

this week's news

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

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TBC annual meeting slated at Two Rivers

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — It is convention time in Tennessee.

Just one week after elections take place across the nation and in Tennessee, the 112nd Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention begins.

Messengers from TBC churches will gather at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, in what could be a defining two days for the convention.

With the spiritual theme of "Tennessee Baptists Awake," the convention will hear six 20-minute devotional messages from Henry Blackaby, authentic Southern Baptist prayer and awakening consultant.

Messengers will vote on a 1996-97 TBC Cooperative Program budget of \$28,192,138, which includes \$952,687 for the preferred item, which is the Church Annuity Plan. The budget would be an increase of \$1.2 million from the current budget, or 4.5 percent. Thus far this budget year CP budget income is running above budget requests.

Convention President Ken Hubbard, pastor of First Church, Smyrna, says he hopes the theme "... will become a vibrant reality in our lives." The theme, he said, "calls us to a spiritual awakening that challenges us to meet the needs of people here and around the world in the closing years of the century.

"May we meet with hearts ready with anticipation for all God is going to do in our lives these challenging days," he added.

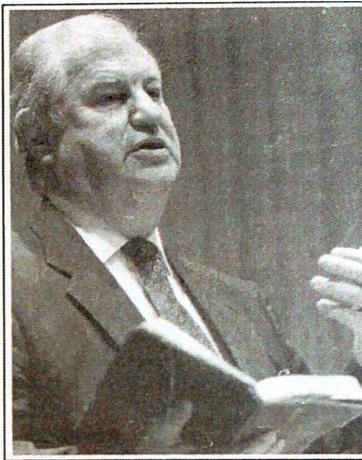
Blackaby is co-author of *Experiencing God*, the spiritual life workbook which calls Christians to know and experience the will of God.

Slated for 3:50 p.m. on Tuesday, convention messengers will elect a new president. If a runoff is needed, it will be held later in the afternoon.

Traditionally in Tennessee presidential candidates are not officially introduced before convention time. Nominees this year should come from West Tennessee.

On Tuesday morning, messengers will listen to the convention president's message from Ken Hubbard.

On Wednesday morning, Don Dixon,



EXPERIENCING GOD co-author Henry Blackaby will deliver six 20-minute devotionals during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 12-13 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

pastor of Highland Church, Tullahoma, gives the Convention Sermon.

In business matters, a group of pastors from the Chilhowee Association area has said they will try to amend TBC bylaws to allow the convention president to appoint committees.

Three miscellaneous business sessions are scheduled, the first one during the Tuesday morning ministry segment.

The Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees are responsible for presenting nominees for convention approval. Any movement to change the current procedure would have to be approved in two consecutive annual sessions.

On Tuesday morning, messengers will hear the first segment of the Executive Board report, along with recommendations and a report on Vision 2000.

Executive Director James Porch will give his report to the convention on Tuesday afternoon, followed by reports from Executive Board ministries, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, and Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

New church staff members will be recognized also on Tuesday afternoon.

An educational emphasis on Tuesday evening will be followed by recognition of Hyran Barefoot, who retired earlier this

year as president of Union University.

The report of Executive Board ministries continues on Wednesday morning, followed by elections of vice presidents and the convention sermon.

Committee reports will be heard Wednesday afternoon, along with the *Baptist and Reflector* report.

Wednesday evening the convention recognizes bivocational pastors and volunteers on mission. The Two Rivers Church choir will sing.

Attendance should be higher than last year's 1,369, which was the third consecutive year of unusually small numbers.

Other items of note:

(1) Child care will be provided, Monday morning-Wednesday evening, Nov. 11-13 in the preschool area on the first floor: 30 minutes before through 30 minutes after each session for birth-5 years of age.

(2) A first aid room is located on the main floor outside the worship center on the east side. A nurse will be on duty during each session for medical emergencies.

(3) Displays and exhibits will be open on Monday, 1-7 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

(4) Emergency messages will be displayed on a projection screen in the worship center during sessions. *B&R*

B&R is your best choice for news

How long has the *Baptist and Reflector* been in your home, in your church? We hope it is a family member.

Here are two related items for *B&R* subscribers.

(1) On the way to the homes of subscribers, several things can happen to interfere with timely delivery.

One happened last week. Through a computer glitch, some papers had to be resorted for delivery, which caused late delivery to the Nashville mailing center — for the first time in at least 10 years. Some readers may have gotten their paper late.

(2) Many Tennessee Baptist churches are preparing budgets for the coming year, and we want to give a reminder.

Please remember your *B&R* while the budget is being developed. Consider the paper, filled with stories of how Cooperative Program funds are used in missions and ministry, your most valuable ally in telling the news.

This can be the time for the church to add to the mailing list, or to put the paper in the budget as a line item in the budget, or to consider using the Church Page Plan. We can help you plan for any of these budget items. Just give us a call at (615) 371-2003. We'll help with facts and figures. — Editor

Tennessee CP budget holds, September dips

Tennessee Baptist Convention's 1995-96 Cooperative Program budget income is 4.07 percent over the budget, even though September income declined.

September giving slipped to \$1,635,873, compared to \$2,366,563 given for the same month last year.

The budget thus far has remained strong, however. CP budget income is now at \$25,729,093, or 3.66 percent over last year at this time. CP budget income is \$1,007,256 over budget. *B&R*

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Debate ignores moral issues

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — While President Bill Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole debated a variety of topics for 90 minutes Oct. 6, not once did they discuss two of the most contentious issues in the recently adjourned Congress.

Neither partial-birth abortion nor homosexual rights was raised in questions from Public Broadcasting System newsmen Jim Lehrer or in comments by Clinton and Dole in the first presidential debate at Hartford, Conn. Although Dole described the president as a liberal, he failed to bring up either issue, even though Clinton and Congress clashed on both in the September votes.

Clinton vetoed the Partial-birth Abortion Act, which prohibits a grisly procedure in the second half of pregnancy, in April. The House of Representatives overrode the veto in mid-September, but the Senate fell short of the two-thirds majority required. Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-discrimination Act, which would have given homosexuality the same legal standing as race and gender in the work place, but the Senate defeated the bill by one vote.

"This debate was more significant for what the candidates did not talk about

than it was for what they did talk about," said Will Dodson, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations.

"They did not talk nearly enough about the moral issues over which this nation is divided. Ignoring these issues will not make them go away and will not unite Americans. Their positions on the moral issues in general, abortion in particular and partial-birth abortions especially, are of concern to a large portion of society and should be of concern to all of us."

Family Research Council President Gary Bauer called it a "purely economic-driven debate," according to *The Washington Times*.

The candidates responded to more than 20 questions on issues such as Medicare, Dole's 15 percent tax cut proposal, foreign policy, health care, campaign financing reform, drugs, and educational choice.

Another important issue not discussed, according to Dodson, was the appointment of Supreme Court justices. "Whoever is president for the next four years is likely to shape the Supreme Court for decades to come. This will have a far greater impact than anything else the president will do in the next four years," Dodson said. ■

Trends expert cites 'True Love Waits'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Being a virgin is "turning into a badge of pride," nationally known trends analyst Faith Popcorn has written in her book *Clicking*.

Popcorn, publisher of "The Popcorn Report," is known for her accuracy in leading people and corporations to "future fit" themselves for success by being aware of business and lifestyle trends.

In her book she calls the signing of True Love Waits pledge cards "a new Click for Teens," adding in parentheses, "could this be the start of a shift away from the enormous number of unwanted pregnancies?"

Baptist Sunday School Board TLW spokesman Richard Ross said, "It is not often that a program of the Sunday School Board is credited with fueling an observable trend in culture. This trend, in fact, has been confirmed in an Associated Press story indicating fewer babies were born to unmarried mothers last year, the first drop in nearly two decades. I see this as another high-water mark for the campaign." ■

Arson fund disbursement to states nears \$650,000

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Missouri and California became the 16th and 17th state conventions to receive funds from the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" with the distribution of an additional \$179,020 Oct. 4, bringing the total to \$649,965.

The "Arson Fund" assists African American churches victimized by arsonists. Like the three earlier distributions

July 3 of \$246,712 to 12 state conventions, \$50,000 on Aug. 2 to 14 conventions and \$177,198 Sept. 5 to 15 conventions, the Oct. 4 distribution is based on a formula developed by the Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

The "Arson Fund" was begun from an offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

More than 90 African American churches, most in the

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

The October distribution of \$179,020 went to: Alabama, \$13,426; Arizona, \$1,969; Arkansas, \$13,426; California, \$1,969; Florida, \$5,728; Geor-

gia, \$3,938; Louisiana, \$17,185; Mississippi, \$17,185; Missouri, \$3,938; North Carolina, \$15,395; Ohio, \$1,969; Oklahoma, \$1,969; South Carolina, \$32,581; Tennessee, \$15,395; Texas, \$25,062; Virginia, \$3,938; and Northwest (Oregon-Washington), \$3,938.

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

Convention seeks ministry specialists

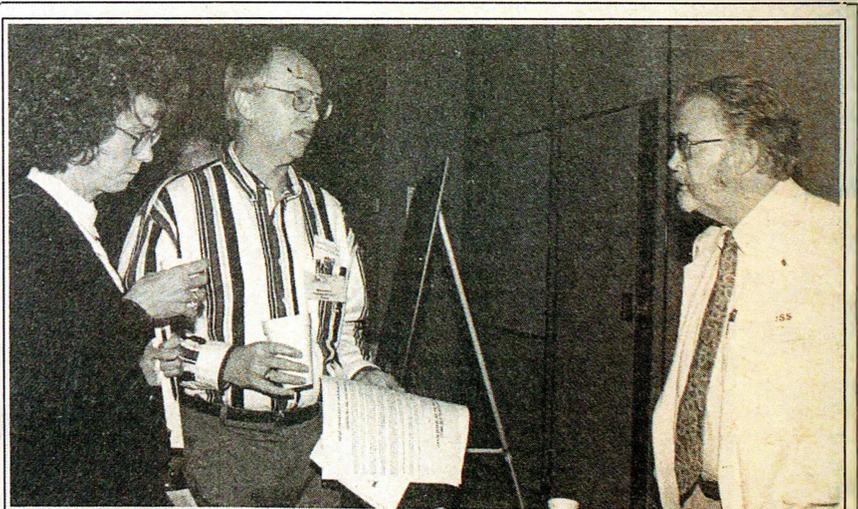
For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The human resources office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is now receiving recommendations and resumes for two ministry specialists in the Christian Growth Development Group.

Needed are (1) an adult Sunday School and Discipleship Training Specialist and (2) a preschool Sunday School and Discipleship Training Specialist.

Information about either position may be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Office, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, or by calling (615) 371-2013.

All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position. ■



New church staff orientation

Baptist and Reflector Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, right, visits with Janette and Mike Ashford, pastor and wife, First Church, Crump, at the displays set up by agencies and schools of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the New Church Staff Orientation held semi-annually by the convention. About 30 attended the event held Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood.

SBC CP giving tops last year's record amount

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention ended the 1995-96 fiscal year with a record \$148,185,076 in Cooperative Program gifts, surpassing by nearly \$2.5 million the record given last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$148.2 million total for 1995-96 is \$2,445,587, or 1.68 percent, above last year's record of \$145,739,489.

"Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists evangelize, send missionaries, plant churches, and educate ministers," Chapman said. "Once again, they have supported these grand efforts in

historic style. For the third consecutive year, old giving records have been broken, and new ones established."

Compared to the 1995-96 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget of \$141,629,127, the gifts for the past year exceeded the budget by \$6,555,949, or 4.63 percent.

Designated gifts also set a record. For 1995-96, designated gifts totaled \$138,446,505, compared to last year's record total of \$132,830,194, an increase of more than \$5.6 million or 4.23 percent.

By counting both the CP and designated gift totals, Southern Baptists gave nearly \$300 million through regular channels for the mission and education enterprise of the SBC. ■

North Korean food items begin arriving

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Food items and offering money for the North Korean Relief Project are arriving at the Baptist Center thanks largely to promotions by the state Woman's Missionary Union office in their member meetings, according to WMU Executive Director-Treasurer Katharine Bryan.

Bryan announced that the Women on Mission Retreat held Sept. 20-21 at First Church, Jackson, resulted in 230 food items and a \$709 offering for the North Korean Relief Project, brought by ladies attending the meeting. The offering will be used to buy boxes and for shipping the items from Memphis to Korea, Bryan said.

Promoted under the banner

of "Merry Christmas North Korea," Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood and WMU directors are asking all churches and associations to respond by sending food boxes to the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Besides the food, each contributor is asked to donate \$20 to defray shipping costs.

Other food items are expected to come from GA JAMs being conducted this month. About 2,000 girls are expected to attend the WMU-sponsored event and they have been asked to bring donations for the project, Bryan said. Tennessee Brotherhood disaster relief trucks will be at the JAMs to pick up the items and deliver them to the Baptist Center.

Food boxes and donations also will be received during

the TBC annual meeting Nov. 12-13 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Shelby Association in Memphis will serve as a clearing house for the relief effort.

Plans call for Tennessee Baptists to join with Arkansas and Mississippi Baptists to pack a 20-foot container filled with a minimum of 600 food boxes to be shipped from Memphis to Korea around Thanksgiving.

This delivery is in addition to the 23 containers that were shipped prior to July 31, led by Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

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

Annuity Board announces rate on medical coverage

Baptist Press

DALLAS — There will be no Jan. 1, 1997 rate increase for the Personal Security Program (PSP) Comprehensive Medical Plan offered by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to individual participants employed by Southern Baptist churches and associations.

Paul W. Powell, president of the Annuity Board, said, "We are very pleased to pass on our good experience to the participants in our plans. The last increase, Jan. 1, 1996, has been sufficient to cover claims and give us security for the entire year of 1997."

Joel H. Mathis, senior vice president for insurance services, noted monthly rates for the PSP medical plan have been increased only once since July 1992. "We normally do an analysis every six months and set the rates for January through June and July through December," Mathis said.

"However, this year, it is exciting to hold the line on rates for all of 1997 and thus free up money in the churches and for individuals for other needs and ministries."

Mathis noted the PSP is an age-rated and individually underwritten plan, and the plan's rates are geographically balanced. This means persons who move from one ZIP code to another, add a dependent, or move across an age bracket could see their rates change. ■



Rise in problem gambling apparent to credit counselors

By Lacy Thompson
For Baptist Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Until a few years ago, Dave Sledge's work wasn't much affected by people overrun by tens of thousands of dollars of gambling debt.

Now, however: "Every day our counselors are sitting down with people just wiped out by gambling," said Sledge, chief executive of Consumer Credit Counseling Services here.

"Now, this organization takes no legal or moral position on gambling," Sledge qualified in an interview with the *Louisiana Baptist Message* newspaper.

"But it's fair to say that experience has demonstrated that a lot of people have gotten hooked and cannot deal with it. We've seen them lose their savings, their cars, their homes."

And one of the more disturbing aspects of the experience is that Sledge and his counselors are seeing a new kind of person caught in the debt trap. "We're seeing people in their 30s, 40s, 50s who have kept their noses clean all of their lives in terms of financial management and credit," Sledge noted. "But then gambling moved into their area and BAM!, they get hooked. And before they know it, they're in serious trouble financially."

Even without taking a legal or moral position on gambling, Sledge said there is no disputing that gambling has been a primary cause of many people's financial difficulties. Likewise, there is no disputing that if gambling had not moved into their area, many of these people would still be in good shape, he explained.

"We're seeing this in all of our offices throughout the state," Sledge said. "And prior to a few years ago, we almost never saw anyone in trouble with gambling. It was a rare thing. Maybe a

counselor would sit down once a year with someone who lost everything at the racetrack or in a back room poker game. But that was about it. Now, we're dealing with it every day."

A recent Associated Press article confirmed Sledge's depiction. "There's trouble in River City," the August news article begins. "Trouble with a capital T, and that rhymes with B, and that stands for bankruptcy."

The article went on to note 31 Baton Rouge businesses and 1,094 area residents filed for some form of bankruptcy during the first half of 1996. The totals were 53 percent higher than those from the first half of 1995. Indeed, the last time the numbers neared those levels was at the height of the state's economic recession in the 1980s.

There is no recession now. But there is easy credit and gambling. People quoted in the Associated Press article blame both for the increase in financial difficulties.

Some people have banked on easy credit — and run up debts they cannot manage. Others have banked on the big payoff at the blackjack table or video poker machine — and run up debts they probably cannot imagine having to manage. "Every day our counselors are sitting down with people with \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000, and \$80,000 in gambling debt," Sledge said in the Associated Press article.

Also, Sledge told the *Baptist Message*, some of those people are folks with an annual salary less than \$30,000. Now, they are looking at debt twice that much or more, which makes for very serious trouble. Of course, those involved in the gambling industry dispute the effect of their legalized offerings on people. In the Associated Press article, a riverboat spokesperson compared problem gamblers to those

who eat too much or smoke too many cigars. "You can't legislate man's needs," said Gus Weill, a spokesperson for the pro-riverboat gambling group, Coalition for Jobs and Community Prosperity.

Weill said riverboat casinos could not be proved to be the single cause of the rise in Baton Rouge bankruptcies but could be shown to employ 1,700 jobs.

In a sense, Weill is right. Sledge noted. It is easy to hide gambling debt. After all, the debt is not to the riverboat or the video poker machine. It is on the credit cards used to obtain gambling money. It is to the credit companies or banks

that refinanced homes or loaned money that was used for gambling. It is to the car companies and stores who now hold credit agreements that a person can no longer pay.

But the bottom-line cause in many cases is out-of-control gambling. And the bottom line reason for that — if it is available, some people will gamble and get hooked. "One of the major issues is that Louisiana has so many forms of gambling," Sledge said. "We have it all — a state lottery, riverboats, video poker, horse racing, and so on. Most states have only one or two of those. But not us. About the only thing that's not legal here is dog fights."

Problem gambling already runs deeper than many people realize, Sledge said. "We're seeing just the tip of the iceberg here," said Sledge, adding he has seen a 13 percent increase in clients this year. "All you have to do to get an idea of that is to listen to the talk on the street. Bankruptcy lawyers are laughing all the way to the bank. The simple fact is that not everyone will come to us. Some will panic and rush to a lawyer and pursue bankruptcy." ■





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

October

- 9 — Pray for Susan Carson, newly appointed missionary to Poland. She will arrive there in late December.
- 10 — Pray for Michigan's Oakland Association's annual meeting.
- 11 — Pray for Ann Newsham of Surrey, British Columbia, a Canadian university student, who has been appointed for two years as a journeyman to China. She is in Hong Kong awaiting a visa to enter China where she will teach English in Guiyang.
- 12 — Pray for the staff and students of the Polish Baptist Theological Seminary as they begin a new school term.
- 13 — Pray for Commerce Pines Church in Walled Lake, Mich., which is calling a new mission pastor.
- 14 — Pray for Wade Holmes and Faith Church in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, who are a small group trying to reach their community for Jesus.
- 15 — Pray for an outpouring of God's spirit and a season of revival in Poland.

Shoe leather

Thursday, Sept. 19, was a momentous day in my life. I met with four laymen at Central Church, Hixson. After a season of earnest prayer, we took our Bibles, tracts, and other materials and headed for the Harriet Tubman Project, populated by mostly African Americans.

I must admit I was apprehensive but my fears were erased when we got into the project and began to witness about the love of Jesus. Our leader, R.A. Sharpe, a renowned prayer warrior and soul winner, paired up with me. I have never seen such results. We were received cordially wherever we went and had 73 professions of faith during one afternoon of work. The previous week this same team of laymen won 80 souls to Christ.

I discovered in one day that one does not have to go to Africa, South America, or Russia to reach people hitherto unreached with the Gospel. They are right here in practically every town in Tennessee.

If pastors or laymen will make the effort and pray together, God will break down strongholds, move mountains, and open hearts in the projects for the Gospel to penetrate the hungry hearts there. All it takes is a willingness to do it, the power of the Holy Spirit, and a little sanctified shoe leather.

Bill Delaney
Chattanooga 37416

Promise Keepers

I received an invitation to attend the Promise Keepers special pastors' seminar on

Oct. 11 at First Church, Memphis, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I want to encourage all pastors to accept this invitation, and learn about this organization of which some of your men are a part of now or could be in the future.

My son-in-law, a fine Christian man, is a Promise Keeper. He paid my way to the Promise Keepers meeting in Charlotte, N.C. A few things about the worship service did not appeal to me, but I was greatly impressed with the 60,000 men who were there singing and praising God.

I encourage my fellow pastors to make friends with this organization and let the men of your church who are Promise Keepers be your friend.

Ira Singleton
Dyer 38330

Writer disagrees

I take issue with a word you used in describing the Apostle Paul in the editorial "Marching along together is best way." You described Paul as the "peripatetic apostle of Christ." I applaud your desire to elevate the linguistic knowledge of your readers, but I also feel you should do it with more understanding of the word and not with your Thesaurus.

Peripatetic does relate to the word itinerant, but not in the form that the apostle Paul was an itinerant. The word has its association with Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher. The word has a history of being applied humorously to persons who are always on the go. An itinerant, on the other hand, was a person who had to travel because of a job or obligation. A closer examination of peripatetic and the

choice of a more appropriate word would have caused me much less anxiety. I hope you would not place the apostle Paul in the same class as a foolish Greek philosopher, nor would I want to think that you feel the apostle Paul went about in a foolish way. That would be very offensive to me.

As for the editorial, I disagree with you wholeheartedly, and I do see a need for change.

Bruce L. Martin, pastor
Pleasant Grove Piney Church
New Market 37820

Good information

For up-to-date information on state lotteries, please read "Lotto Fever — Even the Winners Lose" from *Money* by Peter Keating on page 157 in *October Reader's Digest*.

Frances K. Buck
Nashville 37215

Experience speaks

I appreciate the strong stand that the *Baptist and Reflector* is taking against a lottery for Tennessee. As you said: "Gambling is injurious to the health of the nation and the state, and is extremely harmful to the stability of the family."

My wife and I were teachers in Florida when they instituted the lottery. Our governor and legislators used dubious information in promoting it and the people through ignorance believed them.

We were told repeatedly that the money was for education. In fact, we got less money for education after the lottery was in operation.

The lottery money was divided with 50 percent going to pay off the winners, 40 percent

went into the education fund, and 10 percent was spent for salaries and promotion. The state government then took out more money from the education budget that had been designated in the regular budget so that less was given to education even after the 40 percent was added. The money taken out went to help finance other state departments such as roads. Do not believe false information that lottery money will go for education.

The lottery takes advantage of lower income people who buy most of the tickets, hoping to improve their financial condition. The Bible states we are to work for our financial needs and not try to get it from others by gambling.

There is a well-written article in the *October Reader's Digest* entitled "Lotto Fever — Even the Winners Lose." Everyone in Tennessee should read it, especially our legislators.

Bob Boyd
Spring City 37381

Pastor needed

Aviano Baptist Church in Aviano is located in a military community in northeastern Italy. Our present pastor is leaving in February and a pastor search committee has been formed and is seeking a spiritual leader for our congregation.

We have 120 members with an average attendance of 130 and a budget of \$95,000. Our church is founded on traditional Southern Baptist principles and doctrine. Inquiries should be addressed to Jim Eason, chairman, PSC 54, Box 2052, APO AE 09601.

Jim Eason
Aviano, Italy

Memphis counselor asks 'Where are your families?'

As I begin to write this article, we are drawing close to a Promise Keepers rally in Memphis. The anticipation is that more than 60,000 men will break down racial and denominational barriers to lift up the name of Christ and commit themselves to becoming the men of integrity God called them to be in their homes, churches, and communities. I want to ask men, "Where are your families?"

To answer the question, I want you to consider Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. The first 11 verses of the first chapter describe Paul's intimate relationship with this family of faith. I want to use these points to guide our thinking. Paul said that he had them in his head, in his heart, and in his hopes. We, as Christian men, should carry our families there.

Do you have your family in your head, on your mind, in your thoughts, constant-

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

ly? Paul said, "I thank my God in all my remembrances of you." When is the last time you told your wife, your children, your parents that you were thankful for them? May I challenge you to write a letter, make a phone call, pay a visit this week to let them know the specific things in them for which you are thankful?

I remember the late Huber Drumwright telling of a letter that he had received from his pastor, W.A. Criswell. Dr. Criswell began the letter, "Dear Beloved, Blessed, Gifted, Young, Preacher-boy of mine..." Wow! You wouldn't need a letter after that salutation.

In verse seven Paul says, "I have you in my heart." I'm afraid in our day of overcrowded schedules and lives of misplaced priorities that we are more likely to tell our families how they get on our "nerves" rather than how we have them on our heart. Would your walk verify

your talk if you were to say to your family as Paul did to the Philippian church how he longed to be with them? Why not make an intentional commitment this week to carve some time from that busy schedule to spend a quantity of quality time with your family. Too many of us men need our families to have a picture of us on the refrigerator so that the family dog won't bite us when we come in.

Finally, Paul says that he keeps the Philippian Christians in his hopes (vv. 9-11). Does your family know that you pray for them on a regular basis, not just in the tight places of crisis? One thing I think our country desperately needs is for men to take their place as spiritual leaders in the home. Make a commitment that in this next month you will call every family member by name before the Lord in prayer at least once every day.

Men, where is your family? Can you truthfully say that you have them in your head, in your heart, and in your hopes? May our great and gracious God bless your good intentions in this area. ■



BARKLEY

Cooperation is key to success for CP

Looking toward November 12-13 as the dates for the annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, we pause first to examine our main method for tangibly supporting the work we do in the churches and beyond.

The convention in action could not have great success without the blessing of cooperation.

How do so many Baptists do so many ministries together without everything falling apart?

At best, an uninformed person would say that each church could do better by supporting their own choices, and let others do theirs.

Ah, there is that word — cooperation.

When Southern Baptists accepted God's plan for us in 1925, we did a good thing. That plan, christened the Cooperative Program, has provided millions upon millions of dollars for missions, ministries of all sorts, and evangelism at home and around the world. October is Cooperative Program Month.

The CP, as we have lovingly called it, is the main supplier for Southern Baptist missions, seminaries, Christian ethics ministry, media evangelism and education, men's work, and scores of other substantial people-related ministries.

Churches praying and giving cooperatively enables the state conventions to minister. Conventions working, praying, and giving cooperatively gives a tremendous boost to Southern Baptist work for Jesus Christ around the world.

For the first half of its existence, the SBC did not have a CP. Work at home and abroad was difficult. There was keen and debilitating competition for Baptist dollars.

Honest missionaries (and others) had to spend a large amount of time pleading for financial support. So many voices were pleading for help that churches

did not know how to express generosity in giving.

Since that time, the CP has been growing steadily. Southern Baptists have cooperated generously, and the work of the Lord has blossomed.

There are many benefits arising from cooperative giving. A kindred spirit develops among the givers. When many people are united for the overall good of others, blessings abound.

Missionaries do not have to collect funds for their own support. They have a sense of comfort and are able to utilize their time in ministry.

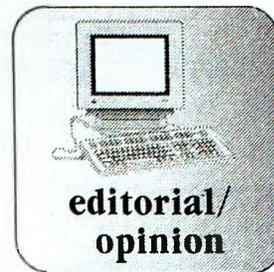
The seminaries do not have to compete with each other, besieging the churches for operational funds. In state conventions, the Cooperative Program provides the foundation for basic ministries. Churches and individuals are helped in many ways.

The Cooperative Program is a support plan based on Christian love. It is a powerful outreach tool for

the Gospel of Christ.

October is the month on the denominational calendar for observing Cooperative Program Day in the churches. Tennessee Baptists are urged to recognize the CP as one of the mainstays that ties us together.

It is also a time for reconsidering church budgets. Some churches increase their CP giving by a half percent or more each year. It is time also for individuals to consider their personal gifts to the local church which, in most cases, forwards to the TBC and SBC a certain portion. Cooperation is a good word. This is a good time to use it for the CP, and to live it. **B&R**



Bivocational ministers deserve a special day

Bivocational ministers are sometimes called shepherds, servants, ministers of the market place. They also are referred to as double-duty, twice-blessed people.

There are more than 12,000 bivocational pastors and 35,000 bivocational ministers of other church-related leadership positions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

More than 1,400 of these people are serving Tennessee Baptist churches.

Appreciation Day for these pastors and other ministers is scheduled for October 20.

Serving as a pastor or other church staff position is rewarding, but it also can be difficult. The problems faced are seldom easy, or simple to solve.

Bivocational ministers need affirmation, not only from the church body where they serve, but from the community around them and from the larger community of Tennessee Baptists.

They occupy a unique niche in Baptist life, and often bring a fresh vitality to their people.

Ray Gilder has the special assignment of bivocational ministries director. To augment his willingness and eagerness to understand the bivocational role, Gilder moved to a church field where he now serves as a bivocational pastor.

As the number of bivocational pastors grows, Tennessee Baptists already are in step with the needs. Pray for bivocational ministers — and recognize their role within the TBC on Sunday, October 20. **B&R**

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Man's telegram to his girl friend in another town: "Received raise. Will you marry me? Send ten-word answer, prepaid."



WOOD

His girl friend's answer: "Yes, certainly, joyfully, willingly, delightfully, adoringly, lovingly, yes, yes, yes!"

Take this truth

A person should be careful about being too enthusiastic over any new proposal, whether matrimony, or in any other area.

However, we also need enthusiasm when a good opportunity is offered to us. In other words, play it "cool," but not so cool that you freeze the other person's generosity.

Memorize this Scripture

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to be enthusiastic about doing the things I ought to do. ■

Pumpkin soup proves to be more than a pretty dish

I like pumpkin soup. Mind you, I do not always like pumpkin soup, but we all have a right to change.

I first tasted pumpkin soup on June 22, at about 2:30 in the afternoon. Before that introduction, I knew three things about pumpkins.

I knew that as a teenager I had tried to grow them in a small garden on the farm. I purchased the seeds, along with other seeds, from Burpee's seed catalog.

Nothing came of that venture. A few wizened vines sprouted, but soon despaired of life. My plans for pumpkin sales in the fall season were dashed.

I thought pumpkins were worthless, except for providing seasonal entertainment and decorations. The bright orange ones were beautiful — and a carved one made a happy-looking jack-o-lantern.

My third bit of knowledge about pumpkins was that no pumpkin could be transformed into anything equal to the delightful taste of my mother's sweet potato pie.

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Oh, others might substitute a nice pumpkin pie for the sweet potato taste — but it wouldn't suffice. Nothing would.

And so, when I sat down for my first lunch at the home of Clif and Dora Caladine, in Coledale, New South Wales, I was quickly amazed at the tasty quality of pumpkin soup.

My, Dora had worked some kind of culinary miracle, I thought.

There I was, just a couple of hours off the long, long flight from Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia. We had stopped off at Sublime Point (that should have been a forewarning of the pumpkin soup), visited two churches, and went to the homes where we would be situated for two weeks. Clif and Dora took me in.

The introduction was only the first of

many new but pleasant experiences they, and other Aussies, shared with us.

Time after time, we were ushered into uncharted waters. Of course there was no reason to worry or fear — we were all Baptists.

I think all of us, at least those who were determined to get the maximum exposure to Aussie culture, were determined not to be limited by our provincial habits and ideas.

What a blessing was that determination! As for me, I learned that no matter where travel takes me, God's people are already there. They are there with innovations I have never considered.

They are there to explode my theories that a certain group knows everything. I also learned we lean on the same Savior. And, you know, it helps to be exposed that way. Oh yes, I do like pumpkin soup — Aussie style. ■



ALLEN

Worship of God is 'mainspring' of all

W. T. Conner taught theology at Southern Seminary for almost 40 years. As a top Southern Baptist writing theologian, he gifted the church with volumes of lectures, sermons, books, and articles before his death in 1952.

In *The Gospel of Redemption*, he discussed worship, and asserted that "the first ... business of a church is not evangelism, nor missions, nor benevolence; it is worship. The worship of God in Christ should be at the center of all else the church does. It is the mainspring of the activity of the church."

Dr. Conner observed that song, prayer, Scripture reading, giving, sermon, and the

think about it

— by Jimmy Gentry, pastor, Springfield Church, Springfield

ordinances are included in worship. He said worship includes "every phase of the corporate and individual outgo of the soul to God in Christ in response to his grace."

Our first business is to respond to God's grace through worship. We gather each Lord's Day to celebrate by declaring the "worship" of Jesus Christ. We worship together on the "first day of the week" to commemorate the resurrection of Christ. Unless we gather to worship God together on a regular basis, everything else we do

— as important as that is, is worthless.

The church is exhorted to come together in the right spirit and with the right attitude. Improper behavior and attitude does not honor the Christ we worship, and thus, our worship is in vain.

Our services of worship are designed to stimulate the mind, body, and spirit.

As we move into the final quarter of the year, let us covenant to gather together in the right spirit and with the right attitude as the Lord's people at the appointed hour to transact "the first business of the church." Let us take seriously the church's mainspring of activity, called worship. ■

Tennessee Baptist Convention 1996 - 97 Cooperative Program Proposed Budget

Area	1995 - 96 Budget	Executive Board Recommends	Dollar Increase	% Inc.	% of Total
Executive Board Ministries	7,221,118	7,567,993	346,875	4.8%	27.8%
Convention Operations					
Baptist & Reflector	374,896	375,077	181	0.0%	1.4%
Church Annuity Plan (25%)*		317,562	317,562		1.2%
TBC Meeting & Comm.**	244,350	256,568	12,218	5.0%	0.9%
TBC Audits	75,500	81,500	6,000	7.9%	0.3%
Sub-total	694,746	1,030,707	335,961	48.4%	3.8%
Christian Education					
Belmont University	2,036,316	2,113,696	77,380	3.8%	7.8%
Carson Newman College	2,036,316	2,113,696	77,380	3.8%	7.8%
Union University	2,036,316	2,113,696	77,380	3.8%	7.8%
Endowment Campaign		20,500	20,500		0.1%
Harrison Chilhowee	308,120	319,829	11,709	3.8%	1.2%
Historical Archives	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%	0.1%
CRV Scholarships	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%	0.3%
Sub-total	6,507,068	6,771,417	264,349	4.1%	24.9%
Christian Services					
TN Baptist Adult Homes	224,254	228,739	4,485	2.0%	0.8%
TN Baptist Children's Homes	1,109,454	1,120,549	11,095	1.0%	4.1%
TN Baptist Foundation	305,252	305,252	-	0.0%	1.1%
Sub-total	1,638,960	1,654,540	15,580	1.0%	6.1%
Southern Baptist Convention	9,637,135	10,214,794	577,659	6.0%	37.5%
Sub-total	25,699,027	27,239,451	1,540,424	6.0%	100.0%
Preferred Item					
Church Annuity Plan (75%)*	1,270,249	952,687	(317,562)	-25.0%	
Cooperative Program Total	26,969,276	28,192,138	1,222,862	4.5%	

* These items reflect the change of 25% of the Church Annuity Plan being transferred from the Preferred Item to the Convention Operations portion of the Budget. This change will cause a corresponding increase in the SBC portion.

** The 1995 -96 TBC Meeting & Committees budget amount has been adjusted to properly reflect Convention costs which were previously budgeted in the Executive Board Ministries section of the budget.

Executive Board Ministries Budget Summary

Function	Total Budget	Received from				
		BSSB	HMB	GSMO	Conf./Camp Fees	Cooperative Program
Evangelism/Missions Strategies						
Total Group Budget	3,181,591		354,395	736,500	50,175	2,020,521
Christian Growth Development						
Total Group Budget	2,229,410	74,861		43,000	157,836	1,953,213
Church Staff Leadership						
Total Group Budget	974,352	10,514	19,512	71,500	92,595	781,951
Missions Awareness and Involvement						
Total Group Budget	1,510,549	5,483	4,800	133,000	279,975	1,039,291
Communication Services						
Total Group Budget	552,179				3,025	549,154
Administrative Services						
Total Group Budget	1,723,843			200,000	409,000	156,140
Executive Leadership						
Total Group Budget	415,160			15,000		315,160
Total Executive Board Ministries	10,587,084	90,838	378,707	1,199,000	989,581	360,945

Colleges, seminaries plan meals in conjunction with TBC meeting

The following colleges and schools have announced alumni functions during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Belmont University Alumni Luncheon: Spring House Golf and Country Club, Nov. 12, Noon; Tickets may be purchased from the office of development at Belmont (615) 460-5517

Carson Newman College Alumni & Friends Luncheon: Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive, Nov. 12, 12-1 p.m.; Tickets may be purchased in advance from C-N alumni office for \$12. Tickets at the convention will be \$15. For more information and reservations, call (423) 471-3245

Union University Alumni and Friends Dinner: Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive, Nov. 12, 5-7 p.m.; Tickets may be purchased for \$12 each from the

Union alumni office or at the Union booth at Two Rivers Church

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon Meeting: Lincoya Hills Church, Nov. 12, Noon; Speaker, Thomas Strong, assistant professor of theological studies; \$10 tickets are available from Bob Davison, TBC Baptist Center, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon Meeting: Lincoya Hills Church, Nov. 13, 12:30 p.m.; \$12 tickets are available from Earl Baker, Madison Heights Church, 815 Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37115

Mid-America Seminary Alumni Luncheon: Shoneys on McGavock Pike across from Two Rivers, Nov. 12, Noon. For additional information, call Gary Anderson Jr. at (615) 563-8669 ■

WMU plans Extravaganza for Missions on Wednesday

For Baptist and Reflector

sions volunteers.

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union will sponsor Missions Extravaganza 1996 on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, the site of the convention meeting. It will include a Missions Fair from 4-5:30 p.m., dinner and program at 5:30 p.m., and special features in the evening session of the convention.

Home and foreign missionaries, including those on furlough, those retired, any who have resigned, and those who are still active, and parents of missionaries living in Tennessee will participate along with Tennessee mis-

The Missions Fair will be made up of displays from the featured guests. The event is a good place for groups of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Acteens, and Challengers to learn and experience missions, said Katharine Bryan, director of Tennessee WMU.

The dinner is by registration only. The cost is \$6 and the deadline for registration is Nov. 3.

Special events during the evening session of the convention will include a flag processional, signing of partnership covenant with Costa Rica, testimonies of missionaries and missions volunteers, and commitment time. **B&R**

Pastors' meeting scheduled

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual pre-convention Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference will emphasize its theme, "Let the Fire Fall."

The conference, held on the Monday prior to the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting on Nov. 11, will meet at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

The program will feature Tennessee pastors and evangelists, including two of the current officers, Verlon Moore, Hildale Church, Clarksville, who is vice president of the conference, and David Thompson, Alta Loma Church, Madison, who is secretary. The president of the association, David Daugherty, will preside at the three sessions. He is from Shellsford Church, McMinnville.

Speaking during the morning session, which will focus on the theme, "The Man of God," are Bob Mowery, retired pastor, Park Avenue Church, Nashville; Jackie Kay, evangelist, Millington; and Thompson. Featured in the afternoon session, which will emphasize the theme, "The Work of God," are Moore, Morris Anderson, First Church, Pigeon Forge; and Kenneth Weathersby of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Speaking during the evening session, focusing on "The Church of God," are Jerry Sutton, Two Rivers Church; Ron Phillips, Central Church, Hixson; and Phil Hoskins, Higher Ground Church, Kingsport.

Officers will be elected during the afternoon session at about 2:50 p.m. The session times are as follows — morning from 8:45 a.m. — 11:35 a.m., afternoon from 1-3:50 p.m., and evening begins at 6 p.m. **B&R**



HOSKINS



KAY



MOORE



PHILLIPS



SUTTON



WEATHERSBY



MOWERY



ANDERSON

Baptist and Reflector sponsors annual Joggers' Jubilee for all walkers, runners

The Baptist and Reflector staff is once again sponsoring the Joggers' Jubilee during this year's convention meeting.

This is not a race. It is a time of fellowship for early birds who like to walk or run. TBC institutions and departments have donated gifts to be given away as prizes. Every participant will receive at least one gift.

Those interested in participating in the Joggers' Jubilee should meet in the corner parking lot of Two Rivers Park, about a mile and a half from Two Rivers Church on McGavock Pike, at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

For more information, call the Baptist and Reflector at (615) 371-2003. ■

Tennessee Baptist Convention Program

Tuesday Morning — Nov. 12

8:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Sanctuary Choir, First Church, Smyrna; Ron Alley, Minister of Music and Worship
Call To Order — Ken Hubbard, TBC
Prayer — Bob Hunt, layman, First Church, Lawrenceburg

9:05 — The Convention Organizes
Committee on Credentials — Bill Roberts, Chairman, Pastor, Memorial Church, Crossville
Committee on Arrangements — Steve Brown, Chairman, Interim Minister of Music, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville
Welcome — Jerry Sutton, Host Pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville
Announcements — Ken Hubbard
Review Rules of Order
Recognition of SBC Representatives

9:20 — The Convention Worships
Devotional — Henry Blackaby, Director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening, Home Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

9:40 — The Convention Ministers
Congregational Hymn — Henry Simpson, Minister of Music and Education, First Church, Huntingdon
Harrison-Chilhowee Academy — Walter Grubb, President, Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, Seymour
Woman's Missionary Union — Katharine Bryan, Executive Director-Treasurer, TBC Woman's Missionary Union
Tennessee Baptist Foundation — W. L. Childs, Jr., President-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Foundation
Treasurer — James M. Porch, Executive Director-Treasurer, Executive Board Ministries, TBC
Committee on Audits — Billy J. Stewart, Chairman, Pastor, Good Hope Church, Adamsville
Golden State Missions Offering — Recipients
Executive Board Report, Budget Recommendations — Herbert Higdon, President, retired DOM, Jackson
Vision 2000 — Greer Ruble, Executive Leadership, TBC
Miscellaneous Business

Convention President — Ken Hubbard

Vice President — Carl Scarlett

Second Vice President — Don Givens

Recording Secretary — Gerry Mays

Registration Secretary — Dan Ferrell

Treasurer — James Porch

Parliamentarians — Joe Stacker, Osta Underwood

Music Coordinator — Julian Suggs

Committee on Arrangements — Steve Brown, chairman; Joe Stacker, vice chairman; Charlotte Baker, Allen Childress, Joseph Coleman Jr., Don Dyer, James Hickey, Jim O'Dillon, Bill Owen, Michael Prince, Scott Thomas, Bill Vance, Louise Wilburn

11:20 — The Convention Celebrates
Music — Sanctuary Choir, FBC, Smyrna
President's Message — Ken Hubbard
Benediction — Dewey Dunn, member, Woodmont Church, Nashville

Tuesday Afternoon — Nov. 12

1:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Tennessee Baptist Chorale, Julian Suggs, Director; Mary McDonald, Pianist; Kevin Bragg, Organist
Hymn of Praise — Tracy Wilson, Minister of Music and Education, FBC, Dandridge

2:00 — The Convention Worships
Devotional — Henry Blackaby
Tennessee Baptist Chorale

2:35 — The Convention Ministers
Executive Director's Message — James M. Porch
Executive Board Ministries — Servant Team 21 Staff, TBC
Benevolent Institutions:
Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc. and Special Recognition of J. L. Ford — Kenny Cooper, President
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. Gerald Stow, Executive Director-Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Health Care Systems, Inc. — David Stringfield, President, Baptist Health Care System, Inc., Nashville
Historical Committee — Toby Everett, Chairman, Pastor, City View Church, Knoxville

3:50 — The Convention Elects
Election of Officers (President)

4:05 — The Convention Affirms
New Church Staff Recognition — James Porch

4:15 — The Convention Acts
Miscellaneous Business
Constitution & Bylaws Committee — Mike Womack, Chairman, Pastor, Calvary Church, Erwin
(Runoff for President if Needed)
Benediction — Jill Horner, member FBC, Monterey

Tuesday Evening — Nov. 12

6:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Combined Choirs from Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Union University, Jackson
Congregational Singing — Kenneth Hartley, University Professor of Music, Union University

7:05 — The Convention Worships
Devotional — Henry Blackaby

7:25 — The Convention Envisions
Educational Emphasis — Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, Union University

8:45 — The Convention Affirms
Special Recognition, Dr. Hyran Barefoot, Union University — James Porch
Benediction — Julianne Cuffman, member, Two Rivers Church

Wednesday Morning — Nov. 13

8:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Director of Missions Chorus, Julian Suggs, Director
Congregational Hymn — John Joiner, Minister of Music, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville

9:05 — The Convention Worships
Devotional — Henry Blackaby

9:25 — The Convention Ministers
Executive Board Ministries — Servant Team 21 Staff

9:45 — The Convention Acts
Congregational Hymn — John Link, Minister of Music, First Church, Mt. Juliet
Election of Vice President
Adoption of Budget
Executive Board Report — Herbert Higdon
Election of Second Vice President
Miscellaneous Business

11:20 — The Convention Celebrates
Music Ensemble — Highland Church, Tullahoma, Terri Massingill, Director
Convention Sermon — Don Dixon, Pastor, Highland Church
Benediction — Carlton Carter, member, Woodmont Church

Wednesday Afternoon — Nov. 13

1:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Cambodian Mission of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, Kim Sam, Pastor
Congregational Hymn — Dan Arterburn, Minister of Music, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage

2:05 — The Convention Acts
Committee on Arrangements — Steve Brown, Chairman
Committee on Boards — Raymond Boston, Chairman, Pastor, First Church, Dyersburg
Committee on Committees — Robert Elliott, Chairman, Pastor, First Church, Kingston
Constitution & Bylaws Committee — Mike Womack, Chairman
Miscellaneous Business
Committee on Resolutions — Gene Price, Chairman, Pastor, Tumbling Creek Church, Gleason

3:45 — The Convention Ministers



Baptist and Reflector — Fletcher Allen, Editor
Executive Board Ministries — Servant Team 21 Staff
4:15 — The Convention Worships
Devotional — Henry Blackaby
Benediction — John Lewelling, Parkview Church, Jackson

Wednesday Evening — Nov. 13

6:45 — The Convention Gathers
Praise Music — Voices and Instruments of Praise (Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra), Two Rivers Church, Carey Dean, Minister of Music and Worship
Congregational Hymn — Carey Dean
Devotional — Henry Blackaby

7:25 — The Convention Affirms
Recognition of Bivocational and Small Church Pastors — Bill Wilson, Executive Board Ministries, TBC

7:40 — The Convention Ministers
Volunteers on Mission — Missions Awareness Involvement Group
Benediction — Bill Smith, Director of Missions, Western District Association, Paris

Convention-Week Related Activities

- ▶ Agency/Institution Leadership Breakfast (by invitation only), Nov. 13, 7 a.m., Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Annuitants Dinner (by invitation only), Nov. 12, 5 p.m., Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Belmont University Alumni Luncheon, Nov. 12, noon, Spring House Golf & Country Club
- ▶ Carson-Newman College Alumni and Friends Luncheon, Nov. 12, noon, Ramada Inn, Music Valley Ballroom.
- ▶ Chorale Rehearsal/Tenn. Church Music Conference Meeting, Nov. 11, 1:15 p.m. — 9 p.m., Hermitage Hills Church
- ▶ College/Universities Sponsored Reception (everyone invited), Nov. 12, 8:50 p.m., Chapel Area
- ▶ Committee on Arrangements Meeting, Nov. 11, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room
- ▶ Committee on Credentials Meeting, Nov. 11, 10 a.m., Conference Room
- ▶ Committee on Resolutions Meeting, Nov. 11, 1:30 p.m., Nov. 12, 4:50 p.m., Conference Room
- ▶ Directors of Missions Banquet (by invitation only), Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m., Inglewood Church
- ▶ Executive Board Meetings, Nov. 11, 3:30 p.m., Nov. 13, 4:35 p.m., Chapel
- ▶ Jogger's Jubilee sponsored by the *Baptist and Reflector*, Nov. 13, 6:30 a.m., Two Rivers Park
- ▶ Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Nov. 13, noon, Sante Fe Cantina and Cattlemen's Club, Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Minister's Wives Luncheon, Nov. 12, noon, Two Rivers Mansion
- ▶ New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon, Nov. 12, noon, Lincoya Hills Church
- ▶ Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon, Nov. 13, 12:30 p.m., Lincoya Hills Church
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Convention President's Breakfast (by invitation only), Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m., Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Foundation Breakfast (by invitation only), Nov. 13, 7-8:30 a.m., Ramada Inn, Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Recreators Association, Nov. 11, 6 p.m., First Church, Nashville
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association Dinner, Nov. 11, 6 p.m., First Church, Donelson
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Youth Minister/Workers Fellowship, Nov. 12, 9 p.m., Two Rivers Church
- ▶ Union University Alumni and Friends Dinner, Nov. 12, 5 p.m., Ramada Inn Music Valley Drive
- ▶ Volunteer Mission Fair, Nov. 13, 4:30 — 7 p.m., Chapel Hallway

Report of Committee on Boards for 1996-97

Message from the Committee on Boards

The following is a note to Tennessee Baptists from the Committee on Boards.

The Committee on Boards is happy to share its recommendations of persons to serve Tennessee Baptists. As the committee did its work, the spirit and actions of previous conventions were implemented. The committee gave much prayer and consideration to each and every recommendation received. The committee looked at many factors: geographical representation, lay involvement, new people, willingness to serve, and commitment to Tennessee Baptist ministries. Our thanks to all who sent recommendations. We regret we could not use all of them at this time. ■

Bold face type indicates a person nominated for a full term or an unexpired term.

An asterisk (*) indicates nomination for a second term.

Executive Board Term Expiring 1999

East

- * Sylvia Charton, South Harriman Church, Harriman
-
- * Brenda Harris, North Cleveland Church, Cleveland
- * Jean Ward, Mt. Lebanon Church, Maryville
- * John Pennington Jr., First Church, Etowah
- * Paul Medley, First Church, Jasper
- * Houston Inman, First Church, Loudon
- * Charles Anderson, First Church, Gatlinburg
- * Joe R. Haynes, Central, Fountain City, Knoxville
- Jim Royston, Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport
- Mattie Mullins, Guaranda Drive Church, Johnson City
- Ron Phillips, Central Church, Hixson
- P. J. (Jack) Anderson, Bells Campground Church, Powell Middle

- * Ginger McAfee, Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet
- Jack Carver, First Church, Madison
- Larry Frasier, Bear Cove Church, Sparta
- Elmer Crosby, First Church, Columbia
- Bob Franks, Highland Church, Pulaski
- Bill Parks, Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville
- C. W. Dean, North Springfield Church, Springfield
- Carol Gilmer, Fairfield Church, Centerville
- David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, McMinnville
- Kenneth C. Hubbard, First Church, Smyrna West

- * Hinton Climer, First Church, Bells
- * Pat Landrum, Oak Grove Church, Brighton
- * Mark Mangrum, Holly Grove Church, Bells
- Dale Kelly, First Church, Huntingdon
- Tony Crossnoe, West Paris Church, Paris
- Wayne Rowan, Calvary Hill Church, Ripley
- Jerry Legg, First Church, Dyer
- Malcolm Norton, First Church, Trezevant
- Lois Sandusky, First Church, Memphis
- Huey Claybrook, First Church, Martin Middle

Term Expiring 1998

- Verlon Moore, Hilldale Church, Clarksville West

Term Expiring 1997

- Jerry Summers, First Church, Sharon Committee on Committees

Term Expiring 1999

- Glenn Sullivan, Smithwood Church, Knoxville (E)
- Gary Swaggerty, Second Church, Clinton (E)
- Richard Graham, Mt. Hermon Church, Murfreesboro (M)
- Myrtice Owens, First Church, Paris (W)
- Ray Fowler, Highland Heights Church, Memphis (W)

Belmont University Term Expiring 1999

- Edward M. Yarbrough, Forest Hills Church, Nashville
- * Robert Haley Jr., Belmont Heights Church, Nashville
- * Robert L. Wood, New Hope Church, Nashville
- * Jerry Daniel, First Church, Lawrenceburg
- * Robert Williams Jr., First Church, Hendersonville
- Gary Webster, First Church, Goodlettsville
- * Doug Westmoreland, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville
- Mike Dawson, First Church, Columbia
- David White, First Church, Franklin
- Roy Campbell, Ardmore Terrace Church, Memphis
- Donna Hillex, Park Avenue Church, Nashville
- Gerald Ezell, First Church, Nashville
- Kelly Smith Jr., Mt. Olive (East) Church, Knoxville Non-Tennessee

Term Expiring 1999

- John H. Williams, Southside Church, Jackson, Fla. Carson-Newman College

Term Expiring 1999

- * Edwin W. Davis, Mt. Olive Church, Knoxville
- * Robert D. McCray, First Church, Dandridge
- * Tom Brotherton, First Church, Jefferson City
- * Leo Yokum, Tazewell Church, Tazewell
- * Calvin Metcalf, Central Church, (F. City), Knoxville
- * Jay McCluskey, North Cleveland Church, Cleveland
- * C. E. Parker, Central Church, Johnson City
- * Robert H. Bible Jr., First Church, Morristown
- * Fred Hurst, First Church, Knoxville
- Maxfield Bahner, Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain
- Howard Cockrum, Cumberland Church, Knoxville Non-Tennessee

Term Expiring 1999

- Dalmuth Shealy, First Church, Ray Town, Mo. Union University

Term Expiring 1999

- * J. H. Luckey, Antioch Church, Humboldt
- * David B. Ray, First Church, Parsons
- * E. E. Hays, First Church, Lexington
- * Mrs. Ralph Lawler, First Church, Trenton
- * Floyd Flippin, First Church, Humboldt
- * Argyle Graves, First Church, Milan
- John W. Williams, Ward's Grove Church, Jackson
- Thomas Moore, First Church, Dresden
- Mrs. Floyd Burrow, Calvary Church, Jackson
- Ben Fesmire, Poplar Heights Church, Jackson
- John G. Dickinson, Woodland Church, Brownsville
- Jim Austin, First Church, Smyrna
- Frank Samuels, First Church, Waynesboro
- John McRee, First Church, Memphis
- Ann Boston, First Church, Dyersburg

Term Expiring 1997

- Wayne Perkins, First Church, Kenton Non-Tennessee

Term Expiring 1999

- Lealice Dehoney, Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky. Harrison-Chilhowee Academy

Term Expiring 1999

- Clifton Beeler Sr., Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville

- * Michael Collins, Rutledge Church, Rutledge
- * William A. Irving, Riverview Church, Knoxville
- * Enoch Simerly, Rockford Church, Rockford
- * Gerald Hollingsworth, Immanuel Church, Knoxville
- * Mae S. Owenby, Mt. Lebanon Church, Maryville
- * Judith Burgin, Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville

Term Expiring 1998

- William R. Horner Jr., Pleasant Hill Church, Orlinda

Term Expiring 1997

- Carroll Reagan, Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

Term Expiring 1999

- J. Edward North, First Church, Humboldt
- * Mary Pryor, First Church, Greeneville
- * Carmen Keathley, Trinity Church, Cordova
- * Mary Mills, Bellevue Church, Cordova
- * Quinten Howard, Short Creek Church, Athens
- Julia Gaskins, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville
- Garry Maddox, Immanuel Church, Nashville
- Tommy Grider, First Church, Cookeville
- Tim Hayden, Englewood Church, Jackson Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc.

Term Expiring 1999

- Roger Abington, Pleasant Plains Church, Jackson
- * Arthur Mason, First Church, Manchester
- * Robert Johnson, Central Church, FC, Knoxville
- Howard Prince, Second Church, Memphis
- Dolores Cooley, East Lake Church, Chattanooga
- Michael Lester, North Etowah Church, Etowah

Term Expiring 1998

- James Miller, Southwestern Church, Johnson City Tennessee Baptist Foundation

Term Expiring 1999

- * Tom Jensen, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville
- * Jane Jones, Bethel Church, Greenbrier
- Leonard Ball, First Church, Kingsport
- James D. Renegar, First Church, Chattanooga
- Gary S. Dering, Peterson Lake Church, Collierville Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.

Term Expiring 1999

- * James M. Glasgow Jr., First Church, Union City
- Carol Kirkland, First Church, Jackson
- Spence Wilson, Second Church, Memphis Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.

Term Expiring 1999

- * George Duncan, First Church, Nashville
- * Courtney Wilson, First Church, Hendersonville
- * Russell Barnett, New Church, Tullahoma
- * Johnny Beville, First Church, Pulaski
- * James Burton, First Church, Murfreesboro
- * Joe Hinkle, New Hope Church, Hendersonville
- * Gladys Owen, First Church, Monterey
- Mike Cook, First Church, Gallatin
- Darryl Deason, First Church, Woodbury The Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, Inc.

Term Expiring 1999

- * Robert F. Brown, Broadway Church, Maryville
- * Randy Vineyard, Lyons Creek Church, Strawberry Plains
- * Merrill Moore Jr., Monte Vista Church, Maryville
- * Bobby Turner, West Hills Church, Knoxville
- Phillip Jones, First Church, Powell
- David Myers, First Church, Maryville
- Sharon Brewer, Valley Grove Church, Knoxville
- David Rankin, Calvary Church, Knoxville
- David W. Hull, First Church, Knoxville

Report of Committee on Committees for 1996-97

Grand divisions are designated by East, (E); Middle, (M); and West, (W)
Committee on Arrangements

Term Expiring 1999

- Don Mitchell, First Church, Jefferson City (E)
- Gary Anderson Jr., Burt Church, Woodbury (M)
- Judy Scott, Una Church, Nashville (M)
- T. A. Bryan, First Church, Lebanon (M)
- Stephen Williams, Macedonia Church, Ripley (W)

Term Expiring 1998

- Billy Murphy, Howse Church, Atwood (W)

Term Expiring 1997

- James Seago, Calvary Church, Parsons (W)

Committee on Audits

Term Expiring 1999

- Steve Anthony, Southwestern Church, Johnson City (E)
- Robin A. Hari, Clearview Church, Franklin (M)
- Thomas Henry, First Church, Clarksville (M)
- Joseph Jones, Toone Church, Toone (W)
- David Holmes, First Church, Lexington (W)

Committee on Boards

Term Expiring 1999

- Tracy Wilson, First Church, Dandridge (E)
- Archie King, Southeast Church, Murfreesboro (M)
- John Compton, First Church, Dickson (M)
- J. V. Davis, Ararat Church, Jackson (W)
- Eddie Mallonee, Poplar Corner Church, Brownsville (W)

Term Expiring 1997

- Larry Williams, Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah (E)

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Term Expiring 1999

- Jack H. McPherson Jr., First Church, Kingston (E)
- Carl Creasman, Rocky Mount Church, Athens (E)
- Wesley Shotwell, Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch (M)
- Frances Slover, Pleasant Grove Church, Covington (W)
- Glenn Everton, First Church, Memphis (W)

Term Expiring 1998

- Robert Tyson Sr., Middleton Church, Middleton (W)

Committee on Credentials

Term Expiring 1999

- Robert Peek, Chilhowee Hills, Knoxville (E)
- Doris Croley, Robertsville Church, Oak Ridge (E)
- Lloyd Johnson, Dickerson Road Church, Nashville (M)
- Jerry Powell, New Salem Church, Kenton (W)
- Charles Halliburton, Finley Church, Finley (W)

Term Expiring 1998

- Chuck Kitchens, First Church, Loretto (M)

Historical Committee

Term Expiring 1999

- Gleason McKamey, Pine Ridge Church, Harriman (E)
- William H. Stephens, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville (M)
- Edsel Floyd, First Church, Watertown (M)
- Mickey Basham, Puryear Church, Puryear (W)
- Paul Bryant, First Church, Bells (W)

Committee on Resolutions

Term Expiring 1999

- Mrs. John Laida, First Church, Clarksville (M)
- Barbara Plemmons, East Commerce, Lewisburg (M)
-
- L. D. Kennedy, Macedonia Church, Ripley (W)
- George Clark, Cloverport Church, Toone (W)

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BELMONT UNIVERSITY

Two Rivers builds Habitat home

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE —Sheila Borum and her two children have a new home thanks to Habitat for Humanity and Two Rivers Church.

Two Rivers, working through Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit ecumenical housing ministry that builds low cost homes in partnership with low income families and volunteers, constructed Borum's home during a week's time.

Under Habitat guidelines, Borum will pay for her home interest-free for 20 years. In addition she will help build Habitat homes for others.

The new home was dedicated Sunday, Sept. 29.

Approximately 200 volunteers from Two Rivers, including Pastor Jerry Sutton and the staff, worked on the project in some way, said Associate Pastor Ray Moss. The church also provided \$40,000 for the funding of the home. Many of the volunteers were retirees while others took vacation time to work.

Moss said Two Rivers gave an average of \$31,000 to the church's "Love Offering for Jesus" goal last year. Much of the funding for the Habitat home came from that overage, he noted.

Moss said the idea for the project was sparked by Two Rivers' men's ministry. They coordinated the volunteers while the women's mission

groups assisted with food.

"This is something the men's ministry had been wanting to do for some time," Moss said.

Two Rivers members were excited about the project, according to Moss. Noting the funds and the large number of man hours given to the project, Moss said it was "unique that the church was willing to give so much to make an impact on one family." He observed, however, that "God calls us to do that from time to time."

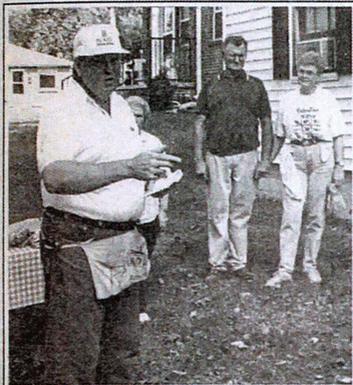
Dennis and Susan Harris were two members who donated a day to the effort. "It has been an opportunity for the whole church to be involved," said Susan Harris.

She noted it was a witness

in the community as neighbors came over to see what was going on and to talk. "They ask why we are here and it opens doors to share Christ," she said. ■



ABOVE, Sheila Borum, third from right, stands outside her new home under construction with Two Rivers volunteers, from left, Bill Skinner, Carl Stewart, Sheila Hammonds, Floyd Crawford, Borum, and Susan and Dennis Harris. BELOW, Borum's new house, located near downtown Nashville.



VOLUNTEER Gary LaRoy of Two Rivers gives a brief devotion prior to lunch during construction of a Habitat home.



TRISH BERNARD steadies a gutter while Sid Hawks does some work on it. The two were among about 200 volunteers from Two Rivers Church who worked over a week's time building a home near downtown Nashville.



New Blackwell Church celebrates 175 years of ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

RUTLEDGE — Members of New Blackwell Church celebrated 175 years of ministry Sept. 29 with a day filled with activities.

The church began in 1821

as Blackwell Branch Church, a mission of Bethel South (now First Church, Morristown).

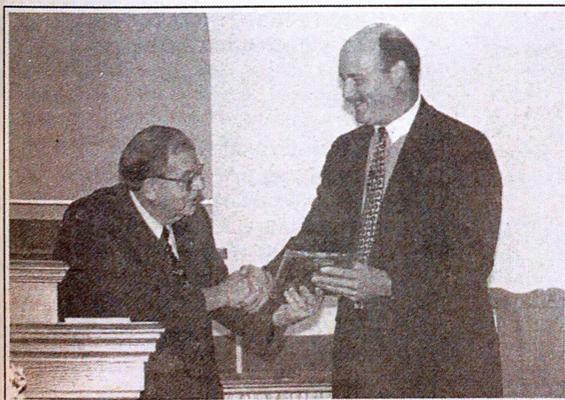
In recognition of its roots, the church invited Randy Davis, pastor of First Church to preach during the afternoon service.

A Gospel quartet sang during the morning service. Three representatives of TBC entities brought greetings — Gerald Stow, Children's Homes; Richard Easterly, Foundation;

and Lonnie Wilkey, Baptist and Reflector.

David Tydings, director of missions for Grainger County Association, presented a plaque commemorating the event.

The church has continued to grow and prosper in recent years. Last year New Blackwell broke ground for a new sanctuary which was dedicated this year on Aug. 4. ■



GRAINGER COUNTY Association Director of Missions David Tydings, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Gary Satterfield of New Blackwell Church, Rutledge.



STANDING AROUND the historic old bell of New Blackwell Church are members of the historical committee. From left are Diane Greenlee, Minnie Greenlee, Suzanne Holbrook, V.K. Woods, Leon Kidwell, Pastor Gary Satterfield, Guy Moore, Allene Kidwell, and Shirley Woods. The church's oldest member, Mira Moore, 93, now in a nursing home, was an honorary member. She was unable to attend the 175th anniversary celebration. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

SBC, Roman Catholic teams discuss inerrancy

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A team of eight Southern Baptists met Sept. 12-14 with an eight-member Roman Catholic team to discuss the inerrancy of the Scripture here.

While both groups affirmed inerrancy, they had different

definitions, according to Mark Coppenger, a member of the Baptist team and president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Southern Baptists insisted on the Bible's historical

accuracy, Coppenger said. The Catholic team did not, stating their concept of inerrancy was more a matter of divinely inspired usefulness, he added.

This was the second meeting of the recently reconstituted

Southern Baptist Convention-National Conference of Catholic Bishops Conversation. The annual meetings are aimed at clearing away misunderstandings the two groups may have of one another. ■

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If only it was safe for them to play among the red and yellow flowers in their own front yards.

If only all mothers and fathers loved, cared and provided for their kids the way they were supposed to.

If only babies were not murdered through abortion.

If only each and every home were blessed with children as desired.

If only...

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Only One

By Ron Galyon

**Focal Passage — Exodus 20:1-3;
Psalms 100:1-5; Jeremiah 2:11-13;
Luke 10:25-28**

What is the priority of your life? What is the absolute priority of your life? What is more important to you than anything else?

Let's investigate your life to determine what your priority is. As we begin to investigate your ultimate priority, there are several areas that may give us some direction. We would need to look at your check book, oh, let's go all the way and look at charge card receipts, banking accounts, and all of your debts. Where does your money go? Next, we would look at your time. Where do you invest your time? What do you do with your time? If you had time to do only one thing today, what would it be? Where your money goes and how you use your time indicates something about your priority, doesn't it?

The Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, said it this way, "What does it mean to have a god? Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is your god."

My concern is that you and I experience a life that is worth living. We need to have a depth to the quality of life that makes it so. A part of the experience of life that makes it worth living is to have the right priority. As the lesson title states, "There's Only One." Let me state this principle of life in a negative and then a positive way.

Life worth living prohibits replacing or reducing God (Exodus 20:1-3, Jeremiah 2:11-13). Atheism was unheard of and gods abounded in the ancient world. The ancient gods were associated with the phenomena of the world and were identified with particular nations. The Hebrew people often accepted the false gods of other nations thus, replacing the true God with a false god. When the priority of life is amiss then the quality of life is diminished.

In Exodus 20:2, God revealed himself as the God who had redeemed his people. The use of the word LORD written in all capital letters reflects the relationship name of God in the Old Testament. Jeremiah 2:11-13 reveals the emptiness that is the result of a misplaced relationship with God. The result is an emptiness in life that is really not worth living.

Life worth living promotes the priority of an intense relationship with God (Psalms 100:1-5, Luke 10:25-28). What is your purpose in being on planet earth? I heard someone say, "You know I have never heard anyone who found out they were dying say, 'I wish I had spent more time at the office.'" We need to recognize that our relationship with God is the ultimate priority of life and invest ourselves in an intense relationship with God.

The psalmist recognized the tremendous emotional fulfillment that we experience in the worship of God. The priority of our life needs to be the development of a love relationship with God. Jesus responded to the lawyer in Luke 10 in such a simple but profound way concerning life's priority. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Life is truly worth living when we love God as the ultimate priority of life.

For life to be worth living, God cannot be reduced or replaced, rather he must be loved with all of the intensity of our being. Sometimes I wonder, why do we try to live any other way. ■ — Ron Galyon is pastor of First Church, Pulaski.



GALYON

False hopes for peace

By Michael Smith

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 28:5-14

How could two "prophets" of God declare opposite messages? By comparing the situation and actions of Jeremiah and Hananiah, we may suggest some possible answers.

Hananiah's false prophecy (vv. 1-4)

Hananiah foretold that God would break the power of Babylon in two years and restore those exiled in Babylon to Jerusalem. All of the temple's furnishings and goods that had been taken to Babylon would be returned to Jerusalem as well. Hananiah would later be proved to be a false prophet (vv. 15-17). What factors might have influenced him to become a false prophet?

First, Hananiah was probably a "court prophet," one of a group of professional prophets supported by the King of Judah. As such, he was dependent on the goodwill of the King for his position and livelihood. Hananiah could not deny Babylon's current power, that nobility had been taken into exile, or that temple furnishings had been removed. He could, though, insist that the worst was over and better days were ahead. After all, that was his job.

Family Bible Lesson

Second, Hananiah mistook his (or the King's) desire for God's will. In all probability, the King was considering joining the kings of the other small nations in resisting Babylon at the first opportunity. Perhaps Hananiah was aware of his employer's desire. If such is the case, his prophecy would have been intended to lay the groundwork necessary to enlist the people's support for a rebellion. What better way to do

so than to issue a prophecy that seemed to promise victory?

Ensnares by self-interest, the requirements of his vocation, and the desire to support the King's plans Hananiah committed the worst possible sin for a would-be prophet. He dared speak a prophecy before he had a genuine word from God. He invoked God's good name to lend validity to a lie.

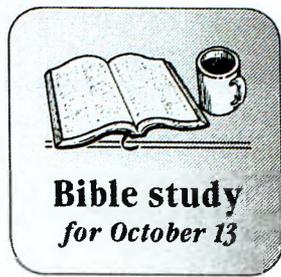
Jeremiah's word from the Lord (vv. 5-14)

In contrast to Hananiah, Jeremiah spoke no prophecy until he received a clear word from the Lord. He held his peace, even enduring Hananiah's assault without offering a defense. Instead, Jeremiah waited for God to speak. God did speak to Jeremiah, giving him a specific message for Hananiah which refuted the court prophet's prophecy and predicted his death. The true prophet Jeremiah differed from the false prophet in at least two key ways.

First, his prophecies served no self-interest. Jeremiah's words brought him only grief, breaking his heart and provoking hostility in others.

Second, Jeremiah was not quick to speak a prophecy. He waited until God spoke to him. Only then would Jeremiah dare claim his words were the words of God. He knew God had forbade the vain use of his holy name, and he honored the commandment carefully.

Distinguishing between real and false hope, genuine and deceiving prophecies is no easy task. A good place to begin is to consider the motives and manner of the would-be prophet. ■ — Michael Smith is pastor of Second Church, Memphis.



Bible study
for October 13



SMITH

A call to repent

By Thom Tapp

**Focal Passage —
Matthew 3:1-12**

The ministry and message of John the Baptist. Jesus said: "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). What a commendation from our Lord! We aren't told much about John's background in ministry, but Jesus affirmed his ministry.

John preached in the wilderness of Judea. He wasn't a typical religious type by any stretch of the imagination. To the people he appeared as a wild man, rough and unlearned. In verse 2 we learn of his message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." To John, repentance was more than feeling sorry for sin. True repentance says: "God I have sinned! I am sorry for my sin. I agree with you that my sin is wrong, and you are right, and I ask you to forgive me. I will rely on your righteousness and leadership in overcoming sin in the future." John decried the hypocrisy of those vipers who had come in a pompous showing of religiosity. Real repentance is demonstrated in changed lives.

John prepared the way for Jesus and warned of the need for repentance, and the necessity of putting God first.

In verse 3 Matthew refers to Isaiah 40:3. He connects this prophecy to

Explore the Bible Lesson

John. In this passage Isaiah speaks of preparing the way for the Lord. This was the task of John the Baptist.

Verse 4 gives us a picture of a rather eccentric individual. Outwardly, John the Baptist was not very impressive. He wore camel's hair and a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild honey. Through his uniqueness he could reach people who could not be reached otherwise. Isn't that true even of us today?

Verse 5 and 6 tell us of John's preaching. Many people responded to the message he preached. John called on people to demonstrate their repentance by submitting to immersion in water. It represented cleansing and death to sin.

John confronted the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were coming for baptism. John considered it to be hypocritical. They obeyed the letter of the law, but didn't serve God with their whole heart.

John proclaimed the works of others cannot save us. Our relationship with God is our own personal responsibility.

John's baptism was not a baptism which brought repentance. It was an outward sign of an inward change.

John was careful to point to Jesus as the ultimate baptizer.

The baptism of Jesus. John baptized Jesus. It was an acknowledgment of his humanity, an example to the people. It also gave opportunity for God to affirm Jesus' earthly ministry. There is a big difference between John's baptism unto repentance, and Christian baptism, which identifies us with Jesus as Lord.

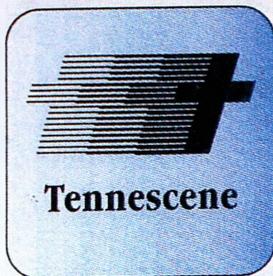
The temptation of Jesus. Jesus' affirmation prepared him for the temptation experience he was to face. He was tempted to turn stones into bread. After a 40-day fast, this was a pretty big temptation. This was a temptation to the flesh, for physical sustenance. He was tempted by the devil to jump from the pinnacle of the Temple.

This was a temptation to appeal to the people from a prideful display of his power. He was tempted to gain all the world by worshiping the devil. Jesus responded by using Scripture each time to answer the devil.

The beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In these verses (ch. 4:12-25), we see Jesus beginning to build a ministry. Wherever Jesus went people were changed. Their lives were never the same. ■ — Thom Tapp is pastor of Oral Church, Lenoir City.



TAPP



Tennescene

leaders

■ **Chris Bell** has been called as minister of education and youth of First Baptist Church, White Pine.

■ Gearin's Chapel Church, Greenfield, has called **George Smith** as pastor, effective Sept. 11. He served the church 21 years ago as interim pastor.

■ Trinity Church, Lawrenceburg, has called **Billy Hill** as full-time pastor, effective Oct. 1. He has served as bivocational pastor for two years.

■ Kensington Church, Memphis, has called **Tim Vaszar** as pastor. Don Marston served as interim pastor.

■ **Charles Bailey**, pastor, Pleasant View Church, Martin, has resigned.

■ Southside Church, Martin, has called **Fady Al-Hagal** as pastor.

■ Laurel Branch Church, Gatlinburg, has called **Sam Justus** as pastor.

■ **Al Smith** has been called as pastor of Mount Zion Church, Sevierville, effective Sept. 1.

■ Fairview Church, Watauga, has called **Glen Church** as music director.

■ West View Missionary Church, Kingsport, has called **Larry Fleenor** as music director. Working in a bivocational role, he works for the U.S. Postal Service. He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

■ **Jerry Cornett** has resigned as pastor of Little Mountain Church, Roan Mountain.

■ **David Wilson** has resigned as pastor of Oldham's Creek Church, Sevierville, effective Sept. 30.

■ **Gary Kent** has resigned as pastor of Oak City Church, Seymour.

■ Trinity Church, Lebanon, has called **Jimmy Furr**, a Home Mission Board worker based in metropolitan Nashville, as interim pastor.

■ **Billy Garner**, pastor, Moore's Chapel Church, Greenfield, has resigned.

■ Bethel Church, Green-

field, has called **Clark Brown** as pastor.

■ Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, has called **Charles D. Earl**, retired director of missions, Holston Valley Association, as interim pastor.

■ **Charles Quarles**, pastor, Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis, has been named assistant professor of New Testament and Greek at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky.

■ First Church, Selmer, has licensed **Gregory Lynn Wyatt**, minister of youth/children, to the Gospel ministry.

■ Stanton Church, Stanton, has called **Brian Rainey** as pastor. He formerly was pastor of Butler's Chapel Church, Ramer. Rainey is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ Glenwood Church, Nashville, has called **Timothy Powell** as minister of music. He is a recent graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

deaths

■ **Martha Ann Blount**, 67, emeritus Southern Baptist foreign missionary, died Sept. 26 of an apparent heart attack in Nashville. The member of Immanuel Church, Nashville, had retired only two years ago after serving 28 years in Brazil. There she was a seminary teacher and administrator, secretary of promotion for the Woman's Missionary Union in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, and coordinator of leadership training for women in the churches at the Baptist Institute of Religious Education in Rio de Janeiro. She earned degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

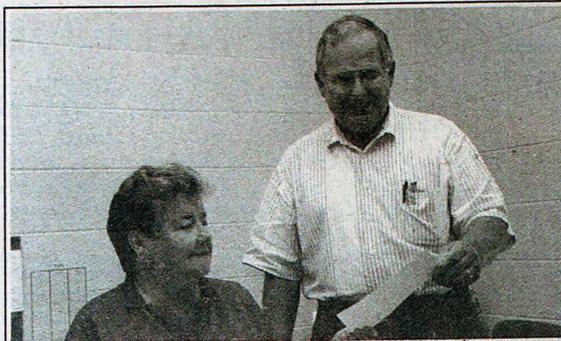
churches

■ **Southside Church, Martin**, will hold revival Oct. 13-16. Stan Smith will speak.

■ **First Church, Greenfield**, has acted to relocate to a site on the northern edge of the city limits.

■ A team from **Salem Church, Dayton**, worked at Fifth Street Church, Key West, Fla., for a week. The 20-member team did renovation work and led a Vacation Bible School.

■ The youth of **Nelson Chapel Church, Mountain City**,



RECEIVING A check for \$38,500 for a Baptist children's home in Temuco, Chile, is Jerry Hefflin, associate pastor of First Church, Goodlettsville, from Mattie Belle Binnion, financial secretary. The gift was from an anonymous person which was matched by the congregation. The money will help Foreign Mission Board personnel build the home. Members of the Goodlettsville church will travel there to help in February.

had a car wash and gave half of the proceeds to the Hale Community Ministries building fund.

■ **Roan Creek Church, Mountain City**, will hold revival Oct. 20-25. Tommy Brill of Mississippi will speak.

■ **First Church, LaVergne**, will host a Senior Celebration Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Activities will include a conference led by Alvin Shackleford, editor, *Mature Living* for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, missionary speakers, personal safety seminars, music, and lunch. For more information, call (615) 793-6423.

■ **Hillview Church, Franklin**, celebrated the completion of its new building during September and dedicated it Sept. 22. Speakers included Roger Rush, pastor, Holiday Heights Church, Hendersonville.

■ **First Church, Livingston**, will hold its fall revival Oct. 13-16. Harold Hunter will speak and Rush Harrison, minister of music for the church, will lead the music.

■ **Glenwood Church**,

Nashville, will hold revival Oct. 13-16. Bob Cook will speak and Timothy Powell, new minister of music of the church, will lead the music.

associations

■ **Cumberland Association** will celebrate its 125th anniversary during its semi-annual meeting Oct. 28 at Spring Creek Church, Clarksville.

■ Brotherhood members of **Sevier County Association** will host its seventh annual Mission Walk Nov. 2 at Cades Cove Loop Road. The activity is a fund-raiser for Brotherhood missions work.

■ A missions team from **Sullivan Association** worked in Canada recently to support the Canada/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. The volunteers did renovation work on the Surrey Chinese Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, and led two Vacation Bible Schools with members of East

Indian Mission, which meets at Royal Heights Church in Vancouver.

■ **Shiloh Association** just completed a World Missions Conference in which 29 churches participated. People heard 29 missionaries speak and at least one person made a commitment to missions service.

■ **Shiloh Association** will host a mission effort in Poland where volunteers will work at the seminary in Warsaw and in Costa Rica next year. Both ventures support Tennessee Baptist partnerships with the countries.

■ **Haywood Association** is hosting a "Youthquake" Oct. 26 from 6:30-10 p.m. at the gym of Brownsville Church, Brownsville.

■ The Pregnancy Crisis Center of **Nolachucky Association** has been moved and its new name is Pregnancy Support Center. An open house will be held Oct. 6 from 3-4 p.m. at its site by Hillcrest Church, Morristown.

■ **Wilson County Association** has reported that its office building is almost debt-free. It is organizing an effort to build a Baptist Student Union Center at Cumberland University, Lebanon.

the schools

■ **Union University**, Jackson, enrolled 1,975 students for the fall semester up slightly from last year and up 10.5 percent in numbers of graduate students. An additional 143 graduate students enrolled. These students are in education and business programs. Another measure of the school's work is its student/faculty ratio, according to officials, which dropped to 13:1 to 14:1 compared to last year.



PAUSING DURING a noteburning ceremony of Persia Church, Rogersville, are leaders, from left, Bobby Tucker, pastor; Morgan Thurman; Dorothy Lawson; Rip Noble, former pastor; Lynn Newton; James Lawson; James West; and Larry Hagood. The note represented a \$330,000 debt for a building addition which was paid off 11 years early. The addition included a fellowship hall and education space.