups, etc. Contact Betty Wiseman to schedule the team. ■



READY TO PLAY is, left to right, David Weatherspoon, Keith Tenpenny, Chris Goode, Gary Rankhorn, Kerry West, Kevin Fields, Seth Peltus, and in front, Jeff McGinnis.



Introducing Victoria, my new friend in Poland, to Jesus

By Betty Wiseman
For "The Macedonian Call"

In addition to playing Polish adult teams, Belmont University basketball players also witnessed on the sidelines. The following is an account by Betty Wiseman, Belmont University associate professor of health and physical education, of sideline action.

During a Sports Evangelism trip to Poland, Belmont University basketball players were preparing for a game with Warsaw's outstanding club team, when I met an interesting little girl, Victoria.

I watched as three small children couldn't keep their eyes off the basketballs. I'd seen children's faces like this before, eager to get their hands on a basketball, perhaps for the first time.

I gathered up three balls and motioned for the little boys to come to center court. I gave an impromptu basketball clinic in dribbling, passing, and handling.

Even though these little players couldn't speak English, they did everything I showed them to do with the basketball.



WITNESSING to Victoria, center, are Amber Gibbs, left, and Abbey Benton.

I noticed a little girl standing nearby and motioned for her to come join us.

"Do you want to play?" I asked.

Victoria replied in English, "Yes!"

I got excited that she could speak English. She joined our team and we laughed and had a great time. I taught them how to give a "high five." We also videoed and made pictures of my little Polish team.

Since the older players had finished their warm-up, the Belmont team joined hands and had a pre-game prayer. When I took my seat on the bench, Victoria joined me.

"What were you doing?" she asked.

"We were praying," I said.

"What's that?" Victoria said.

"Hasn't anyone ever told you about Jesus? Do you know who Jesus is?"

"No."

I called Amber Gibbs and Abbey Benton from the stands and told them Victoria needed to know about our friend, Jesus. They took her to the stands and proceeded to tell her about Jesus. Closing my eyes, I said, "Thank

you, Lord."

Though the game had begun, my thoughts and prayers were for a member of my "little Polish team." God used Abbey and Amber. Victoria was their shadow for the rest of the evening. They also shot basketball with her at half time.

Victoria wrapped her arms around my waist when we said good-bye. I held her and said, "I love you and Jesus loves you, too."

Abbey and Amber gave her special hugs. Victoria had tears running down her face and we cried, too.

After we drove away, I thought, I don't know if Victoria asked Jesus into her heart. She knows who he is and that he cares for her. The seed was planted. She also knows that there are some Americans who love her and touched her life. And she touched our lives, too. ■ — Marcia Knox also contributed to this story

Dear Jeff:

The following excerpts are from a letter received by one of the Belmont University basketball players following his recent trip to Poland.

I think that you're a really happy guy because your faith in Lord is so strong. I think that everybody should believe in something, because without faith and Jesus people are very lonely. I am very lonely and I really need Jesus, but I don't know the way leading to "him." Without Jesus in my heart, I feel so empty. I need someone to teach me about Jesus.

When you were talking about the God I could see the love in your eyes. I felt that everything you were talking about — it was true.

I wonder how did you get to this and what made your faith so strong. I tried to get to know and learn many other religions. But it didn't help, I didn't see this "light."

After our meeting, I realized that I can't live without God, it is impossible. Please write to me as soon as you can.

Yours sincerely,
Agnis

Belmont University athletes revisit ...

— Continued from page 5

Jeff McGinnis of Nashville said, "I have played basketball all my life. I've been on Belmont's outstanding teams and played in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes Final Four the past two years. But what I experienced in Poland playing basketball and

sharing my faith in Jesus Christ, it means far more to me than any experience I have had as an athlete."

Besides Wiseman, Fields, West, and McGinnis, other members of Belmont's English/Sports Evangelism team were: Abbey Benton, Amber Gibbs, Chris Goode, Seth Pettus, Gary Rankhorn, Keith Ten-

penny and David Weatherspoon.

"These are only two stories, and there were so many, that the two weeks afforded us," Wiseman added. "God was in control and reminded us over and over that the trip was his agenda, not ours." ■ Marcia Knox contributed to this story

To the Churches in Tennessee:

As pastor of Evergreen Church, Cadillac, Michigan, I am writing to tell you how very grateful we are to all our brothers and sisters in the Volunteer State.

Thank you Tennessee for your love, faithfulness to missions, and obedience to our Lord Jesus.

It is mid-August, and we are absolutely in awe of what God has done this summer! A year ago, we sent a request to Terry Sharp, director of TBC Partnership Missions Department, for help in constructing a new building.

I would like to share what God through the churches of Tennessee has done over the past two months. On the outside our new building is now 98 percent complete at Evergreen Church.

God spoke to the hearts of His people in Tennessee and this summer seven separate teams responded and came to Cadillac to accomplish a miraculous work!

On June 15, around 17 adults and 10 teens arrived from Mt. Olive Church, Knoxville. Before they left a week later, the team had built all exterior and interior walls covered with sheathing. The first day and a-half-day they worked in rain!

However the cool, damp days did hinder our planned Backyard Bible clubs. We managed to meet a couple of days with our own kids in the sanctuary.

Next, there came a crew of eight from Lawrence County Association, south of Nashville. In four days the team had removed the baptistry from the old building and transferred it into the new one. Also they built the worship center platform. They donated \$400 to the building fund!

Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley Associations from Tennessee arrived July 15 to accomplish an incredible amount of work in putting up the trusses and the new roof. In spite of a day and a half-day of rain, the teams managed to shingle the old

building and part of the new roof before leaving. Donations totaling \$1,000 were also given from many different sources in their associations.

During the same week, a six-man team from Georgetown Church in Georgetown helped to complete all the rough-in electrical work by doing a "high wire act" by tiptoeing through the trusses. This team's expertise alone saved us thousands of dollars in labor.

A fifth team from First Church, Blountville, arrived about the end of July. They installed vinyl siding on both the old and new buildings. They also bricked up the new church sign and completed other brick work. The team helped shingle part of the new roof which was finished before the last crew arrived.

The final Tennessee team of 52 consisted of members from Grace Church, Knoxville, and 47 from Brainerd Church, Chattanooga. Together they accomplished about 90 percent of the dry wall and most of the first layer of tape and mud. The church's 25 member Senior High Youth Choir held a Vacation Bible School under a tent. The choir also performed a concert in a park near Lake Cadillac where four people professed Jesus as Savior. The teens also did a beautiful job of landscaping the church.

In two months, Tennessee volunteers did what seemed impossible. They built a church to the glory of God! Tennessee Baptists, you can be very proud of those who came to represent the state. Each person gave of themselves beyond the call of duty. Each one exhibited an abundance of Christ's love. The people of Cadillac are still talking about "all those Baptists" who touched of our community.

Tennessee, thank you. We love you all.

Very truly yours,
Pastor David Cummings
and the Folks at Evergreen Church



Do missions work in Tennessee

Michiganders reverse normal roles of partnership

For "The Macedonian Call"

Oakland Woods Church, Clarkston, Mich., along with one of its mission congregations, ministered this summer to children in Tennessee's Concord Association through Backyard Bible Clubs.

The Multihousing Ministry of Concord Association in Murfreesboro was blessed by the mission group from Michigan, June 30-July 4, according to Ellen Chapman, coordinator for multihousing ministry for the association.

The group was led by Bob Galey, president of the Michigan Baptist Convention and pastor of Oakland Woods Church. They learned about

needs in the association through a sister-church relationship with First Church, Smyrna.

Chapman reported that the group proved to be a dedicated mission-minded team sent by God. "Their ministry was certainly led by God as they instilled in these children a new sense of worth with much love and concern," she said.

"Lives are being changed as a result of their time spent here. We thank God and thank them for the seeds that were sown. They will long be remembered by the children whose lives they touched."

Galey led part of the group in ministry to children in a public housing area. The vol-



LEADING CHILDREN in activities is Bob Galey, center, pastor, Oakland Woods Church, with help from other Michiganders.

unteers used puppets, music, and Bible stories. The other part of the group was led by

Karl Chadwick, pastor of the missions congregations in Lake Orion, Michigan. Chad-

wick's group focused on children at another multicultural housing community. ■

Kingston Church erects center

For "The Macedonian Call"

A total of 67 volunteers from First Church, Kingston, erected a 4,300-square-foot Family Life building for Ainsworth Church in Flint, Mich., in June.

The Kingston volunteers were joined by five people from Lusby, Md., the site of a previous mission project. The church has done a building missions project for 10 previous years.

The volunteers consisted of teachers, engineers, farmers, housewives, college professors, administrators, retirees, and a veterinarian. Volunteers ranged from 10 to 75 years old. George Standridge, who had participated on each mission trip, led the construction work.

When the group arrived June 15 in Flint, the concrete pad for the building had already been poured. The Kingston church attended a Sunday morning worship service in the original building June 16.

During the next five days, all exterior and interior walls, vinyl siding, windows, roof, and shingles were completed. The first service in the Family Life building was held June 19 after four days of work. Around 100 people attended the service.

Members of the Kingston church considered their trip to Michigan to be a spiritual experience in which each person was revived both physically and spiritually. Also, strong and lasting friendships were made with Ainsworth Church members. ■

Bean Station Church works in Michigan

For "The Macedonian Call"

First Church, Bean Station, held a Vacation Bible School and a Backyard Bible Club July 15-19 for Madison Heights Church in Madison Heights, Mich.

According to figures released by Bean Station's pastor Raymond Long, Madison Heights Church enrolled 77 in Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 64. The Michigan church also reported 92 enrolled in the Backyard Bible Club with an average attendance of 31. There were 12 professions of faith.

In addition to the children's programs at Madison Heights, Bean Station had two teams of two members each working in the afternoon on area surveys. The teams made a total of 65 contacts.

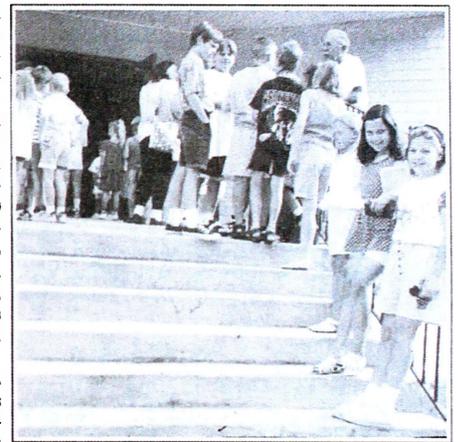
In another program at the Michigan church, 26 adults en-

rolled in a music school with an average attendance of 23. The mission team from Bean Station also distributed 200 New Testaments in homes, restaurants, and motels in Madison Heights.

Long said the members of the Madison Heights Church were well pleased with Bean Station's work.

Madison Heights pastor Ollie Trout expressed his appreciation to the Tennessee

church and to the TBC Partnership Missions Department for sending the team. ■



WAITING FOR Vacation Bible School to begin are children in Madison Heights, Mich., and Tennessee with Bean volunteers.

Cleveland Church youth choir serves in Michigan

For "The Macedonian Call"

The Chapel Choir of First Church, Cleveland, made up of 68 young people,

ministered July 13-20, working with several churches in western Michigan.

During the day the choir conducted six Bible clubs and one soccer camp, attended by 266 children. A total of 34 professions of faith were recorded as a result of the ministries.

In addition to the clubs, a follow-up team of 11 youth and adults visited each of the children who had made professions of faith in their homes. The new Christians' parents were told about their children's decisions. In addition, the plan of salvation was presented to them.

During evenings the choir held six outdoor concerts. Michigan churches participating were Gorham Church, Jackson; Immanuel Church, Grand Rapids; Grace Community Church, Muskegon; and New Beginnings Church in Dorr. A concert also was presented in North Park, Dorr, sponsored by New Beginnings Church. These concerts resulted in four professions of faith.

This is the second year that the Chapel Choir has traveled to Dorr to work with church planter/missionary Tony Duck. For 22 consecutive years, the choir has done mission work in Michigan, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

The mission effort was led by staff members from First Church, Cleveland. Directing the choir was minister of music, Tom Wickes. Jeff Lovingood, minister to students, lead the Bible clubs. Bill Griffith, associate pastor, directed the follow-up visits. Allan Lockerman is the pastor of First Church, Cleveland. ■

Audiovisuals needed

For "The Macedonian Call"

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions office is making a promotional



video. Missions volunteers are asked to send slides and tapes

from missions efforts for possible inclusion in the video.

Missions slides and video footage will not be returned to the owners. Send slides and videos to: TBC Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■



PERFORMING an outdoor concert in Dorr, Mich., is the Chapel Choir of First Church, Cleveland.



Michigan

Dates: Open
Project #: G-5
Torrey Road Church requests a team of volunteers to remodel its current sanctuary and build an addition.

Dates: Open
Project #: N-14
Agape Church needs volunteers to help put up vinyl siding that has been donated to the church. The building is 40' X 100'.

The church has gathered many of the tools they need. They are willing to house and feed the volunteers.

Dates: September
Project #: SC-5
Level Park Church requests a team of 6-12 volunteers to do some minor deck repair. This project would also include tearing off old shingles and re-roofing the older part of the church and fellowship hall. Project specifications

are approximately 8,200 sq. ft. with a 4 to 12 inch slope.

Canada

Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996646
Northern Lights Association needs a group of volunteers to help purchase and remodel a bus to be used as a mobile church.

Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996653
Jasper Place Church has

requested a group of Tennessee volunteers to do help in improving the appearance and condition of a 34 X 29-foot room. This room will serve as a worship service area for Arabic people. The room needs to be painted, new carpet, and some drywall installed. They also need to replace some windows. This church also asks for any financial support that may be available to complete this project.

Other Projects Online

Attention all Tennessee Baptist Convention Prayer Partners! The TBC Partnership Missions Department is now online with SBCNet through CompuServe. Access the SBCNet State Convention Forum and, in Library Browse,

go into the Tennessee category. Find Partnership Missions and, then, reference the updated *Macedonian Call*.

Not only will the latest Volunteer Projects be available, but also the most recent Prayer Requests from TBC Prayer Partners.

Send Prayer Requests online to: CompuServe, E-Mail, Marcia Knox, 104520.3323. ■

TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



Partnership Prayer Requests

September

- 11 — Pray for Ann Newsham of Surrey, British Columbia, a Canadian university student, who has been appointed for two years as a journeyman to China.
- 12 — Pray for the staff and students of the Polish Baptist Theological Seminary as they begin a new school term.
- 13 — Pray for Commerce Pines Church in Walled Lake, Mich., which is a mission church in critical need of a pastor.
- 14 — Pray for a Canadian Baptist Convention request for Korean Baptist Churches in every major city across Canada.
- 15 — Pray for the safe travel of TBC retiree Doris Carter and her husband Carlton as they return from a month's service in the Polish Baptist Theological Seminary Library.
- 16 — Praise God for the recent Michigan Oakland Association Annual Pig Roast which had over 150 people in attendance. This was the largest attendance on record for the event.
- 17 — Pray for Tom and Sylvia Butts of Royal Heights Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, as they minister to family members following a homicide.

Association begins new congregation in Canada

For "The Macedonian Call"

A Partnership Mission team totaling 18, sponsored by the Western District Association, recently returned from Canada after helping the Keystone Association in Winnipeg, Manitoba, start a new church.

The Western District Association team was made up of 12 volunteers from Western District and six volunteers from First Church, Sweetwater, Sweetwater Association. They worked July 7-20 in Winnipeg with Gerald Mounce, director of missions for the Keystone Association.

The purpose of the mission trip was to survey homes, conduct Vacation Bible Schools and Kids Bible Clubs in the Winnipeg area. Assisting the team with the trip were First Church, Paris, and Temple Church, Paris, both of Western District Association, who helped pay a sublease on a church in Winnipeg in order to conduct VBS during the week. The clubs were conducted in Mounce's backyard and in a city park.

The team covered about 800 homes in

the survey work. The survey was conducted to find homes that would show interest in hosting a Bible Fellowship. There were several homes identified which might provide the nucleus to begin a new church by summer 1997.

The team worked directly with Mounce instead of working with a church. They had a "dream church" name, Pioneer Baptist Church, and this will be the name of any new work started.

Of interest to the volunteers was that most churches from other denominations in the Winnipeg area conducting VBS charged for each child that attended. When

the Western District promotion advertised VBS activities were free, people in Winnipeg were amazed. ■



TEAM MEMBERS included, from left, first row, Howard Coles, Otis Hinton, Carolyn Hinton, Tanya Bush, Amy Anderson, Rebecca Hamilton, Leanne Starkey, and Laura Anderson; second row, Jane Crossnoe, Thomas Winchester, Louise Little, Betty Smith, Teresa Anderson, and Cortney Crossnoe; and back row, Tony Crossnoe, Joe Little, Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association, and Jeff Anderson.

Dear Tennessee Partnership Missions Department,

Greetings from Canada! I just wanted to write you a note expressing thanks for facilitating the Western District Association to partner with us for a new church start here in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Last year, we had a group come up and assist some of our churches.

I thought, "Well, large group, from a large church in a large city. They will probably be some of the best Tennessee has to offer." The quality and ministry were great.

What I did not know is that in Tennessee, it does not matter what size of town, or the size of church, or the size of group that comes. They are quality. Western District proved this fact.

A total of 18 people including some seven churches from the association came to Winnipeg to lay the foundation for a new church start. They did survey work, flyer handouts, one Vacation Bible School in the morning and two Backyard Bible Clubs in the afternoon. They worked hard covering over 2,000 homes and making contacts with 48 families through VBS and BBCs.

I am very impressed with at least two things about the Western District group. One is its flexibility. They adjusted to where we were to do survey and when (we were targeting three different areas). They adjusted to weather and scheduling for BBCs and VBS. They did it without a peep of complaining and did it with the Servant's heart.

God brought together, under Bill Smith's leadership, a team that was also faithful to the task. Their faithfulness resulted in contacts that would have taken me a long time to find on my own. With all the prospects they found through their ministry, it will take me a good three months to make personal contact with these families. Praise the Lord!

Western District was prepared and totally self-contained. This was essential to the situation in which we are starting with this new work.

What a joy it is to work with Tennessee Baptists. No matter what size the church, city or association, God has blessed you with people who have a clear vision of what it means to be in Partnership with God.

Thank you. May our partnership in the Gospel continue to push against the darkness here in Canada.

Very sincerely,
Gerald Mounce
Keystone Association
Missionary/Church Strategist

This was our first mission trip. The trip to Canada was a great blessing to my entire family. The people that we worked with were outstanding. I would encourage more people to do volunteer mission work. Thanks for the opportunity.

Jeff and Teresa Anderson
FBC, Sweetwater

God allowed us to see the personal needs of people in Winnipeg, Manitoba, like a modern society with a limited access to the Word of God. When children are charged \$5 by other groups to attend Bible school, it showed a real need for evangelical sharing of the free Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we share, they come and God will bless.

Tony Crossnoe
West Paris Church, Paris

The trip to Winnipeg, Mani-

toba, was a delightful experience. The people were friendly. We enjoyed meeting the director of missions, local SBC pastors, and members of the churches.

In just a few short days a bond had developed between us and the children that we worked with and their parents. Some parents said, "You being here is an answer to prayer."

Thomas Winchester
Union Friendship Church,
Como

I got a great blessing out of the mission trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and I really enjoyed working with the people in our group. I also enjoyed working with the people in Canada.

The thing that most touched my heart was to see all of the different people coming together for one purpose, to see them compromising, and sharing as the group did. I'm thankful that God allowed me to participate since great work was done.

Leanne Starkey
Union Friendship Church,
Como

leaders

■ First Church, Obion, has called **Daniel Doss** to serve as music/youth director, effective Sept. 1. Doss is a student at the University of Tennessee, Martin.

■ **John F. "Jack" May** has announced his retirement from active service Dec. 29. May has been pastor of Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis, for three years. He also has served as pastor of Broadmoor Church, Memphis; Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis; First Church, Rip-

ley. May also was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and president of the TBC Executive Board. He will be available to lead revivals and do interim and supply work.

■ Una Church, Nashville, has called **Fred Lodge**, pastor, Ebenezer Church, Toccoa, Ga., as pastor, effective Sept. 15. Lodge has served the Georgia church for 13 years. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He



LODGE

has served on the church staff of six churches in Georgia.

■ **T. Richard Harris** has been called as pastor of Glenwood Church, Kingsport, and was installed Sept. 1. Harris was interim pastor of the church prior to being called as pastor.

deaths

■ **Richard Lee Lyon Sr.**, 81, died Aug. 25, in Jackson. Lyon was a former music director at Poplar Heights Church, Jackson, and at West Jackson Church. Lyon operated the Lyon's Den Christian Book Store in Jackson for some 17 years and also worked as service manager for two local car dealerships. He is survived by his wife, Faye Barker Lyon; daughter, Sharron Lyon of the music ministries department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and organist at First Church, Nashville; and a son, Lee, of Nashville.

churches

■ **First Church, Obion**, will hold revival Sept. 29 -

Oct. 2. **Kris Underwood** of Jolley Springs Church, Dresden, will speak. The Joyful Sounds of First Church, Trimble, will lead the music.

■ **Congregation Yeshuat Yisrael of Nashville**, a Messianic congregation, will hold High Holy Day Services, which include Rosh Hashanah Service Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Yom Kippur Service Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The services will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. Weekly services of the congregation are held at Woodmont Church, Nashville.

associations

■ **Haywood Association** has held an area wide tent crusade. **Brady Weldon**, evangelist, and **Sam McElroy**, minister of music, First Church, Milan, led the services. **Kelly Cash**, former Miss America of Memphis, also spoke. Eighty-one people made spiritual decisions, of which 40 were professions of faith.

■ **Nashville Association** will hold a Woman's Missionary Union Workout on Sept. 14 at Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The training event

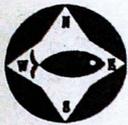


Tennescene

will offer age-level conferences for all WMU leaders as well as special interest conferences on child advocacy, prayer, and disciplining preschoolers.

the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, was named among the top 100 best college buys by *Money* magazine. Other Tennessee schools which received the designation were Fisk University and University of the South. Recently it was announced that the college will remain a college and will "Celebrate College" during the next year. Sept. 24 will be a weekend of activities for families and Founder's Day in November will celebrate the college's heritage and the 20th anniversary of Cordell Maddox as president.



Campers on Mission National Rally

Oct. 8-10

Shipp's Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, Chattanooga

- ☐ For campers interested in missions projects
- ☐ Begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday with Missions Fair
- ☐ Includes three meals, coffee breaks, fellowship, and ministry planning

Park is located at 6728 Ringgold Rd./I-75.

For fees and other information, contact **Carl and Mary Reagan**, (704) 369-7940 or **Beverly Smothers** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2044.

Sharing hope and healing with children and families



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is all about being there during the tough times...

- there for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned
- there to help families
- there for boys in trouble
- there for girls who are depressed
- there for young women who are pregnant and confused about choices
- there for young people trying to make a start in life
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SBC arson fund disbursement to states nears \$500,000

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ohio became the 15th state convention to receive funds from the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" with the distribution of an additional \$177,198 Sept. 5, bringing the total to nearly \$471,000.

The "Arson Fund" assists African American churches victimized by arsonists. Like the initial distribution July 3 of \$246,712 to 12 state conventions and \$50,000 on Aug. 2 to 14 conventions, the Sept. 5 distribution is based on a formula developed by the Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

The "Arson Fund" was begun from an offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans in June. That offering came at the request of then-SBC President Jim Henry, an Orlando, Fla., pastor, and initially raised \$282,000 in pledges and cash gifts. Most of the gifts since then have been from SBC-related churches wanting to assist in the rebuilding of the burned churches, according to Jack Wilker-

son, SBC Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

More than 87 African American churches, most in the Southeast, have burned in the last 18 months, primarily as the result of arsonists. SBC officials said the formula of distribution is based on an in-hand count of arson-related African American church fires in the state as a percentage of the total number of churches impacted nationally.

"The desire of Southern Baptists to participate in rebuilding these churches is a vivid testimony to their willingness to want to help in this time of need," Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, which distributes the funds.

The September distribution of \$177,198 went to: Alabama,

\$14,353; Arizona, \$1,949; Arkansas, \$12,226; Florida, \$6,201; Georgia, \$4,075; Louisiana, \$18,251; Mississippi, \$16,302; North Carolina, \$16,302; Oklahoma, \$1,949; Ohio, \$1,949; South Carolina, \$34,553; Tennessee, \$16,302; Texas, \$24,807; Virginia, \$4,075; and Northwest (Oregon-Washington), \$3,898.

According to Richard Land, SBC Christian Life Commission president, the funds are sent to the state conventions which then have responsibility to determine the amount of assistance each church will need. "Baptists in Alabama know more about the needs in Alabama and Baptists in Georgia know more about the needs in

Georgia," Land said.

The Inter-Agency Council, composed of the chief executives of the 19 SBC entities, created the task force to seek the eradication of racism within the convention as outlined in the Racial Reconciliation Resolution adopted by messengers to the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta.

In addition to the monies, Southern Baptist construction crews are volunteering to rebuild the burned churches. At

least four state Baptist conventions have sent crews to churches in need and the SBC Brotherhood Commission is attempting to contact each of the fire-damaged congregations to assess the level of need.

Donations to the SBC Arson Fund may be sent directly to state Baptist convention offices or the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203. ■

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Maturity

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Hebrews 5:12-6:6, 9, 12

I recall being encouraged as a young preacher to "just preach the simple Gospel." I appreciate the positive focus of this advice. Our message is to always be centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The message of Christ is both simple yet profound. As growing Christians we should have a grasp of deep and profound biblical insights that impact our daily life. Unfortunately cultural Christianity has produced a generation of believers who scarcely understand the simple Gospel, much less the deeper truths of God's Word. In the book of Hebrews we discover that this is not a new problem.

Signs of spiritual immaturity (ch. 5:12-14)

We frequently hear longtime church members say, "I don't really know what I believe." Spiritual maturity does not occur automatically. Just as sitting in a Billy Graham crusade won't make one a Christian, years of sitting in Sunday School and church won't make one a mature believer. The writer of Hebrews lamented that he was unable to share all of the insights he desired with his immature audience. They had been Christians long enough that they ought to be able to teach others. Instead, they were busy relearning the ABCs or elementary truths of the faith. Their lack of understanding of righteousness probably refers to their failure to express the righteousness of Christ in their daily life.

The goal of spiritual maturity (ch. 6:1-3)

"Let us ... go on to maturity" is a reminder that God wants all of his children to grow into spiritual maturity. This includes both the knowledge and application of God's Word to everyday life. It also encompasses a healthy expression of one's spiritual gifts in practical ministry. The fruit of Christ's presence are to be manifest in the believers' daily life. The elementary truths are listed as: faith in God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, and eternal judgment — an impressive list that indicates the shallowness of much contemporary Christianity.

The danger of spiritual rebellion (vv. 4-6)

The third warning of Hebrews is among the most difficult to interpret. Some argue that the writer is talking only about a theoretical possibility — "if they fall away." Those believing that a believer can indeed "fall away" from salvation argue the warning would have no meaning if it did not refer to an actual possibility. Others contend that these verses refer to nominal followers who had not yet fully committed to Christ. In this case the warning would be to not take the opportunity for salvation lightly. Hobbs viewed the warning in the larger context of God's ongoing redemptive purpose. Just as a generation of Israelites died in the wilderness so for the Christian there is a real danger of being justified but never fully experiencing the sanctifying work of God thus missing out on the full impact of God's glorious salvation.

The way to spiritual growth (vv. 9, 12)

Children of God will respond to such a warning and pay attention. Laziness will hinder spiritual growth. Faith, a willingness to take God at his word, and patience, confidence in the face of adversity, are the twin pillars of genuine growth. Though the warnings of Hebrews are real, the author also has confidence in the sufficient operation of the grace of God in the lives of the people of God. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Hearing God's call

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 1:4-10, 14-17

God still calls his people to meaningful service. We learn from God's call to Jeremiah how he wants to work in our lives.

Set apart, equipped, and commissioned — (ch. 1:4-10)

As God began to speak to Jeremiah, he used four words to describe the process of preparation that had begun in the prophet's life from the moment of his conception. First, God told Jeremiah that he had formed him in the womb (v. 5a). The word "formed" is the same used in Genesis 2:7 to describe how God formed the first man from the dust of the earth. As God formed Adam, so he formed Jeremiah in his mother's womb. Every life that God creates has a purpose in his plan.

The text also states that God knew Jeremiah (v. 5b). God did not come to know Jeremiah after he was born. Rather, the prophet was known by God even before his birth! The word denotes a very personal knowledge which would help Jeremiah in later years

face value. He doubted his own maturity (v. 6) and ability to speak God's message adequately. God's response to his prophet was to redirect his thinking, and to assure him that in reality God would be doing the speaking. Jeremiah would be God's mouthpiece. Fear was to be dispelled, and deliverance from those who would hinder the work was assured (v. 8).

Then, as a sign that God would surely be with him, God touched Jeremiah's mouth, and promised that God's words would be in his mouth (v. 9). With that knowledge, Jeremiah was prepared to be God's representative among the people, proclaiming judgment and hope.

When God calls, he deals with all the attending problems and concerns about that call. Be assured, when God places his hand upon your life, he has worked out the details. Your only necessary response to him is obedience.

From the call to the work (ch. 1:14-17)

Next, God directed Jeremiah's thoughts to what was ahead. He warned the prophet that the doers of evil would move in upon the people of God and do harm to the cause of God. God was speaking of Babylon, which had become a world power, and was perfectly perched to descend upon God's nation. Jeremiah was called upon to "gird up his loins." In today's vernacular, God said to Jeremiah, "Roll up your sleeves!"

Can you imagine how frightening this might have been to this young, inexperienced prophet? However, with his faith in God, Jeremiah went to work, in spite of those fearful moments that would come.

Jeremiah was called by God and sent forth to work. Just as God called Jeremiah, he calls us to a life of consecrated service to him. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

Convention Uniform Lesson

to persevere through difficult times.

The fact that God had sanctified Jeremiah before he was born (v. 5c) means that God had set him apart for a special purpose in service.

Then we learn that God had appointed Jeremiah (v. 5d) as a prophet to the nations. Although his particular mission focused on Judah, Jeremiah's messages often included other nations. Interestingly, neither Judah or the nations recognized that Jeremiah was God's prophetic gift to them.

Even though God had done these things, Jeremiah did not have the confidence to accept God's word on

The victorious Christ

By Tom Moncrief

Focal Passage — Revelation 19:7, 9, 11-17, 19-21

When Christ's victory over evil comes, there is great rejoicing for what Christ has accomplished. The same applies to the "marriage of the Lamb" (v. 7). His bride (wife) has been made ready. Without Christ, the church cannot make herself ready and he will not make her ready without her consent. The bride's white garments represent purity and righteousness which are possible only from the Lord through faith and repentance (v. 8).

God's purpose is to produce a holy people fitted by God's grace to be the bride of the Lamb. The church, by putting on their pure spirit and faithful service provided by God, makes herself ready. The marriage supper is a joyful feast of rejoicing (v. 9), which pictures the close relationship between Christ and his followers. The fact that God in Christ triumphs gives assurance to the church in every persecution, trial, and temptation.

John sees heaven opened with the conquering Christ upon a white horse (vv. 11-16). Christ's name "faithful and true" shows his Word will not fail and that he is worthy of the church's confidence. He will de-

Bible Book Lesson

liver her from all enemies and be true to all promises. He cannot allow his people to struggle alone.

He comes forth as judge and warrior and performs both functions in righteousness. His war is against all forms of evil and is a spiritual warfare against "principalities," "powers," "rulers of darkness," and all spiritual forces giving support to forces of evil on earth. He has victory over all powers of evil.

Christ's piercing eyes (v. 12) show he knows the true meaning of all events. Another name, "The Word of God," shows he is the one through whom the thought of God is expressed to men.

The Word is referred to as spoken, written, and incarnate in the Scriptures. It is always dynamic and creative in any of these three references. Here it seems to designate Christ as the one who carried out God's redemptive plan and makes God known to people.

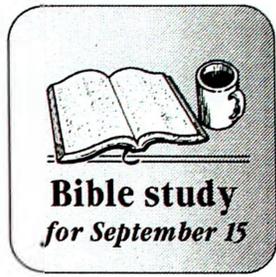
With the victorious Christ are the armies of heaven clad with purity and power. Christ victoriously leads forth his faithful to battle against evil. No weapons are mentioned and no hostile action by the troops is described. The conquering power and

effect of the Gospel are depicted here. Out of Christ's mouth goes a sharp sword which is the truth of God as it is in Christ. The proclamation of the Gospel is the weapon used to conquer the nations. Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords is sovereign over all rulers of the earth. He has complete victory through his Word which is more powerful than any human weapon.

An angel is seen (v. 17) standing in the sun. He is situated so that all birds can hear. They are invited to "the supper of the great God." These birds of prey are to feast upon the bodies of slain enemies of Christ and his church. Total destruction of these enemies is certain. The widespread and complete nature of God's judgment is indicated.

All the forces of evil battle against Christ and his church (vv. 19-21). The beast and false prophet are cast into a lake burning with fire and brimstone (eternal torment). All the rest are slain with "the sword ... out of Christ's mouth."

Emphasis is placed upon the complete failure of and certain judgment on all who followed Satan. Evil itself is destined to utter destruction. Unrepentant sinners must be warned of their fates apart from Christ. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.





states since Book-Link's beginning in 1988. ■

Wiley nominated as executive for Illinois association

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Robert E. "Bob" Wiley, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board associational missions division, is being recommended to become the next executive director of Illinois Baptist Press.

Wiley, 55, was to have been introduced to the IBSA board of directors during its meeting in Springfield Monday, Sept. 9. The board discussed the search committee's unanimous recommendation and was to vote the following day.

The board began the process of seeking a new executive director in March of this year by electing a seven-member committee, plus two ex-officio members. The previous executive director, Gene Wilson, was disabled Aug. 30, 1995, by a massive brain hemorrhage. ■

Governor of Arkansas, others work to fight church arson

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has announced a four-fold plan to aid black churches burned in the state.

As a part of the Aug. 26 press conference at the state capitol, Arkansas Baptist leaders presented a financial gift to two burned churches. The checks came from an offering collected during the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to help burned African American churches across the South.

Fires claimed the facilities of two churches with predominantly African American congregations on Aug. 21. A white congregation lost its building in an Aug. 24 blaze. Preliminary reports from authorities indicate arson may be the cause of all three fires. ■

Blackaby, Willis speak at SEBTS convocation

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Christians must understand the cross if they are to repent of their sin, said Henry Black-

Follow-up continues with Olympic contacts

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Although the Olympic and Paralympic flames have been extinguished in Atlanta, the Home Mission Board continues to receive response cards from people reached through volunteer ministries.

Of 2,723 cards returned by the end of August, 1,613 people reported making professions of faith and 1,110 people requested more information, said Jack Smith, HMB associate director of personal evangelism.

Response cards are from interactive pocket guides which listed athletic record holders as well as the plan of salvation. People could indicate they had made a profession of faith, request Bible study materials, or ask to be contacted by Christians in their area. They could also report they are not ready to make a profession of faith, but would like more free information.

Response cards from people in other countries are sent to the Foreign Mission Board for follow-up, Smith said. Response cards from U.S. residents are sent to state evangelism directors who forward information to local associations or churches.

A copy of each U.S. card is also sent to Mission Service Corps volunteer Brenda Johnson who coordinates the follow-up process.

New Christians receive packets of material including a "Beginning Steps" HMB booklet. Those who request more information receive four investigative Bible studies by Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright.

Each mailing includes another response card. Recipients can indicate if they are still not certain of their salvation, if they have not been contacted by a local church, or if they would like addition-

al information. New Testaments are sent to people requesting them. Other follow-up material includes books from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and an HMB correspondence Bible study.

Smith said he expects to continue receiving response cards through the end of the year. He praised the hundreds of volunteers who distributed the pocket guides and the Foreign Mission Board staff and state evangelism directors for their cooperation with follow-up.

Smith noted many churches using the interactive pocket guides asked people to respond to the church rather than return the card to the Home Mission Board. Consequently the number of cards he has received do not indicate the actual success of the guides. ■



Incorporators of mission board develop profile

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Developing a presidential candidate profile and selection procedures dominated the Aug. 15-16 meeting of the incorporators of the new North American Mission Board.

Incorporators chairman Bill Hogue, retired California Southern Baptist Convention executive director, said a "number of candidates have been recommended" and the group continues to solicit names from interested parties.

The primary purpose of the incorporators is to nominate the president and chief executive officer of the North American Mission Board when it is officially created in June of 1997. The NAMB will be the product of a merger of several agencies. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Sept. 27 in Dallas. ■

Baptist educators seek funding for Book-Link

Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators is encouraging its members to contribute to a fund that will provide for its Book-Link ministry until Jesus returns, according to Book-Link Executive Director Olin Williams.

Book-Link is one of the ministries of the organization made up of Southern Baptist educators, which is affiliated with the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Book-Link's goal is to establish a fund that will guarantee operating costs for years to come. Once a goal of \$100,000 is reached the interest could provide from \$4,500 to \$5,000 per year, the cost for shipping and operating expenses — 10 percent for operating and 90 percent for shipping.

The group has shipped approximately 18 tons of books to 66 countries and five U.S.

aby, exhorting an Aug. 29 convocation audience at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to pursue a call to personal holiness.

SBC President Tom Elliff scheduled the convocation at Southeastern and six other seminaries to call Southern Baptists to pray for a spiritual awakening throughout the world.

Participating in the first of the convocations at the North Carolina seminary, Blackaby, author of the *Experiencing God* discipleship study, called Christians to a "fresh encounter with the cross of our Lord."

The crucifixion of Jesus is a direct result of the sins of the world, Blackaby said. "The cross would have never been had it not been for my sin." ■

SBC president leads SEBTS convocation

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — If Christianity is to advance through revival in the 21st century believers must first repent of their sin and return to the cross, said Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There's a view of the cross which most of us or at least many of us have lost," Elliff said Aug. 29 on the campus of

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Elliff, the newly elected SBC president and pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., visited the Wake Forest, N.C., campus to lead the first of seven convocations scheduled to be held on the SBC's six seminary campuses as well as at Mid-America Seminary over the next two weeks.

Elliff scheduled the convocations to call Southern Baptists to pray for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. ■

Regeneration must precede revival, speakers declare in Texas

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Before Southern Baptists can taste revival, they first must experience regeneration, speakers said at the Cedars of Lebanon retreat on Labor Day weekend.

More than 500 people attended the eighth annual retreat at Mt. Lebanon Encampment, sponsored by Texas Baptist Men.

Avery Willis, senior vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, noted Southern Baptist churches claim 15 million members, but half of them never attend worship service.

"What we really need in the

Southern Baptist Convention is regeneration," the spiritual new birth, said Willis, a former missionary and author of the *MasterLife* discipleship curriculum.

"One of our biggest problems is that we seek revival among people who have never been 'vived.' There are a lot of church members who need to be saved." ■

African Americans sought for work in missions

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Of approximately 55,000 American Christians serving as foreign missionaries throughout the world, only about 100 are African Americans.

Of Southern Baptists' career foreign missions force of 4,200, only seven are black, according to David Cornelius, black church relations consultant at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A former foreign missionary to Ghana, Cornelius now focuses his energies on spreading the word among African American Southern Baptists that they are wanted and needed on the foreign mission field. He took his message to Black Church Leadership Week, Aug. 19-23, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. ■