

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 652 / Number 17

Statewide Edition

September 18, 1996

this week's news

- Tennessee pastor joins CLC staff. — Page 2
- Education Commission to close Dec. 31. — Page 3
- Larry Lewis announces retirement as Home Mission Board president. — Page 3
- Tusculum Hills Church members do missions work in Mexico. — Page 6
- Union City physician helps collect medical supplies for the Ukraine. — Page 6
- Carson-Newman College dedicates Center for International Education and Missions. — Page 7
- Ike Reighard resigns from First Church, Atlanta. — Page 8

Tennesseans help hurricane victims

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Brotherhood Disaster Relief cleanup crews returned Sept. 14-15 from Clinton, N.C., where they assisted victims of Hurricane Fran, according to state Brotherhood construction volunteer coordinator Curtis Fowler of Knoxville.

An 11-person Tennessee Brotherhood cleanup crew was based at First Church, Clinton, where they were joined by a 13-member crew from North Carolina. These volunteers were divided into three work teams to clean yards, remove trees from houses, and make temporary repairs, Fowler said.

They assisted residents of the town, which has a population of about 6,000, often helping retired people, he reported, who were unable to make the repairs themselves. When they left, most cleanup work had been completed in Clinton, Fowler reported.

Volunteers are still needed in Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C., he added.

This first Tennessee team was made up of Fowler and his

wife, Elizabeth, Don Byrd, and Jim Jones from West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; Paul Sharp, Kent Dyer, Kenny Dyer, and Bill Chilcoate from Grace Church, Knoxville; Tommy Thompson from Faith Church, Jamestown; and Leon Fike and Dewey Franklin of First Church, Jamestown. They completed 50-60 jobs for Clinton residents, Fowler reported.

Southern Baptist disaster relief units are continuing feeding operations. As of Sept. 15, more than 500,000 meals had been served, according to the Brotherhood

Commission, which coordinates Southern Baptists' multi-state disaster response. By a North Carolina estimate Sept. 13, Southern Baptist relief units were serving an average of 50,000 meals a day. At just one site in Wilmington, N.C., 24,000 meals were served Sept. 11.

According to the Associated Press, 34 people died in the hurricane, 21 from North Carolina. The state has 1,200 dump trucks hauling debris; in Raleigh alone, they will have to load up 30,000 times. Jim Hunt, governor of the state, es-

timated damage at more than \$4 billion.

The North Carolina Baptist Convention asked for volunteers in the cleanup. The weekend of Sept. 13-15, more than 400 came from seven states.

"Some of the people we usually count on to help were affected themselves," explained Richard Brunson, executive director for North Carolina Baptist Men. "It's real heartwarming to see people from other states who want to come and help."

In the feeding operations, portable kitchens operated by Brotherhood units in Texas and Alabama received notice Sept. 15 they will not be needed for relief work from Hurricane Hortense in Puerto Rico, which was heavily damaged by that storm's 120 mph winds.

No damage report has yet been compiled for the coastal North Carolina Caswell Baptist Assembly, which sustained a direct hit from Fran. By one preliminary estimate, however, the facility suffered twice as much as it did from Hurricane Bertha in July, which left behind \$250,000 in damages.

The Caswell facility, a former Army base purchased by North Carolina Baptists in

1948, has accommodations for several hundred and a mile of coastline. Its main lodge is close to the water's edge and unprotected.

Cleanup continued at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., which was hit by wind and rain as Fran traveled inland, toppling numerous trees; damaging various buildings; and taking a toll on automobiles and housing of faculty, staff, and students.

Mickey Caison, the Brotherhood Commission's on-site disaster relief coordinator in North Carolina, reported Sept. 13, "Power is returning slowly — 60-80 percent of urban areas have power, 50-60 percent of rural areas."

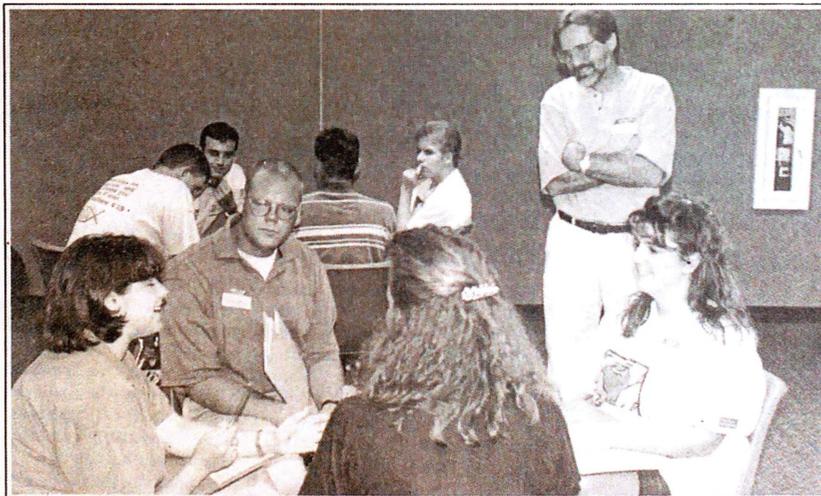
Tennesseans wishing more information on volunteering, should contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood office at (615) 371-2025.

Donations for the relief effort can be sent to the Tennessee Brotherhood Department at Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728. ■ — Compiled from news reports from Baptist Press, Assistant Editor Connie Davis, and Marcia Knox of the TBC.



disaster relief

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



Students plan for missions

Former student summer missionaries meet at the Baptist Center in Brentwood Aug. 23-24 for a debriefing on their summer work and to plan the Baptist Student Union missions program for the coming year. Discussing plans are, from left, Natasha Lindley, Belmont University; Ashley Mofield, state BSU president from Austin Peay State University; Kerry Cobb, Middle Tennessee State University; and Stephanie Blake of Tennessee Technological University. — Photo by Ircel Harrison

U.S. relief workers exit Iraq, colleagues face death

For Baptist and Reflector

ANKARA, Turkey — Most relief workers from America — including Southern Baptists — have safely departed northern Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's sweep into the area, but hundreds of their local Kurdish employees could face execution at the hands of Iraqi secret police.

Four Southern Baptist workers and their children left the town of Zakho in northern Iraq and crossed into Turkey after 40,000 Iraqi troops streamed into Irbil, the regional capital, at the invitation of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP). The Iraqis helped KDP forces defeat another Kurdish faction, the Iranian-backed Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. — See U.S., page 2

400-30412-127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
401 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- ▶ **Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 50 copies.** Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address below.
- ▶ **To contribute a news item, call or write Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.**
- ▶ **To advertise — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.**
- ▶ **For billing and subscription list questions — Betty Williams, bookkeeper**
- ▶ **For information about trial subscription plan for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary**
- ▶ **For information about local church edition — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator**
- ▶ **For production answers — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis**
- ▶ **Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board**
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
- ▶ **Office — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027**
Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone — (615) 371-2003.
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- ▶ **Membership — Southern Baptist Press Association**
- ▶ **Address changes — *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024**
- ▶ **Postmaster — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)**
- ▶ **Frequency of issue — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Fourth of July and Christmas.**



Printed on recycled paper

CLC targets persecution; employs Tennessee pastor

By Dwayne Hastings
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Voicing concern over increasingly frequent reports of Christian persecution, trustees of the Christian Life Commission expressed vigorous support for a day of prayer for believers being persecuted for their faith — keystone of a resolution passed during the Southern Baptist Convention last June.

Trustees also moved to expand the staff of the Southern Baptists' agency for ethical, moral, and religious liberty issues during the Christian Life Commission's semiannual trustee meeting Sept. 10-11 here.

In his report to trustees, CLC President Richard Land said the commission continues "to not give in to the temptation to assess the political equation, but to speak God's truth to Republicans and Democrats alike, to conservatives and liberals alike.

"We are going to speak the truth at all times to both kings and majority leaders,"

said Land, citing Psalm 119:46-47.

Joining with the World Evangelical Fellowship and others, trustees indicated their support of the worldwide day of prayer for persecuted Christians, Sept. 29, by agreeing to underwrite the cost of mailing an information packet to every pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In their action approving three new employees, the trustees voted to employ Jeff Carter as director of citizenship concerns and legal counsel in the commission's Washington office. Carter, who holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, as well as a doctor of jurisprudence from the University of Texas School at Law in Austin, Texas, most recently served as minister to married adults at Second Church, Houston.

Also approved was Barrett Duke Jr., as director of convention relations in the commission's Nashville office. Duke, who fills the position vacated by Lamar Cooper's departure to Midwestern Baptist The-

ological Seminary as academic dean, holds the master of arts in Old Testament from Denver Seminary and is a Ph.D. candidate in the joint doctoral program of the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology. He is currently pastor of First Church of Highlands Ranch, Littleton, Col.

Steve Nelson was named director of hunger concerns, a new position made possible by cooperative funding from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and the CLC. Pastor of First Church, Lafayette, Nelson earned his doctor of ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and his master of divinity degree from SWBTS.

The trustees named Vi Galyean, a former CLC trustee who lives in Christiansburg, Va., as the 1997 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. The award, given annually since 1965 by the CLC, recognizes an individual who renders unique and outstanding service in the

Focus on the cross, speakers urge at SBTS convocation

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — "What can wash away my sins?" sang music leader Ron Owens.

"Nothing but the blood of Jesus," was the congregation's thunderous answer.

"What can make me whole again?" he asked.

"Nothing but the blood of Jesus," came another glass-rattling response.

This back-and-forth singing of Robert Lowry's beloved 19th-century hymn was one of a dozen songs sang by the 1,400 worshippers packed into Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Alumni Chapel Sept. 10 for a special convocation. The service, titled "Back to the Cross," was the fifth in a series of seven convocations called by Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff at Baptist seminaries across the country during the first two weeks of September. The purpose: to focus on the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross and to pray for spiritual

awakening in America.

"The cross on which Jesus died was payment for our sins," Elliff told the gathering of students, school faculty and staff, area pastors, and church workers. "Jesus bore all of our sins on the cross. You were in him on the cross. This is why the apostle Paul said, 'I am crucified with Christ.' So these next few hours are a call back to the cross ... because ... the cross is a prerequisite for going forward.

"The cross is the instrument, the circumstance, the issue that God brings into your life to get you to put aside your agenda and yourself in favor of him. Everything changes after the cross."

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., challenged the throng to open their life "suitcases" and "listen to God as he examines the contents and asks, 'Who gave you this? What is this? Where did this come from? This habit, this bitterness, this wrong relationship, this fault, this mal-



ELLIFF



BLACKABY

ice — where did you get them?' We've got to hate those things Jesus died on the cross to overcome," Elliff said. "That's what getting back to the cross does."

He warned the seminarians and pastors in attention to "get it out of your minds that it's got to be business as usual in this nation, that it's got to be pastor and CEO of some church corporation. Listen, it must be a passion," he implored, noting there are too many in the pulpit now who are more concerned about losing their pastorates than prophetically speaking against sin.

Elliff then called for a time

of prayer. Many knelt in their pews, some came to the altar and knelt, while others huddled in corners.

Following Elliff's message, Henry Blackaby, author of the *Experiencing God* discipleship materials and director of HMB prayer and spiritual awakening office, addressed the gathering.

"As I travel across our land and make my way around the world, I want you to know that never in my life have I seen such a stirring of God in the hearts of his people as I have in these past months," Blackaby said with excitement. "There's something that God's about to do!" he said amid a plethora of "Amen's."

Blackaby echoed Elliff's call for God's children to come "back to the cross." He told the assemblage "the cross will continue to be the most decisive moment in your own personal life. We die to sin and become alive to God at the cross. The cross is why sin no longer has dominion over us." ■

U.S. relief workers exit Iraq, Kurdish colleagues face ...

— Continued from page 1

The United States responded by bombing Iraqi anti-aircraft installations, expanding the allied "no fly" zone in the south and pledging to uphold the "no fly" zone over the Kurdish region.

But regardless of what happens in the skies, Saddam Hussein has regained virtual control of the north on the ground through the KDP and a horde of secret police sent in behind Iraqi troops.

"We're trying to get our Kurdish workers out of there," a

Southern Baptist worker said in a Sept. 13 phone interview from Ankara, Turkey. The worker, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, oversees relief and medical work Southern Baptists have performed in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf War.

"We have about 60 (Kurdish) staff, and about 300 people including all their family members," he said. "We've been here for a week talking to the U.S. Embassy, representatives of the U.S. Office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA), UNICEF, the

U.N. High Commission for Refugees, and others. We can't get them to give us a definite answer."

Although the Iraqi-allied KDP has said they will protect these workers, Saddam has made no secret of his intention to punish Kurds who have worked with the U.S. government or Western aid groups since the Gulf War.

"To Saddam it doesn't make any difference whether they're a direct hire or work for a (private agency)," said the worker. "He's going to kill them just the same.

They need protection and they need to get out."

U.S. authorities say they are evacuating Kurdish workers employed by the military operation and humanitarian projects sponsored by "Operation Provide Comfort," the five-year-old allied effort to guarantee a safe haven for Kurds in northern Iraq.

But so far, the evacuation includes only Kurds directly hired by the American military and U.S. government agencies, according to sources in Turkey and Washington. ■

Education Commission to close at end of year

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission, created in 1915, will shut down Dec. 31, the seven-member staff here has been told.

The commission was scheduled to be dissolved at the end of June 1997 as part of the denominational restructuring, reducing the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12. The "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan was approved by the SBC in 1995, with a final bylaw approval in June 1996. The new SBC structure is to be in place at the end of the June 1997 annual meeting in Dallas.

The Education Commission voted in late June to leave the final details of when the commission would dissolve up to its administrative committee. Commission chairman E. Douglas Hodo, president of Houston Baptist University, notified commission employees of the closure through Executive Director-Treasurer Stephen P. Carleton in late August.

The closure at the end of the year surprised the staff, according to Carleton, who said, "My only regret ... is that I feel responsible for misleading my staff. After the SBC in New Orleans approved the budget I submitted, which would have funded the agency through June 19, 1997, I gave the staff false hope that this was a date they could use for personal planning."



CARLETON

Carleton said the commission "had every right" to set the closure date. Still, Carleton said some of the staff had turned down opportunities to take other jobs because the commission had provided generous retention incentives to encourage staff to stay until the agency closed.

An aim of the Dec. 31 closure, legally a merger with the SBC Executive Committee, is to allow funds to be channeled to the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (ASBCS), which has agreed to assume some of the functions

of the Education Commission.

The commission will request the SBC Executive Committee, meeting in Nashville Sept. 16-18, to endorse a proposal to channel \$150,000 over two years from the commission's 1996-97 budget to help the ASBCS develop a staff. After the Dec. 31 closure, the SBC Executive Committee would be responsible for distribution of the remaining funds of the commission.

The commission's 1996-97 budget is \$370,148.

Hodo told Baptist Press the commission's administrative committee was to give its employees "fair and equitable treatment ... our highest priority." Through a severance package, retention pay dating back to July 1995, and four and a half months' notice, Hodo said the administrative committee feels "we've done that."

Another priority was to help the ASBCS get started and assume the functions of the commission, Hodo said.

Carleton said the commission has been "extremely generous in their treatment of me The three years (at the

commission) have been three of my most fulfilling." Speaking of the proposed funds for the ASBCS start-up, Carleton said "if the only way to receive a monetary grant to help (ASBCS) operate was to terminate all the employees of the (commission) Dec. 31, then it is probably a worthy sacrifice in the long run."

Tim Fields, assistant director of the job loss carries with it "a lot of stress and anxiety for entire family systems, the members of (the commission) have been more than fair by providing generous severance benefits for employees.

"I have had several firm job offers with other Baptist entities, but at the request of the (commission), backed by their offer of retention pay, I made the choice to stay with the (commission) until closure in order to facilitate an orderly transfer of programs, materials and data (to ASBCS)," Fields told Baptist Press.

"I feel the commission's request to the Executive Committee for start-up funds is critical to the success of this transition." ■

HMB's Lewis to retire Jan. 1; takes new post

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Larry Lewis is retiring as Home Mission Board president to work with Mission America, a network of 100 denominational and para-denominational evangelical organizations.

After nearly 10 years as president, the Missouri native will step down Jan. 1, 1997. Lewis, 61, will continue to be paid by the Home Mission Board but receive "significantly less salary" then his package as president, said Greg Martin, chairman of the HMB board of directors. The agreement was approved by the administrative committee of the HMB directors in their Sept. 10 regular meeting.

Lewis will be a national facilitator for Celebrate Jesus 2000, an HMB initiative that involves praying, sharing the Gospel individually and in groups, and helping new Christians become disciples.

Lewis will work closely with Southern Baptists and other evangelicals in participating Mission America groups. A 2-year-old movement, Mission America is endorsed by groups such as Campus Crusade for Christ and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Lewis' resignation comes less than a year before the HMB, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission are dissolved and combined into one organization, the North American Mission Board.

"I felt a very definite leadership when I became your president in 1987, but my vision is for the 20th century, not the 21st," Lewis told board members and HMB staff. "I believe the new agency needs a new president with a new vision for a new century."

Lewis said he was not asked or pressured to retire. "It was my recommendation and I am the one who suggested it," he said. He received a standing ovation from board of directors and HMB staff after announcing his resignation. ■



LEWIS

Georgia board addresses university president's book

Compiled from BP & ABP reports

MT. VERNON, Ga. — The Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee, meeting Sept. 9, passed a resolution chastising Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey for the doctrinal errors of his new book, *When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest*.

While the voice vote in favor of the resolution was not unanimous, it did draw overwhelming support, with little discussion.

The resolution notes "that a person who serves as a leader among Baptists should be faithful in word and deed to Baptist doctrine" and it states Godsey "has departed significantly from Baptist doctrine."

Among ideas expressed by Godsey in

the book are his rejection of the view that the Bible is infallible, the rejection of original sin, and questioning the importance of the Virgin Birth. Other teachings are being interpreted as embracing universalism and rejecting the divinity of Jesus.

The book is renewing old charges by conservatives that Godsey is too liberal and is raising questions about how much his views reflect what is being taught at the Georgia Baptist university in Macon.

Even many of Godsey's moderate defenders are said to be distancing themselves from the book, and some are angry with him for inciting a controversy just as Mercer's new theological school is seeking to compete for prospective students with SBC seminaries.

Godsey was offered the opportunity to speak following the reading of the resolu-

tion. He shared his conviction that "Jesus Christ is the center and soul of my life" and "salvation is a gift of God's grace, received by faith alone."

Admitting to differences of opinion, Godsey called upon the executive committee to refrain from becoming a "Sanhedrin of hostility and judgment Our calling is not to war among ourselves about issues that separate us." The president did not specifically address the particular issues that were of concern.

While reaction to the book itself has been mixed, Godsey's belief in universalism has attracted stinging criticism from many Baptists who see the book as heretical.

An additional "resolve" was added calling for all to "demonstrate love as we deal with the resolution of this dilemma." ■

CP national gifts increase

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for August were up more than 10 percent and gifts for the SBC fiscal year are up nearly 2.5 percent over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

Gifts for August were \$13,101,189, compared to \$11,836,667 last year, an increase of 10.68 percent.

For 11 months of the fiscal year, gifts are \$135,935,202, compared to \$132,859,801, an increase of 2.31 percent over the same 11 month period last year.

Designated gifts also were up for the month of August and for the year.

For August, designated gifts totaled \$3,071,865, compared to \$3,001,934 last year. For the fiscal year designated gifts total \$136,201,883, compared to \$130,330,099, an increase of 4.51 percent. ■

1997 SBC housing forms available

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The housing forms for the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 17-19 in the Dallas Convention Center is now available, according to Jack Wilkerson, convention manager and vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee.

The form, to be used by messengers to request room reservations at hotels in Dallas, is available at all state Baptist convention offices, at

the SBC Executive Committee office in Nashville, and is included in the September issue of *SBC Life*, the monthly publication of the Executive Committee that is sent to pastors and others, Wilkerson said.

Reservations will be on a "first come, first served" basis until all hotel rooms in the housing block are taken, he said.

Forms must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1, 1996, he said. No reservations will be processed prior to that date, Wilkerson added. ■



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.



Partnership Prayer Requests

- September**
- 18 — Pray for safe travel for Gustaw Cieslar of the Polish Baptist Theological Seminary who is coming to Tennessee to talk with groups about the work being done in Poland.
- 19 — Praise God for Golgotha Romanian Church which has moved into Oakland Association in Michigan.
- 20 — Praise God for work completed by the Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood construction team in Torun, Poland, which was led by Bob Davison.
- 21 — Pray for three new churches to be planted in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 22 — Pray for Madison Heights Fellowship Church in Madison Heights, Mich.
- 23 — Pray for the recovery of Benoit Louis, pastor of Eglise Church Hatienne de Siloe, Quebec, Canada. He had surgery recently following a re-occurrence of crones disease.
- 24 — Pray for the TBC Partnership Missions staff and the leadership of the Polish Baptist Union as they both begin to make plans and develop strategies for 1997 projects.

Likes Hobbs

I teach an adult ladies class. I've enjoyed the Hobbs commentary lessons of Life and Work for many years. The "special tribute issue" is a classic. I will keep it always.

Dr. Herschel Hobbs contributed so much to our SBC. He was a giant and statesman. He left a great heritage and a legacy and legend to live by.

He seemed to know what a great convention we had and wanted everyone to have a part in it. He believed in "unity in diversity."

I'm a senior adult. I recall a special compliment: "They don't make 'em like that anymore." I only hope they do.

I'm disturbed when I read about people who brag about the "takeover" in the SBC. The word "takeover" should not be in the vocabulary of the SBC. I think we need to remember that people like Dr. Hobbs with God's help built a great SBC for them to "takeover" (if that's what they call it).

I appreciate all the great literature, etc., that the Sunday School Board makes available. We have a choice.

I really thank my church for providing us with information and materials to help us in our Bible studies, prayer life, and pointing others to Christ.

Juanita Steedly
Waverly 37185

Target and aim

In the Sept. 4 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, Dillard Mynatt writes that "Diane Jordan was on target" with her recent letter "explaining" the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship to those of us who evidently are still less enlightened on the subject (i.e., conservatives).

Personally, I rather believe that John Miller did a better job of explaining the CBF in his letter in the same issue.

I can't help but wonder: if Diane Jordan was "on target," where was she aiming?

Steve Taylor, pastor
Cornerstone Church
Clinton 37716

'Liberal bias?'

Your reply to John Miller's letter (Sept. 4 *Baptist and Reflector*) leaves no doubt as to your liberal bias. For the sake of those readers who missed your reply, you said, "Letter writers are encouraged to be accurate in all statements. Perception does not necessarily prove accuracy and truth."

It's odd that you choose to make a statement like this in rebuttal to someone who is anti-CBF. I failed to see you include any such statement in

reply to Diane Jordan (Aug. 14 *Baptist and Reflector*) when she was extolling the virtues of the CBF. Did she not require the same "encouragement" that Mr. Miller required?

From an editorial perspective, your reply to Mr. Miller — if it was necessary at all — should have only dealt with the issue he raised that concerned you, the fact that Ms. Jordan's letter exceeded the guidelines of more than 250 words. Instead of explaining why the letter was still published you skirted the issue by pointing out that Mr. Barner's letter (Aug. 7 *Baptist and Reflector*) was too long also. Interestingly, Mr. Barner's letter was anti-CBF just like Mr. Miller's.

Printing this reply as you did once again reminds me of where you must stand theologically. Of course that is only my perception. It does not necessarily prove accuracy or truth.

Gary P. Stinnett
Maryville 37801

The editor refutes the label assigned by the writer. — Editor

Help needed

The German Baptist Seminary is moving from Hamburg to eastern Germany and seeks help in renovating a campus and buildings that originally belonged to Soviet-occupying forces. The school has over 100 students and needs more room. It will move just east of Berlin, national capital.

The International Baptist Seminary of Prague is now completed and no longer needs volunteer workers. CBF leaders and North Carolina Baptist Men encourage leaders to sign up for work in Germany.

John and Dorothy Steen of Tennessee, who have recently returned from a fact-finding tour to Berlin, can provide information on volunteer work as well as present programs to missions organizations. They may be reached at (615) 356-1197 or 6511 Currywood Dr., Nashville, 37205.

David George, pastor
Immanuel Church
Nashville 37205

Clarification note

Some readers have read a letter from the Conservative Baptist Alliance, a group of pastors from Chilhowee Association. It is addressed to pastors and staff members of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches. I have neither cleri-

cal help nor financial resources to respond to each church. For clarity, I write this letter to the editor.

The letter states that from 1984-94 Monte Vista Church, Maryville, had 13 members serving on TBC boards.

I served Tennessee Baptists, along with Louise Anderson, Roberta Dorr, Fred Lawson, Mark Lund, Merrill Moore, and Patty Moore. Our service included six boards and three committee assignments. If there are others, the TBC journal does not reflect them.

The letter states "approximately 90 percent of Chilhowee Baptist churches did not provide a single member to any state board or agency during these 10 years." The TBC journal indicates 18 churches had representation out of a highest number of 83 churches, 1992-93. This is over 21 percent. Five served the Executive Board.

I agree with the letter's paragraph that suggests churches have the right to support what they choose. However, the rest of the letter does not suggest seeking representation. It speaks of control and exclusion, words once, and I hope always, abhorrent to the majority of Tennessee Baptists.

Howard Olive
Maryville 37803

See editor's note on "Needs Reporting" letter. — Editor

Released time

The steering committee for "Released Time for Religious Instruction" in Sullivan County and Kingsport City Schools requests prayer support of Tennessee Baptists. Three Baptist churches and three other churches wish to offer a 60-minute instruction period each week for students in nearby schools as a pilot program. School boards have granted "released time" in two other counties.

It is hoped that other localities will begin such programs. Released time during the school day is needed in many areas since bus schedules and breakfast programs prohibit many children from attending before or after school classes.

Interest in these programs have developed as a result of rapidly declining moral standards in our nation. There are

over 250,000 students in "released time" programs in the U.S. and half are not in church. Some schools are introducing "Character Counts" programs and "The Bible as History" but by law they must be void of religious instruction and do not have the much needed spiritual impact.

Participation need not interfere with instruction in the basic subjects. Students can be given the option to take released time in preference to athletics, drama, art, and music activities.

It is hard to believe any of our institutions would refuse help from any legitimate organization to combat immorality.

Primarily because of misunderstandings of what is being requested, much prayer is needed to gain approval for the program.

Norris Gilliam
Kingsport 37664

No consultant

This letter refers to the BSSB using a consultant in framing a possible name change.

From one who believes in the virgin birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is not wise to spend the widow's mite on consulting firms.

Gloria McRight
Lawrenceburg 38464

Needs reporting

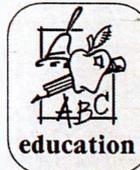
Recently I received a letter from the Conservative Baptist Alliance of Chilhowee Baptist Pastors' Conference. I am told that this letter went to pastors and church staffers across the state. This letter informed its recipients of CBA plans to attempt to change the bylaws of our Tennessee Baptist Convention to allow the president of the TBC to appoint the Committee on Boards. The stated reason is to control who is placed on the committee and the boards of trustees of our convention.

They also stated it was the method used in the SBC and it worked very well in that situation. If I remember correctly the misuse of presidential powers in the SBC is the very thing that caused the tremendous discord there.

I believe this is a newsworthy item and should be reported.

Douglas McPherson, pastor
Cedar Grove Church
Maryville 37804

A news story on page 2 of the Sept. 11 issue reported on this item. — Editor



Solid rock — that's the Foundation

Foundation: an underlying natural or prepared base or support. There are other definitions in dictionaries, but perhaps this one best suits the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

It is indeed a base, a support for every Tennessee Baptist entity, and probably for many other Baptist causes including the Cooperative Program.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation (TBF) has a bright, fresh, new publication — called *Touching Tomorrow*. A quarterly newsletter, Volume 1, Number 1, ushers in the fall season.

And the new edition is especially appropriate because September is noted on the denominational calendar as Baptist Foundation Month.

Let's help our TBF celebrate.

W. L. "Bo" Childs is president/treasurer, and is ably assisted by Richard E. Easterly, vice president for administration; Barbara Cox, administrative assistant; Teresa Garrett, accountant; and Bonnie Sneed, secretary/bookkeeper.

As the TBF mission statement states, it is the trust and investment institution of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Its purpose is "to assist Tennessee Baptists, churches, and the convention to lay a strong financial foundation under those institutions, causes, and agencies supported by the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

The purpose is fulfilled through living trusts, testamentary trusts, gifts, and bequests — and in addition, the TBF acts as a funds manager for the TBC institutions.

The questioner will realize that not all Tennessee Baptists are familiar with the TBF's reason for being. The institution has many services that can help Tennessee Baptists, such as estate planning, funds management, revocable trusts, charitable remainder

trusts, memorials, and endowment. Officers and trustees of the TBF really can help you make a "forever" contribution to Baptist causes, even after death.

If you have difficulty in managing the jargon of finances and investments, don't be concerned. TBF officers can help you become a wizard — almost. TBF also provides seminars for churches and associations.

Looking at some facts in TBF figures, it is easy to see why *Touching Tomorrow* was the choice for the newsletter. Think about it.

The Foundation began at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1938. It started out with five trust funds and total assets of \$7,062.31. Today the TBF administers more than 800 trust funds and total assets are more than \$64 million.

The TBF can help make a small trust fund grow into a gift that will bless its recipients for many years. This is done by dedicated and careful management of funds.

Tennessee Baptists are just a phone call or a visit away from making a lasting decision. Childs says Tennessee Baptists are helping advance missions here and worldwide through wills, trusts, and outright gifts — through stewardship. He is right. Celebrate Tennessee Baptist Foundation this month. *B&R*



TBC colleges moving ahead in bold ventures

You won't find the three colleges of the Tennessee Baptist Convention marking time.

Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Belmont University, keeping in step with the best in higher education and an eager, demanding student body, are innovative pacesetters.

They are speaking the language of improved educational skills, and holding on to a rich heritage of missions teamed up with education. At the same time they are not afraid of making a bold witness for Christ in the cities and marketplaces of the world.

The institutions realize the importance of developing a vision and plotting a course of achievement.

A good example of vision is Carson-Newman's Center for International Education and Missions. On September 8 the school dedicated and opened this center, a showplace for work with international students, and the development of education and mis-

sions at home and abroad.

All the elements were present: evidence of a studied vision, prayer, gathering of strengths to meet needs and to flesh out the dream, and dedicated people. Tangible evidence of the program's success is already taking shape. The college is pioneering.

The plans will take faculty and students abroad to teach and to learn amid different cultures. These plans are complimented by on-campus efforts such as the master's program in Teaching English as a Second Language. International missions will be coordinated by Campus Ministries.

Alongside the sparkling refurbished home for CIEM staff, is the English Language Institute. It will accommodate a growing international student population that may need additional study in English.

Tennessee Baptists can be proud of the colleges as they meet the needs in education and missions. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Husband to wife: "By the way, did you put my cooking outfit in the bag? I'll want to fry some of the fish we catch."

Wife to husband: "Yes, dear, I did. And you will also find a can of sardines in the bag — as well as some crackers and cheese."

Take this truth

The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray. That's not literally what the Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote, but that is the modern version of it.

Thank God for those who understand you and provide a "backup plan" for you in case your plan does not succeed.

Memorize this Scripture

He that handles a matter wisely shall find good; and whosoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he (Proverbs 16:20).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to plan wisely, but first of all to trust in you to provide me with my needs. ■

No, no, the devil didn't make you do it; nor your peers

Why did he take a gun to school?
Peer pressure.
Why did she steal the bracelet from the department store?
Peer pressure.

Why did he plagiarize the design for the new shopping center? Why did she host a drinking party at home while her parents were away?
Peer pressure.

Why did they kill for a sports jacket? Why did the teenagers have sex even though they knew the consequences?
Peer pressure.

Why did they harass the neighbors and slash their tires?
Peer pressure.

Why did they molest the five-year-old?
Peer pressure.

Why did he get an obnoxious tattoo? Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

Why did he get an obnoxious tattoo?
Peer pressure.

Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

Why did he get an obnoxious tattoo?
Peer pressure.

Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

Why did he get an obnoxious tattoo?
Peer pressure.

Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

Why did he get an obnoxious tattoo?
Peer pressure.

Why did she date the guy who was known as a "wild animal"?
Peer pressure.

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Why did they assault the driver and steal his car?
Peer pressure.

Why did they lie about their political opponent?
Peer pressure too?

It seems as though the answer to every crime is peer pressure.

I think it sounds like the old adage, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Who are the peers? Is this like a fad that goes around the country and no one can find the originator?

Is this similar to the hula hoop, pierced noses, green hair, black sun glasses, the "yos," the "knomesanes," (do you know what I am saying?), and "s'up, man?"

I think if we could find the original peer and give him/her some ideas about

good behavior and responsibility, we would have the solution to many of our problems.

Unfortunately, Mr./Ms. Peer move around so quickly that no one ever sees the culprit, and no one can apprehend this most ingenious trouble-maker.

Mr./Ms. Peer is like old Kilroy who, fifty years ago, was everywhere in the world at the same time. He couldn't be pinned down.

So what do we do about the Peers of the world? Will they forever create havoc and have others blamed for their crimes?

I think it's time we realize that families, churches, schools, are all responsible for allowing the "peer pressure" excuse. It would be good

if we all tried some teaching and reaching — not just "at church," but at home, school, and in the workplace.

Responsibility is no laughing matter. It's serious. ■



ALLEN

Here's the word; be faithful, do your part

think about it

— by Don Bowery, pastor, First Church, Mountain City

not cross over the brook.

"Very well," King David said. "You 200 stay here and take care of the baggage and supplies. The others of us who are stronger will go on."

David and the 400 went on, made a great recovery, and returned with the spoil of the enemy.

When they arrived at the Brook Besor where the weary group had stopped and waited, taking care of the baggage, a protest arose on the part of those who

went to battle.

They did not want to share the spoils with those weary ones who stopped and waited. Then it was that King David made a great statement about faithfulness.

He said, "As his part is that goeth down to the battle so shall his part be that tarried by the stuff. They shall part alike."

David was saying that not all are equally strong, yet all can be equally faithful.

The 200 men who did the best they could were just as worthy of the reward. That is what the Lord wants us to do — be faithful and do our part. ■

Tusculum Hills members minister in Mexico

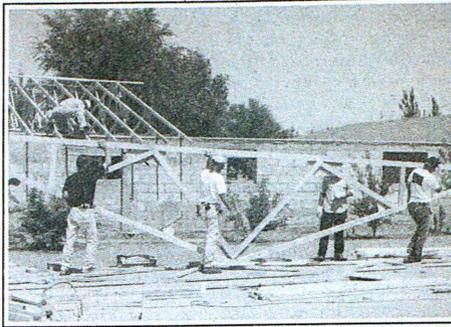
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Thirty-one people from Tusculum Hills Church here spent Aug. 12-17 in Mexico, continuing a mission project that began last March when a group from the church built a set of pews and pulpit furniture for a church in Mexico.

The 31 people were divided into three groups: construction, Vacation Bible School, and a revival team.

The construction team — comprised of Mike Hammond, Cathy Bartlett, John Bottom, Ken Colebank, Rick Simons, Chad Lester, Steve Qualls, Paul Sellers, Steve Ferguson, Donald Clemons, Jim Watson, Jeff Snoddy, Ed Smith, Stephen House, Carroll Smith, Wayne Hill, Earl Lester, Alan Bartlett, and Richard Aley — installed the pews in the Iglesia Bautista Esmirus in Sn Agustin, Mexico.

A major construction job also was done at Iglesia Bautista Esmirus in Praxedis. At this sight, volunteers built



VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS from Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, work in Praxedis, Mexico.

trusses decked and roofed a building, and placed sheet rock on the roof inside the structure.

The Vacation Bible School team — comprised of Wanda Lester, Dena Caruth, Peggy Highsmith, Tracy Melton, Cindy Turbeville, Barbara Hammonds, Carolyn Westmoreland, Myra Simons, and Anita Lester — led VBS at two different locations along the border — one at El Mimbres at Iglesia Bautista and one at



TUSCULUM HILLS Pastor Doug Westmoreland, right, visits with Mexican pastor Arturo Ferrell.

San Isidro Iglesia Bautista (Sinai). In the morning VBS, the group started out with 36 the first day and concluded the last day with 91 in attendance. In evening VBS they began with 60 and ended with 85.

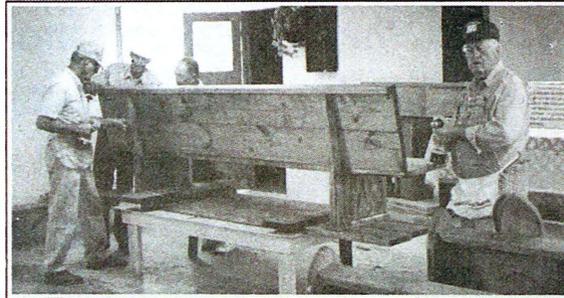
A revival also was held at San Isidro. Tusculum Hills Pastor Doug Westmoreland preached and Myra Simons was the soloist for the revival. The pastor of the church in Praxedis served as interpreter for the revival.

Bill Highsmith, recreation/activities/senior adults director at Tusculum Hills, served as project director, and James Ledbetter was the designated bus driver while in Mexico.

Tusculum Hills invested approximately \$20,000 in the project to spread the Gospel in Mexico via the means of construction, VBS, and the revival services. The volunteers reported on their trip Sept. 11 to the Tusculum Hills congregation by means of video. ■



VBS WORKERS from Tusculum Hills made new friends with the children they taught in Vacation Bible School in El Mimbres, Mexico.



VOLUNTEERS, from left, Ken Colebank, Carroll Smith, Wayne Hill, and John Bottom, install pews in a Sn Agustin, Mexico, church.

Kingsport FBC youth spend busy summer of ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — The summer of 1996 was a busy one for the congregation and especially the youth of First Church, Kingsport.

Three different mission teams traveled more than 2,500 miles to minister in locations from lower Michigan to the Olympics in Atlanta.

On June 16, 10 high school girls and their Acteens sponsors left for Monroe, Ga., where they conducted Vacation Bible School at two sites. One, a local church, was not anticipating much of a turnout and was overjoyed when attendance averaged around 30.

The other VBS was held in a daycare center. According to Janice Luttrell, one of the group's leaders, response from children and families was gratifying with an average attendance of about 75 children. One of the highlights of the trip, however, was when the daycare center director, who was noncommittal about the project at the beginning, wrote a check to the group to help with expenses, saying, "You'll never know

how much good you've done."

Less than a week after the Acteens returned from Georgia, a group of 26 youth choir members and sponsors boarded a bus for Pinkney, Mich.

The group, led by Minister of Music Bill Simpson and Minister to Students James Jackson, worked with Immanuel Church in Pinkney, in their church planting efforts. Over the course of five days, the young people conducted Backyard Bible Clubs at three different locations, surveyed two neighborhoods, and presented three concerts in different locations. These activities were all part of Immanuel's efforts to begin a new congregation in the Whitmore Lake, Mich., area this fall.

During the third week of July, Jackson and a group of 25 puppeteers and sponsors departed Kingsport for the Olympics. While in Atlanta, the group worked with AIM (Atlanta International Ministries) to share Christ with the hundreds of thousands of athletes, tourists, and workers in town for the Olympic games.

During the busy summer, the student ministry of First Church, Kingsport, also

combined efforts with Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport, to conduct summer camp for 108 young people at Awanita Valley, S.C. In addition, one FBC student served as a summer missionary in Jacksonville, Fla., and another participated in the ministry of The Continental Singers.

The high level of mission awareness and involvement on the part of the FBC youth should come as no real surprise, according to Simpson. The church's pastor, Frank Hawkins, and his wife are former SBC missionaries to Brazil. Over the course of the last year or so, Hawkins has personally participated on mission trips to Michigan, Canada, and Poland. Other church members have worked in Venezuela and Belize and the church is in the midst of working with a local Lutheran congregation to build their sixth house with Habitat for Humanity.

Having stated their purpose as "proclaiming to people God's message of redeeming and sustaining love as revealed in Jesus Christ," the pastor, staff and congregation of First Church, continue to reach out to their own community and beyond, Simpson said. ■



Tennessee features

Doctor leads effort to get medical supplies to Ukraine

For Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — It was an answer to a plea for help.

Local physician J. Howard Ragsdale, a member of First Church, Union City, and his wife, Billie, recently spent two weeks on a medical mission tour to the Ukraine. They took a few supplies with them but saw the need for additional supplies.

Upon returning to Union City Ragsdale asked Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City administrator Mike Perryman for medical supplies to ship to Ukraine.

The local hospital donated supplies to Kalinin Regional Hospital in Donets'k, Ukraine, via Life International, a non-profit organization.

The surplus medical items, which included disposable boxes of gowns, gloves, sponges, stretchers, exam tables, patient beds, heat lamps, and blood pressure cuffs, were shipped in a 20 x 40 container.

"The Kalinin hospital is the referral hospital for the five million people of the Donets'k region," Ragsdale said. "The hospital has 1,000 beds and a campus of over 50 acres."

Ragsdale said the supplies which were sent from Union City consisted of equipment that had been replaced by more innovative equipment. Still, what was sent represents advanced technology for the people of Ukraine, he said. "In some instances they are as much as 15 years behind us (in technology)," he noted.

Perryman said the hospital "was glad to be able to help after Dr. Ragsdale brought the need to our attention. We hope to be able to do something like this again in the future," he said.

Ragsdale also plans to continue to enlist others in giving used equipment to Ukraine. "The need is so great." — Adapted from a story in the *Union City Daily Messenger*

Carson-Newman dedicates CIEM



Tennessee features



THESE HELPED Carson-Newman open and dedicate CIEM. From left, Ronald Midkiff, dean of International Education; Timothy Dalton, vice president of Student Government Association; Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox; Earl Martin, missions professor; and Daniel Grant, president, CSIEC.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — With proper pomp and feeling, Carson-Newman College opened and dedicated its Center for International Education and Missions here Sept. 8.

Church, community, and denominational leaders joined with faculty and students in a multi-lingual celebration of a new endeavor for the school.

"Through this concentrated effort for education and missions, the classroom becomes the world," said C-N President Cordell Maddox.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to help our own students prepare for a missions vocation, and it will provide service to the denomination."

Maddox said the Tennessee Baptist Convention was founded to support the aims of education, evangelism, and missions, and that through the

new center, the school will become a stronger partner to the convention's efforts.

Held in First Church, Jefferson City, the ceremony used a perfect mix of faculty, students, denominational leaders.

Ronald Midkiff, dean of International Education at Carson-Newman, led the program.

Maddox gave a brief history of the center, and its purpose.

Earl Martin, senior professor of missions, gave the keynote address.

Affirmations came from Roger Purkey, chairman of Carson-Newman's trustees; Daniel Grant, president of the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium; Katharine Bryan, Executive director, WMU, Tennessee Baptist Convention;

Thomas Cronan III, faculty affairs committee representative; Timothy Dalton, vice president of Student Government Association; and Jerry



SEVERAL STUDENTS participated in praying the Lord's prayer in their own languages, sentence by sentence. The program also included a procession of flags brought in the auditorium by Carson-Newman international students and placed on display in the choir loft.

DeZearn, director of missions, Jefferson County Association.

Ai Okumura, Japanese student, sang "Amazing Grace."

Mission statement of the new center says, in part, that the center works to strengthen the international and intercultural dimensions of the campus through a diverse range of curricular and co-curricular programs. Christian values of servanthood, leadership training, and global outreach are stressed.

Maddox said the idea for such a planned center began nearly a decade ago when Midkiff returned from a trip to China. Next, a strategic planning committee was formed.

And, as soon as resources became available, the dream began to materialize. "Our heritage of missions and education will no longer be just words, it is reality," he said.

"Our students are becoming aware of a worldwide view of

missions. Students will graduate from Carson-Newman with better understanding of global cultures, and they will have new knowledge and friendships. They will be truly living out the Great Commission."

In his keynote message,



AFTER THE DEDICATION program, a reception was held at the Center for International Education and Missions house. Tours of the facility were available. Built in 1870 the building now houses the offices of the CIEM.

Meadow View Church finds three reasons to celebrate



PASTOR TAYLOR SMITH, left, and Garry Ridinger, chairman of deacons, burn a loan note. The loan was made in 1992 for renovation and repairs of church buildings, and was due in 2002.



MEADOW VIEW CHURCH members helped celebrate homecoming. From left, Sandra and Roy Ellis, Pastor Taylor Smith and his wife Edna; and Frank and May Staley. Frank Staley is church treasurer. Wm. Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector editor, was guest speaker for the occasion.

Meadow View Church, Knoxville, found at least three reasons to celebrate on Sept. 8. And they did.

The church had homecoming, note-burning, and anniversary recognition all in one day. And they topped it off with the typical grand meal that Baptist churches have on such occasions.

Pastor Taylor Smith noted the church had paid a \$20,000 building renovation loan six years early, was observing home coming, and had its 40th anniversary celebration too.

The loan paid for much needed repairs. Work was done mostly by Tennessee Baptist volunteers. **B&R**

Assembly, seminary damaged by Fran

For Baptist Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The morning after Fran's assault on North Carolina, there was an ominous telephone recording at the coastal North Carolina Caswell Baptist Assembly saying it had been closed by the hurricane and, inland, a preliminary estimate of \$1 million in damage at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

The Caswell facility, which sustained \$250,000 in damages from Hurricane Bertha in July, was in Fran's landfall path Sept. 5. No damage assessment was available Sept. 9. The assembly's telephone recording Sept. 6 said calls should be directed to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offices in Cary, near Raleigh. Those offices, however, also were closed that day, the day after Fran exacted a toll that included more than 25 deaths in the Mid-Atlantic.

The facility, a former Army base purchased by North Carolina Baptists in 1948, has accommodations for several hundred and a mile of coastline.

At Southeastern Seminary, the \$1-million damage estimate included:

- removal and cleanup of "trees everywhere," by one description — stately trees uprooted by Fran, such as the magnolia in front of the president's home which had occasioned the resident's name, "Magnolia Hill," and two tall oaks in front of Binkley Chapel.

- repair and cleanup of roof damage, which had given way to building leaks; broken windows; and 30 inches of flooding in the boiler room of the seminary's plant services building.

Additionally, students have lost cars, while faculty and administration homes were damaged by wind, rain and fallen trees, reported Greg Kingry, Southeastern's director of public relations.

The campus was without power, as was much of North

Carolina and Virginia along Fran's northward route as a hurricane-turned-tropical storm. Southeastern officials were alerted the outage might last four or five days.

Southeastern President Paige Patterson stated, "We are profoundly grateful to God for the personal safety of our people. We have an assignment from God and we continue with that assignment, even as we join hands in a massive cleanup and rebuilding effort. Please pray for those who have lost so much."

Russ Bush, academic vice president and dean of the faculty, said classes nevertheless were to resume Saturday, Sept. 7, despite the power outage.

Jerry Lethco, director of missions for the 62-church Wilmington Baptist Association, said damage reports from Fran's 115 mph winds and rain were still being gathered Sept. 9. "As far as we can determine, our church buildings are pretty well intact," other than several steeples being toppled, flooding in one or more churches and other damage, he said.

The biggest challenge, Lethco said, is coordinating the influx of volunteers. Up to 10 Baptist chain saw teams were expected the evening of Sept. 9, he said, joining others already on site from North and South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee tackling such tasks as removing fallen trees from houses and patching up roofs so people can return home.

Volunteers started arriving "as soon as the storm abated," Lethco said.

David Brisson, who directs inner-city ministries in the association and is helping coordinate teams with chain saws, noted, "I've got 45 requests

from different churches for repairs that are needed. There's just an awesome relief effort."

Arrowood Church of Chesnee, S.C., sent a team of 12 for cleanup who weathered a tornado in 1989 and were recipients of help as their town rebuilt. They have developed their own disaster relief unit since then and, in one of their first tasks in Wilmington, spent two hours on a man's yard. The man said the cleanup would have cost \$2,000 with a three-month wait for an independent contractor.

"We've got requests from people who have three and four trees fallen through their house," Brisson said. "I find it overwhelming to see what disaster relief is all about."

Many people in the area remain without electricity and water, Lethco said, thus underscoring the work of Baptist and other religious groups' feeding units on site.

Power at the associational office was restored Sept. 6 around 10 a.m.

In Wilmington, Fran's winds toppled a Civil War-era 197-foot brick steeple atop First Baptist Church, a casualty seen nationally over network news broadcasts.

The church was built between 1860 and 1870 with two steeples. According to a book of the congregation's history, the taller, now destroyed steeple had served as a lookout for Union and Confederate troops, depending on who was occupying the coastal city at the time. ■

Leaves senior associate pastor role

Reighard resigns from First, Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP)—Ike Reighard, senior associate pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church since January, resigned Sept. 8, apparently in a dispute over responsibilities and titles.

Reighard's primary responsibility at First Baptist was to preach at the church's northeast Atlanta site. In a prepared statement to the north Atlanta congregation, Charles Stanley, senior pastor, said Reighard expected to be promoted to co-pastor and have equal authority as the pastor.

"The Oversight Committee as well as myself felt we were clear verbally and in writing that no such guarantee was being made," Stanley said.

Reighard said in a written statement that he was not promised the position, but was told the congregation would vote within six months on whether he should have the title. A vote was never taken.

After discussing the issue with Stanley and two advisors, Reighard said he was told to meet privately with the Oversight Committee or he would be fired.

"Rather than risk going to the meeting alone under duress, I submitted my resignation Sept. 8 to save the embarrassment for my family," Reighard said.

Stanley said he took Reighard's request to be considered co-pastor to the Oversight Committee, but the committee rejected it. "In my judgment their decision was the right one," Stanley added.

Reighard said he would not seriously consider another position for weeks or perhaps months, according to *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*. The northeast congregation was described as silent and stunned after Stanley read Reighard's resignation letter.

In his resignation letter to the congregation, Reighard said, "With every fiber of our beings Robin and I believe that God called us here. Therefore you can imagine our confusion, hurt and sorrow at this moment. However, it remains true among us humans that misunderstandings arise and are, in fact, virtually unavoidable."

Reighard was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., for 18 years before taking the First Baptist post. The Fayetteville church grew to more than 5,000 members under his leadership and was the second fastest-growing church in the Southern Baptist Convention in the early 1980s. He has been president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. He is currently a member of the Home Mission Board of directors. ■

Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688
We're built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.

Church Interiors of Nashville
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERING
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions
Lighting and Complete Renovations

Free! Estimates and Interior Design Consultation

Inspirational Travel 1996-97

Escorted by Rev. John Adkerson and other experienced hosts. "Early Bird Discounts!" Bonuses to those who assist us as hosts/hostesses.

Tour #SP6: Australia/New Zealand. 15 Days. Depart Oct. 7. Last call!

Tour #HL54: Holidays in the Holy Land. Opt. extn. to Egypt or Petra. 10 days. Dec. 28.

Tour #HL55: Springtime in the Holy Land. 10 Days. Opt extn. to Egypt. March 31, 1997

Tour #HL56: Holy Land Pilgrimage. 8 Days. Optn. extn. to Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and France. June 9, 1997

Tour #EU36: Best of Europe. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, and Belgium. 8 Days. June 15, 1997

Pastors: Call for TOUR HOST information.

Contact: John Adkerson

P.O. Box 451174, Atlanta, GA 31145 Phone: (770) 414-1950 or (800) 516-1950



John Adkerson Hosted 92 tours to 67 countries worldwide. "You Can't Beat Experience!"

Classified

MINISTER: Southside Baptist Church, Martin, is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume and the names and addresses of three references to Frank Vincent, Search Committee Chair, Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 121, Martin, TN 38237.

CHRISTIAN ART: Lovely hand-framed Scripture pictures. Original watercolor designs. From \$15. Personalizing available. For FREE color catalog, call (800) 886-4611. The Crown Prints Gallery.

BUS FOR SALE: 1977 Bluebird Bus, 40-passenger, new tires and brakes, engine less than 5,000 miles. Sealed bids accepted at FBC, 7140 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton, 37080. Bids opened at noon, Sept. 27. We reserve the right to reject all bids. Bus may be seen at church. For more information call (615) 876-0527.

FOR SALE: Church Organ, Allen Model 603-3, 2 manual, 2 computer; Excellent condition; presently in 800-seat sanctuary; perfect for same or smaller church; \$16,000; Contact Forest Hills Baptist Church, 2101 Old Hickory, Blvd., Nashville, 37215; (615) 373-8074.

Call for Free BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE 1-800-231-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO. 5511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES Manufacturers Baptistries Signs Lights

TOLL FREE 1-800-446-7400

FAX: 804-822-2210 Steeples P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Magnum Transportation

"Bus Sales, Service, & Refurbishments"

1228 Lakeview Dr. Franklin, TN 37067 (615) 790-8990 FAX (615) 790-8989 "Your Transportation Solution"

President/Chief Executive Officer

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, headquartered in Louisville, Ky., is seeking a president/chief executive officer for immediate placement.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has a broad spectrum of programs and services with numerous facilities throughout the state and is the oldest and largest private child/family care organization in the state.

Applicant must be active Baptist, have advanced degree (master and above) and experience in child/family care or related field, be knowledgeable in pertinent issues, be a capable spokesperson and advocate, possess demonstrated management/leadership skills, and a vision for the future in this field of service.

Competitive package, negotiable with demonstrated ability. Send applications/resumes to H.R. Booth, 6296 Saddle Ridge, Burlington, KY 41005-9602.

people

■ **Wayne and Dortha Palmer**, members of Mount Elim Church, Spencer, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 9. Wayne Palmer has been a deacon of the church for more than 30 years.

leaders

■ **Stephanie Harris** of Cleveland has been appointed as a US-2 missionary by the Home Mission Board. She will serve as a student worker in the Chicago area at Harper and Oakton Community colleges. Harris graduated from Belmont University, Nashville, in 1995. While in Nashville, she served three churches as a youth minister. Her home church is North



HARRIS

Cleveland Church, Cleveland.

■ **Cornerstone Church**, Clinton, has called **Wade Kelly** as minister of music, effective Sept. 15. He was interim minister of music, Glenwood Church, Oak Ridge. Kelly is a student at Roane State Community College, Harriman.

■ **Immanuel Church**, Elizabethton, has called **W. Terry Crawford** as pastor and **Brian Wilson** as minister of music and youth. Crawford has served as pastor of churches in Georgia. He is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Wilson served on the staff of Siam Church, Elizabethton. He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Dallas Bay Southern Church**, Hixson, has called **Garry Woodside** as minister of music/youth. On Sept. 22 the church will ordain the following as deacons: Gary Davis, Manning Head, Bill Steele,

and Dale Wilson.

■ **New Vision Church**, Murfreesboro, has called **Phillip Douglas Campbell** as associate pastor, minister of music and worship, effective June 1. He earned a master of divinity in church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in May, 1996. He also holds a degree from Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. He was minister of music at Baptist Tabernacle in Louisville, Ky.

■ **Daniel Doss**, music director, Old Salem Church, Martin, has been called as minister of music and youth, First Church, Obion. He is a student at the University of Tennessee - Martin.

■ **Stan Scott** has been called as associate pastor of Sylvia Church, Dickson. He was a staff member of Burns Church, Burns.

churches

■ The annual Nearly and Newlywed Seminar at **Trinity Church**, Cordova, will begin Oct. 6 and continue for 10 weeks. Pegeen Davis will lead the seminar along with guests including physicians, financial experts, and psychologists. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact (901) 751-1580.

■ **First Church**, Erwin, will hold homecoming activities Oct. 6. It is being held in conjunction with the Unicoi County Apple Festival Oct. 4-5. Melvin Faulkner, William Purdue, and Aubrey Hay of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will be special guests. The morning worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

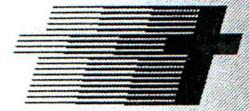
■ **Lockeland Church**, Nashville, will hold its annual Gospel Fest, an old-fashioned

tent revival, Sept. 22-25. Terry Wilkerson will speak and Kevin Griffey, Kathy Biggers, and the Lockeland Praise Band will lead the music. Activities will include an ice cream fellowship, youth pizza night, and barbecue dinner.

■ **Immanuel Church**, Elizabethton, recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Special guest speakers were Ray Brown, Jim Lindsay, Haven Lowe, and Frank Lethcoe.

■ **Hillcrest Church**, Nashville, will hold its 50th Anniversary Revival Sept. 25-29. Speaking are Carl Connelly, Don Eskew, David Clark, Scott Bennett, and Ron Gleaves. Other guests will include Bill Taylor and Roy Chamlee.

■ **First Church**, Sweetwater, has completed extensive remodeling on its church campus. On Sept. 29 a dedication, homecoming, and open house will be held. James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak at 11 a.m. Other activities include a luncheon, dedication service at 2 p.m., and ribbon cutting and open



Tennescene

house from 2:45-4 p.m.

■ **New Vision Church**, Murfreesboro, has begun offering two worship services. A contemporary worship time begins at 9:30 a.m., blended worship is at 10:50 a.m., and family worship at 6:15 p.m.

associations

■ **Nashville Association** is hosting a Tutoring Youth and Children Workshop Oct. 17-19 at Mill Creek Church, Nashville. Mrs. N. Lee Hudson of Monument of Love Church, Memphis, will lead the workshop using the Laubach method of tutoring. Participants can earn a TYC certificate. Register by Oct. 1 at the association by calling (615) 259-3034.



BREAKING GROUND for a building to replace one that burned are leaders of New Providence Church, Loudon, from left, Billy Harper; Clifford Herrell; Alan Clardy; Ray Luck, director of missions, Loudon County Association; Obie Campbell, pastor; and Greg Kollock. The church burned last summer and the ground breaking was Aug. 18.



CUTTING A RIBBON Aug. 25 signifying the opening of the Mary Lee Hitch Family Life Center of Dixie Lee Church, Lenoir City, are Al, Jim, and Stephanie Hitch while Bruce Yates, left, pastor, and members of the building committee look on. The 15,000 square foot building provides offices, classrooms, a gym, fellowship area, and other features. It will be open for ministry soon.

Prospect Church, Hollow Rock, celebrates its sesquicentennial

During the Sept. 1 observance of the 150th anniversary of the Prospect Church, Hollow Rock, John W. Somers of Carbondale, Ill., who served the church from 1965-70, spoke during the morning worship service. Below, James S. Daniel, left, pastor, and Debbie Cook, chairperson of the celebration committee, visit with Somers.



Recognized during the celebration by Larry Howard, second from left, of the celebration committee, were from left, Roy Lowe, who represented several who could not attend; Vivian Kee, 93, the oldest member present; Ruby Lee McMillin, who had taught SS the longest; Chestine Mebane, active member the longest at 54 years; Joanna Tedford, youngest member at nine years old; and Zoe Mebane, youngest person attending at one month, held by her mother, Michelle.

Fellowship council holds meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The coordinating council of the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, meeting in Nashville Sept. 7, again affirmed its inclusion in and appreciation for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In view of recent in-state criticism of CBF, the council reiterated its purpose to be active participants in Tennessee Baptist life and to provide fellowship for those who seek the Baptist traditions which CBF upholds.

"We are seen as being ad-

versarial," stated TCBF coordinator Moncrief (Monty) Jordan of Jefferson City, "but in reality we have been responsible for keeping many people connected to Baptist life in Tennessee. We are not in competition with any other Baptist entity and have no desire or intent to create another massive religious organization," he said.

In other action, the council expressed appreciation to Crievewood Church in Nashville for hosting the annual TCBF General Assembly April 25-26, 1997; voted to allocate one-third of contributions to

missions projects, including an immediate \$6,000 to a 1997 Habitat Blitz in Tennessee; agreed to give \$1,000 plus designated funds toward the purchase of pulpit furniture for Salem Church, the church in Fruitland which was destroyed by fire; and approved a search committee to seek a part-time coordinator to replace interim coordinator Jordan.

The council made plans for a statewide fellowship meeting during the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting. It will be at Lincoya Hills Church, Nashville, at 9:30 p.m., Nov. 12. ■

Vestal to be nominated as CBF head

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Daniel Vestal will be nominated as Cecil Sherman's successor as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate organization formed in opposition to Southern Baptist Convention leadership five years ago.

Vestal, 51, pastor of Talwood Church in Houston and one of CBS's initial organizers, will be voted on by the 84-member Coordinating Council during its Sept. 26-28 meeting here.

Carolyn Crumpler, a former Woman's Missionary Union ex-

ecutive director who chaired the year-long search by an 11-member committee, told Associated Baptist Press, a moderate-related news service based in Jacksonville, Fla., that Vestal was the only candidate to receive the unanimous support of the committee.

Sherman retired in July.

ABP reported members of the Coordinating Council were

notified of the committee's recommendation by mail Sept. 6, the same day the CBF's Atlanta staff was told, while Vestal was scheduled to inform his church of the nomination Sept. 8. ■

A & O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— PEW —
UPHOLSTERING
1 (800) 523-9058
NC 1 (800) 222-7895
REFINISHING

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263



New office for Jefferson County Association

Jerry DeZearn, director of missions, Jefferson County Association, and his wife, Linda, stand in front of the first office building of the association, which is based in Jefferson City. The new office site, which was opened in March, was renovated by volunteers.



20' to 33' Buses By **CHAMPION**
MOTOR COACH INC.

Church Buses

- 12 to 38 adult capacity
- Over 20 used buses for sale
- Rental buses available
- Guaranteed Buy Back Program
- We Buy Used Buses

Carpenter Bus Sales

P.O. Box 2126
Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-2126

Call Henry Headden today:

1 (800) 370-6180

1 (615) 371-6180

"Ask about our Rental Bus Program."



Crusader: 15-Passenger (No CDL Required)
(13 with Rear Storage Compartment)

HIGHER EDUCATION WITH A HIGHER PURPOSE.



We call it "higher education with a higher purpose." You'll call it an open door to a successful career in health care. Earn a baccalaureate degree in Nursing, Radiological Sciences, or Respiratory Care at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences. What you'll receive at our specialized college is a quality professional education built on solid Christian principles, as well as a strong liberal arts foundation. To receive a brochure and application, plan a campus visit, or attend one of our open houses, just call us at 901-227-4301 or 1-800-796-7171.

 **BAPTIST**
College of Health Sciences

1003 Monroe Ave., Memphis, 38104

Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin

Called

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Hebrews 11:1-2, 5-6, 13-16, 39-40

Who are the heroes and heroines you admire most? In the sporting world we recognize the greats from the past in the various "Hall of Fame" museums around the country. Hebrews 11 is a "Hall of Fame" reminding us of the great cloud of witnesses, those who have lived faithfully before the Lord in times past. These testimonies are meant to encourage us to respond with faithfulness to the grace of God that works in our lives.

Description of faith (vv. 1-2). "Sola fides" (faith alone) was a watchword of the Reformation. Faith is only as sure and secure as that upon which it is based. Biblical faith is both "evidence" and "substance." As evidence, faith is being sure of what we hope for. Hope for the Christian is a confidence regarding the future based upon God's past dealings and present promises to us. The external witness of the Scripture, the corporate witness of the church, and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit combine in an authentic expression of Christian faith. It gives us certainty beyond that which is merely confirmed by the senses.

Pleasing God by faith (vv. 5-6). Enoch is one of those held up as an example of pleasing God by faith. Faith is essential to pleasing God. Many would rather depend on themselves and their own abilities than trust the grace of God for salvation. The philosophical arguments for the existence of God may lead one to accept the notion of a first cause or a supreme being but the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is known only through faith. Faith is more than mere intellectual ascent, it is commitment of the whole person to the fact that God is and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Only God can produce this kind of faith for "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of God."

Accepting delayed fulfillment by faith (v. 13a). The popular notion of the "name it and claim it" crowd is that if you have real faith, God will provide all your desires here and now. The Bible and the history of the church are filled with illustrations to the contrary. Look at the list of atrocities that befell some who walked by faith yet they continued to live faithfully before God awaiting the fulfillment of his promise.

Seeking eternity by faith (vv. 13b-16). We live between the already and the not yet. God has already revealed what he intends to do through Christ but the final episode has not yet been acted out. We can face whatever comes our way as we look toward that promised "heavenly country." From a biblical standpoint it is precisely the hope of eternal vindication that enables us to face the vicissitudes of this life.

Relying on Jesus Christ by faith (vv. 39-40). Occasionally one hears a person lament, "Oh to walk with God like Enoch, to know God like Abraham, to have the faith of Noah, or to see the signs of a Moses ..."

We enjoy a more privileged position. We have a complete word of prophecy in Christ. Further, the promises of God have been delayed so that we together with the saints of the Old Testament might be made complete in Christ. God does not have two ways of salvation, one in the Old and the other in the New. He has but one way of salvation, "it is by grace you have been saved through faith." ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Proclaiming God's Word

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 7:1-15

Jeremiah had a fire in his bones to proclaim God's Word to a needy audience. We need to hear again the message of Jeremiah preached centuries ago.

Safe in the sanctuary — vv. 1-4

When God told Jeremiah to stand in the gate of the Temple and preach his message, it was to a self-satisfied audience. They were guilty of finding their security in something other than God's presence. In Jeremiah's words, they were "deceived" (v. 4). Their security was in God's sanctuary, and their chant revealed their misplaced trust.

I fear that many Christians live under a similar misplaced trust. Whenever a believer attempts to excuse their sinfulness under the banner "once saved, always saved," it is obvious that they have no understanding of their salvation. Eternal security is a proclamation of assurance, not an open door for disobedience.

If ... then ... — vv. 5-7

Convention Uniform Lesson

What Israel needed was a national revival. Jeremiah proclaimed God's expectations of the nation, and what God's response would be if they obeyed.

Israel needed social revival. They were oppressive in dealing with strangers, and with one another. Foreigners, orphans, and widows were groups which typically experienced exploitation and unjust treatment. The Law (Deuteronomy 24:17-18) commanded the Israelites not to mistreat such people.

Israel also needed religious revival. The reference to shedding innocent blood in the Temple included actual murders in the Temple area. People who had

committed murders came to the Temple to worship, and were unwilling to repent. There is also the reference to the worship of idols in verse seven.

When Israel went astray, idolatry was always at the heart of the matter.

If the people met God's requirements, then his promise was they would be allowed to remain in the land, thus avoiding captivity. This is a powerful illustration of fellowship that God's people can enjoy if they choose the path of obedience.

Knocked off the fence — vv. 8-15

However, according to verse eight, the people chose to listen to deceit rather than to God. Then God uses his preacher to reveal the impossibility of pretending that all is well while living a life of sin. Again, we see their misplaced trust in the institution of the Temple. In response to their behavior, God proclaims that his house has become less than he intended. Rather than it being the place where people met God in worship and confession, it had become a refuge for people who were running from their sin.

In response, God points them to Shiloh. What was once a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant, a place of true worship, became desecrated when Eli's sons took the Ark from there into battle, allowed it to be captured by the Philistines, and brought defeat to the nation. From Jeremiah's words, we learn the place of worship as Shiloh, was destroyed. Jeremiah's audience was guilty of the same crime of misplaced trust, and would suffer the same judgment from God.

God calls us to place our trust in him instead in the trappings of religion. Only he can redeem and restore a broken people. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Bible study
for September 22

Millennium and final judgment

By Tom Moncrief

Focal Passage — Revelation 20:2-7, 10-15

In earlier lessons, we saw the victorious Christ defeat his enemies with his spoken word. The beast and false prophet were cast into the lake of fire (eternal torment).

An angel from heaven (acting on God's authority) lays hold on Satan and binds him for a thousand years (vv. 2-3). This binding shows Christ's power over Satan. Regardless of one's understanding of this, it is surely true that Christ bound Satan at the cross by providing salvation from sin. Satan is subject to God's permissive will and does not act autonomously. A Christian's true life is beyond Satan's reach, but so long as evil is restrained and not destroyed freedom from struggle is temporary. The binding curtails his activities. While Satan is bound in regard to the redeemed, he is loosed in regard to the unredeemed during the Christian era.

Victorious Christians and faithful martyrs are enthroned with Christ (v. 4). This shows the positive aspect of Satan's binding. Faithful saints who did not worship the beast or receive his identifying mark reign with Christ. They "came to life" and are risen with Christ. Spiritually, this happens at conversion. Bodily resur-

Bible Book Lesson

rection comes later. The spiritually dead through rejecting Christ do not know spiritual resurrection. They are brought to eternal death or separation from God. Redeemed ones rise twice and die once while the unredeemed rise once and die twice (v. 5).

A vivid contrast is seen between the reign of Christ and that of evil. The dragon had power for three and one-half years and the two witnesses of God laid in dishonor in death for "three days and a half." By contrast Christ reigns for a thousand years. The rule of evil was for a brief time while Christ's reign is unlimited.

Satan's power has in principle been completely overthrown by Christ, but he is still permitted to have sway and to wage war on earth. Yet Satan's final and complete overthrow is certain. He is cast into the lake of fire to join the beast and false prophet. His defeat is by God's action and is a moral and spiritual destruction. By divine intervention the hostile army of evil is destroyed. Every enemy of the church and every vestige of evil are destroyed. God's kingdom has complete triumph in Christ. Christ's enemies have passed from view one by one.

Now, only people remain and they must face their destiny. The great white throne represents supreme authority for judgment. Its infinite majesty emphasizes that everything has vanished except God's authority. He gives perfect judgment in absolute equity. All the dead are brought before him. None will elude God's judgment. The book of life records names of the redeemed. In a sense, they are already judged and declared justified by the blood of the Lamb. Judgment is always in progress but the final judgment is still necessary. All, redeemed and unredeemed, have their deeds judged. The full impact of deeds is not fully revealed until the end and this final judgment deals with that. Redeemed are received to their reward and unredeemed are cast into the lake of fire. Death and hell are cast into the lake. The church is assured that all enemies are finally overthrown and destroyed. Christians are given complete victory over all agents of evil. All evil is destroyed and only God's power remains. In God's universe and judgment all receive their retribution. Knowing these truths should challenge all Christians to share their faith and God's love to warn the world. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



world news

Mohler identifies secularized preaching as crisis

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Secularized preaching, heavy on opinion and light on doctrine, is to blame for an increasingly "widespread biblical ignorance among Southern Baptists," said R. Albert



preaching

Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I believe there is a crisis indeed in Southern Baptist preaching, and it is a crisis to which we had better give our attention," Mohler said Sept. 4 during a chapel address on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

"I believe it is seen and evidenced by immature and even (biblically) ignorant Christians in the pew, many falling prey to false doctrines," Mohler said. "It is seen by an increasingly worldly church proclaiming an evermore worldly message we see not just out in the world but in the church confusion, secularity, lack of discipline, weak and absent doctrine."

Preachers of the Gospel must be true to their calling by following the apostle Paul's charge to his protegee Timothy to "preach the Word," Mohler stated. ■

Hotline number opened for BSSB's LeaderCare

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A toll-free crisis hotline has been activated by the Baptist Sunday School Board's LeaderCare staff to offer help to pastors and other professional church staff people. The network provider service may be reached at 1-888-789-1911 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central time Mondays through Fridays.

LeaderCare, announced earlier this year, is designed to provide personal development for pastors and other professional staff. The service is conducted in partnership with state conventions, associations, and other minister-support groups, taking advantage of established resources.

The program is designed to provide personal development resources as well as crisis prevention, intervention, and restoration resources for pastors, professional staff members, and their families. ■

Book by Henry concerns keeping perspective

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Although Jim Henry has written a new book on maintaining perspective, that hasn't freed him from the challenges of grappling with the Information Age.

"I'm a fellow struggler," said the recent two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "There's so much to do and so much information that comes across my desk that sometimes I feel like I'm drowning in paper."



HENRY

The way he keeps a positive outlook is through his morning quiet time, he said, zealously guarding his practice of prayer and Scripture meditation. And, after 36 years in ministry, he reserves certain evenings to relax and takes longer vacations.

One reason he wrote *Keeping Life In Perspective: Sharpening Your Sense of What's Important*, is to encourage Christians to retain their sense of balance. It is vital to avoid society's rampant materialism and other forces pulling families apart and damaging our nation's integrity, he said. ■

Bivocational pastor wins suit over Sunday work

Baptist Press

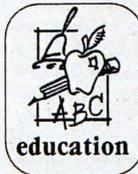
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University has been ordered to pay \$5,000 in damages plus back pay to a bivocational minister who was fired from the university's staff when he refused to work on Sundays.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights ruled June

Voucher study flawed, math professor says

By Kenny Byrd
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A widely publicized study claiming that school voucher programs perform better than public schools at educating low-income minority students was seriously flawed, says a Samford University math professor.



The recent study by Jay Greene of the University of Houston and Paul Peterson of Harvard University said that students in Milwaukee's pilot voucher program showed significant improvement in math and reading scores during their third and fourth years. If similar successes were gained nationwide, voucher programs could close the gap between white and minority test scores by half, they said. Their findings were reported widely in the national media.

But Janice Case, a professor of mathematics and computer science at Samford, a Baptist university in Birm-

ingham, Ala., said she would give the paper no better than a "c-minus" if it were submitted by one of her students.

"When you've got that much data, you can work with the numbers long enough to get the results you want. The authors appear to draw conclusions that are not substantiated by their statistics," Case said.

The Milwaukee program allowed low-income families, selected at random, to use publicly funded vouchers to send children to non-sectarian private schools of their choice. Recently, a Wisconsin judge rejected a request from state officials to extend the program to include religious schools.

The Greene-Peterson report, released during the Republican National Convention, disputed an earlier study by John Witte, a professor at the University of Wisconsin. Witte's study, which has been cited widely by voucher opponents, concluded voucher students did

no better in math and reading scores than those who remained in the public schools.

Case said Greene and Peterson used a far lower standard of determining statistical significance than is usual in such studies. Their conclusions were only "substantively significant" rather than "statistically significant," the standard normally used when drawing statistical conclusions, she said.

"The conclusions made in the report were just not backed up by the data they presented," she said.

Case said the term "substantive significance" is an indication that further research should be done before drawing conclusions. "If you can draw conclusions from substantive significance, why worry about statistical significance?" Case asked.

The American Federation of Teachers issued a statement criticizing the study. Among other flaws, the statement claimed, the Greene-Peterson report failed to include all the private schools that participated in the voucher program. ■

20 in favor of Alfred Cook, a former plumber for the university who also serves as pastor of two rural Baptist congregations. The commission further ordered the university to reinstate Cook's employment.

Cook claimed he was fired from the maintenance crew at the state university in Bowling Green in November 1993, after his schedule was changed to include Sunday work, which he refused to do.

The commission ruled Cook had been the victim of religious discrimination.

Under Kentucky statute, the commission's ruling carries the weight of law, but its rulings may be appealed in circuit court. Western Kentucky University filed an appeal July 15. The appeals process is expected to take several months. ■

Senate opposes rights for homosexuals

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation designed to strengthen states' authority to refuse recognition of same-sex marriages but barely defeated an attempt to grant civil rights status in the workplace on the

basis of homosexuality.

The Senate adopted the Defense of Marriage Act Sept. 10 by an 85-14 vote. On the same day, senators rejected the Employment Non-discrimination Act, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, 50-49.

The House of Representatives approved the Defense of Marriage Act in July with a 342-67 vote.

President Clinton has said he will sign DOMA. The president had endorsed the Employment Non-discrimination Act last year. ■

RTVC president says no to bid for NAMB head

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission said Sept. 9 he is not a candidate for president of the North American Mission Board.

Jack Johnson, RTVC president since 1990, made the statement during a regularly scheduled trustees meeting at the commission's production center in Fort Worth, Texas.

On June 19, 1997, the RTVC will dissolve. Along with the SBC Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission,

it will be merged into the NAMB, a new agency. ■

Campers give for missions projects overseas

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A check for \$227,902.60 to be presented by the Baptist

Sunday School Board for foreign missions projects is evidence young people care about spreading the Gospel to all parts of the world.

The money is a gift collected from 41,518 campers and counselors during 1996 Centrifuge and Mission-Fuge camps, sponsored by the board's discipleship and family development division.

Mission-Fuge is the newest of the board-sponsored camps. Held this summer in Mobile, Ala., and West Palm Beach, Fla., the camp combines Bible study with physical labor. Campers who participate in Mission-Fuge spread out through the city working on construction and clean-up projects for underprivileged people. ■



missions work