

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

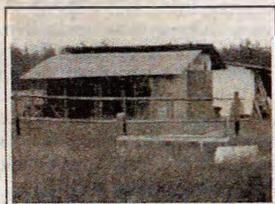
Volume 162 / Number 41

Statewide Edition

October 16, 1996

this week's news

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THE DREAM CAMP

- ▶ Jewish organization protests SBC action. — Page 10

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

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

FMB adopts optimistic budget

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Encouraged by stronger missions giving, trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board adopted an optimistic \$205.5 million budget that will send \$4.89 million more to overseas work in 1997.

Yet, the available resources don't begin to address the needs and opportunities God has laid before Southern Baptists, FMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees, who met here Oct. 7-9.

For the first time in many years, all three major sources of income for the board — the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and investment income — are projected to increase significantly in 1997, Rankin noted.

"But even as we rejoice in increased support, I want you to be aware that this 3.58 percent budget increase doesn't begin to seize the kind of opportunity we have to evangelize our world," Rankin said.

Board members heard a series of testimonies about how God is moving around the world. But they were sobered

when Rankin recalled one mission administrator who divided his annual budget by the number of lost people in his area — and found he had 1.7 cents for each lost soul.

The 1997 budget anticipates a 2.42 increase in Cooperative Program support and reflects an 18.01 percent increase in investment income generated by the board's reserves, said FMB Vice President and Treasurer Carl Johnson. It also counts on a 5.59 percent increase in giving toward the \$100 million 1996 goal for the Lottie Moon offering, the largest increase since 1988.

In 1995, Southern Baptists gave more than \$89 million to the Lottie Moon offering, named for the 19th century missionary to China whose appeals moved Southern Baptists to give sacrificially so more missionaries might be sent overseas. In 1997, proceeds of that offering will provide 47.12 percent of the board's basic operating budget.

The \$6.89 million increase

in the basic budget over 1996 includes \$4.89 million more for overseas work. That money implements missionary longevity raises approved this past summer and provides the first increase in many years for missionary operating budgets, Rankin said.

The budget sets aside an additional \$1 million for emeritus missionary medical and dental expenses, for which the board is self-insured. An increase in the statewide support portion of the budget from 12.8 percent to 13.35 percent will help bring staff salaries more in line with those at other Southern Baptist agencies.

Southern Baptists are giving more to world hunger and relief, reversing a dangerous four-year decline, human needs consultant Bill Cashion told trustees. Last year, receipts totaled \$5.7 million. While the human needs office had projected receiving \$5.1 million for human needs ministries this year, gifts are expected to pass \$5.9 million and may reach \$6 million.

That's good news in a world where 41,000 people die every day from hunger-related problems, Cashion told trustees. ■



RANKIN

Grassroots ideas sought for possible BSSB name change

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists across the nation are invited to submit by Nov. 1 suggestions for a possible new name for the Baptist Sunday School Board as the agency studies the possibility of a more descriptive identity.

According to BSSB President James T. Draper Jr., the process began in late summer, "with no preconceived ideas about whether our name should be changed."

He said factors leading to the study included awareness that "the current name is not descriptive of the broad range of the board's products and services. While it was established in 1891 with one assignment, providing Sunday School literature for Southern Baptist churches, the board today provides resources in many areas."

Send suggestions on a 3 x 5 index card in an envelope to: Name Change, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234-0189. ■

Committee seeks resolutions

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Messengers desiring to present a resolution before the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which meets Nov. 12-13 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, are asked to mail an advance copy of the resolution.

Resolutions can be mailed to the office of the Executive Director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

All resolutions received in the office will be presented to the Committee on Resolutions for their consideration.

According to convention bylaws, "Resolutions, including those sent to the Committee on Resolutions prior to the convention, must be submitted during a business session only by registered mes-

sengers. Resolutions must be submitted no later than the last miscellaneous business session of the first day of the convention. Only titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record when presented, but the full resolution must be in writing and submitted to the presiding officer, recording secretary, and the Committee on Resolutions."

According to TBC bylaws, the Committee on Resolutions is to receive written resolutions from the floor, and review, comment on, draft, and recommend "any memorials or resolutions it may deem wise from among those referred to it by the convention."

Submitting resolutions prior to the convention will greatly facilitate the work of the Resolutions Committee. ■



Station Camp celebrates 200 years

Mike Pennington, left, director of missions for Bledsoe Association, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Billy Chitwood of Station Camp Church, Cottontown. The church celebrated its 200th anniversary Oct. 6. See page 4 for story and more photos. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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FMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — A Tennessean and a former Carson-Newman College teacher are among the most recent missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Anne C. Davies will join more than 4,200 Southern Baptist workers sharing Christ in 128 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

Davies, along with Kimberly A. Dickey, were among 30 people appointed by the FMB Oct. 8 during a service at New Bridge Church here.

Since 1985 Davies has been a counselor at Roane State

Community College in Harri-man. Though born and reared in Green Bay, Wis., Davies considers Knoxville her home town and Calvary Church there her home church.

Davies is a former guidance counselor at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour and was an English teacher through the FMB's International Service Corps.

She will serve in Gaza where she will teach English and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Dickey, a Carson-Newman College graduate, taught English-as-a-Second Language, at the Jefferson City school from 1995-96.



DAVIES

Born in Germany, Dickey was reared in Thomasville, N.C.

She will serve in east Asia



DICKEY

where she will teach English in a college and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. ■

Baptists encouraged to fast and pray for spiritual revival

Baptist Press

SPRINGDALE, Ark. — For most Southern Baptists, it will be a new experience: setting aside special days for prayer and fasting.

Southern Baptists were challenged at their annual meeting last June to a week-long spiritual awakening emphasis, Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, which has since been embraced by many other Christian groups across America.

Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd, delivering this year's convention sermon on "The Midnight Crisis Before the Coming Millennium," included a call for a day of fasting among Southern Baptists.

Floyd, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and president of the Pastors' Conference, related how God spoke to him in the midst of his second 40-day fast to appeal to Southern Baptist preachers to use the morning of Sunday, Oct. 27 to call members to fast and pray for spiritual revival the following Wednesday, Oct. 30. During the evening of the same Sunday, churches are asked to hold assemblies to repent of sin and seek God's mercy. And on the following Sunday, Nov. 3, preachers are asked to focus both services on spiritual revival "in our personal lives, our churches, and in our nation," as Floyd urged, "calling for God's people to do

whatever it takes to see revival in our day."

Spiritual formation professor Don Whitney calls fasting "the most feared and misunderstood of all the spiritual disciplines." In his book, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor says many Christians have a fear of what fasting might cause them to become.

The voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual purposes receives more attention in the Bible than even the subject of baptism. Still, many Southern Baptists who have successfully fasted say they heard little about it from the pulpit.

Layman Duane Wilson of Rogers, Ark., has a varied denominational background, having attended Church of Christ, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and several Baptist churches. He doesn't remember hearing about fasting until he became a member of First Church, Springdale, Ark., where Floyd is pastor.

After hearing Floyd preach on fasting, Wilson read a book by Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright called *The Coming Revival in America*. He followed the first of seven steps Bright believes will determine whether a fast will be successful — setting a specific objective. Wilson was able to list 17 areas of concern about which he intended to pray while fasting.

But for the next four to five months, Wilson did what most Christians considering a fast do — put it off indefinitely.

Through that time of anticipating a fast, Wilson dealt with God's desire for total surrender. Having totally surrendered his future to God, Wilson found himself open to God's instruction through prayer and fasting.

The extent to which a Christian fasts may range from an absolute water-only discipline to supplementing the period of abstinence with fruit and/or vegetable juices. While the Bible also records instances of supernatural fasts in the lives of Moses, Jesus, and, most likely, Elijah, such miraculous provision is not viewed by Bright or Whitney as normative.

Some fasts are intentionally conducted privately, though Scripture also describes regular and occasional fasts on specific and special occasions, respectively.

Christians often find benefit in fasting concurrently with other believers. Baptist Student Union director Carol Lee Mohler of Muncie, Ind., found it easier to develop the discipline of fasting by being accountable to another Christian. While serving as a summer missionary, she and a friend fasted together on Wednesdays.

"I can see that was a crutch for both of us. We had each other, and as we prayed together it really went well," she said. ■

Guidelines, dates released for 1997 Children's Bible Drills

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Children's Bible Drills will be held next April as usual, and Bible Drill coordinators for Tennessee Baptist Convention churches have been announced by Liz Lee, TBC Executive Board staff.

Lee, who will have the responsibility for the Bible Drills, says there will be nine state regional drills.

"These experts in Bible Drills will conduct the State Children's drill in their re-

gion," Lee said. "All Bible Drills will be conducted in April," she added.

Bible Drill information leaflets have been mailed to every Tennessee Baptist Convention church.

Lee said extra leaflets are being mailed also to associational offices.

Drill leaders have permission to reproduce the informa-

tion leaflets, Lee said.

She emphasized that rules and guidelines; Bible size, style, and kind, will be adhered to strictly at state drills. She said any exceptions would have to be considered through regional coordinators before state drills.

State Regional Children's Bible Drill Coordinators:

Eastern: Steve Peek, Knoxville, and Martha Hoffmeister, Powell

Southeastern: Linda Pittman, Chattanooga

Northeastern: Cindy

Georges, Morrystown

Central: Lou Heath, Nashville

North Central: Linda Maynard, Sparta

South Central: Cyndi Cox, Manchester

Shelby: Harriet Maynard, Memphis

Southwest: Margaret Brown, Bells

Northwest: Marsha Higgs, Martin

For phone numbers for the regional coordinators, call Lee at (615) 371-2054, or your local associational office. ■



LEE

Shepherds, servants, ministers all

Long before there was a Tennessee Baptist Convention, or a Baptist Association within the state borders, most likely there were some bivocational pastors here.

Even now, almost half the churches in the TBC have bivocational leaders — some 1,400 in fact. Thousands of bivocational ministers serve Tennessee Baptist churches in music, education, as well as with youth and children.

October 20 is scheduled as Bivocational Ministers Appreciation Day. Their churches and missions will want to recognize these men and women appropriately. Theme for the day of recognition comes from Acts

18:3, "For by their occupation they were tentmakers." Probably none of the Tennessee bivocational ministers earn salaries as tentmakers, but they are engaged in worthy enterprises.

Ray Gilder was assigned as bivocational ministries director in 1995, and now serves as pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville.

To help recognize the work of bivocational ministers in Tennessee, a bivocational worship conference is scheduled at Camp Carson, near Newport for November 9. Evangelist J. Smith will speak to the group, and all other speakers will be Tennessee bivocational pastors.

Planning reaches into 1997, when a bivocational

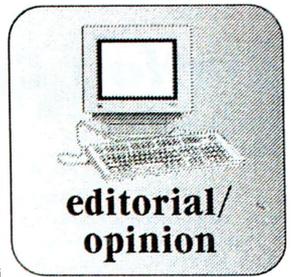
ministers and spouses retreat is planned for February 7-8 at Fall Creek Falls. D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, will speak.

All of this speaks loudly for the recognition of bivocational pastors and ministers.

These men and women meet special needs of churches here in Tennessee. Expressing appreciation for the devotion they bring to their work is quite appropriate.

Many times we do not realize the unusual circumstances of bivocational pastors and ministers. Some churches cannot supply the entire salary and upkeep for a pastor and family. In other cases, the pastor or staff member may be enrolled in college or seminary, and rely on at least a partial salary from the church.

If we apply Acts 18:3 to these and similar situations, we will understand the need to appreciate bivocational ministers. *B&R*



God's positives in a world full of negativism

Radio talk show hosts spew out hate and negativism, news reporters seek the angle on a story, movies and television seek to whet the dark side of human life.

Talk at the barber shop and hair stylists gets to be more gossip, less positive. Jokes poke shady humor at ethnic groups and candidates for political office major on faults and mistakes of the opposition. Drivers on the highways hurl insults at other drivers and "punish" them with obscenities and tail-gating.

Americans choose leisure over church, cheating over fairness, and filth over purity.

Where is God in all of this?

God is alive, well, and at work redeeming lost people. More than that, he is still busy doing miracles and working with those of his children who seek his face and want to walk with him.

Here is God. Richard Lee, pastor of Greater Hope Church, Jackson, participates in a missions fair at

Forest Hills Church, Nashville. This church planter talked with a businessman who wanted to help Pastor Lee's church. He gave \$30,000 — and now the church's debt is paid and they have a reason to rejoice in the Risen Lord.

More examples: Two friends decided to commit to special service for Christ. A young Christian chooses missions as her goal in life. People still give up the worldly life and join Christ's patrol.

In the personal column just below, the editor remembers one pastor's love for his Lord and church. He was real, alive, "on fire" and "sold out" in servant-hood. He thought Tennessee Baptists and Southern Baptists still had a great opportunity to explain the love of Christ for a lost world — by renewed living in submission to him. Can Tennessee Baptists demonstrate a positive Christ now and in November?

As Tennessee Baptists meet in Nashville next month, the goal should be — a positive witness. *B&R*

Bivocational Ministers Appreciation Day

"For by their occupation they were tentmakers" (Acts 18:3)



October 20, 1996

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Lady to tax assessor (at church): "Could I talk to you a minute? I need to know who owns the house next door to me."



WOOD

Tax assessor: "Why don't you call me at my office tomorrow?"
Lady: "Oh no, that won't do. I wouldn't want to bother you at your work."

Take this truth

People will waste our time if we let them. And it is also important that we do not waste other people's time.

Memorize this Scripture

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 25:11).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to respect the other person's time. Help me also to keep others from wasting my time. ■

How will the world know we are Christ's disciples?

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Less than a year after I came to work here nine years ago, something happened that changed my life forever. It was a wake up call.

The June 1988 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ended, and as usual, there were mixed feelings. There had been a close election. Action had been taken on the Doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer.

A few days earlier, a pastor, whom I had asked to write some Sunday School lessons, had agreed and sent me a photo. I had a good look at it.

Strong face — handsome with a boyish smile. His hands folded on his Bible. I think it was made on a sunny day. We had talked. I liked him. He believed deeply in the vitality and "called out, set apart" status of Southern Baptists.

I thought he had a way of saying words that would enable him to write some Sunday School lessons, strong lessons. He said he would begin in July. He was an occasional letter writer to the paper — letters

with meaning, concise and helpful.

He made his points without pomposity. That meant he was a good writer and a good pastor.

Just a week later, I saw him with his family in San Antonio. I heard him before I saw him. The man was busy. Not only did he and his wife bring the children to the meetings, they planned a followup vacation. He introduced three motions for messengers to vote on. He had concerns about family education on AIDS, ministerial integrity, and drunken driving and church buses.

Leaving the convention center at the conclusion of the meeting, I saw him in his van, with his beautiful two-year-old daughter. There was that boyish smile again, there was that strong face —

touched with the warm glow of a father who loved his family.

"Hey," he said, "I'd like for you to meet the rest of the family, but my wife and the other three kids will be out of the auditorium in just a minute." We talked briefly.

I touched the little girl's head, tousling her hair, remembering how short the years become. We shook hands, waved.

Daniel Martin of Edgefield Church, Nashville, little Joy, and his wife Patricia, were killed on a Mississippi highway that night.

I am haunted by what he wrote in one of his last letters. "I am sick of brother killing brother in the name of the Lord, sick of judging others who don't instantly conform to our exact specifications on issues or beliefs ... the world won't know we are Christ's disciples by our traditions, systems, doctrines, but only by our genuine love for each other."

Thanks, Daniel, for reminding us. ■



ALLEN

Discussion of diet means she loves you

think about it

— by Gary French, pastor, South Knoxville Church

Recently my wife and I were talking about nutrition, exercise, and the need for good eating habits. When this conversation comes up, some changes are about to occur in the home.

The changes impact what and how much I eat. I am not overweight or out of shape. But when my wife gets in the health mood, I know I need to get on board or get run over.

No wife wants her husband to be sloppy, unhealthy, overweight. But we have wonderful women who "encourage" us to eat right, exercise, and turn off the TV. This encouragement is in much the same manner our mothers encouraged us!

Now that we are grown up, our mothers don't control us this way. But we may long for the good old days. We must do our chores and our meal portions may be smaller. I feel like the Allied prisoners in the movie, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. I don't want to build this bridge, but I'll whistle anyway. I don't want to diet, but I'll enjoy it anyway!

Sometimes people approach their Christian faith with the same feelings of confusion, conflict, and angst as they do

nutrition, diet, and exercise. They know what's good for them, they know the positive benefits, they even know how to achieve success. But the hard part is doing it. So many believers live in a constant state of great potential. It is sad they never achieve it.

When my wife discusses nutrition and exercise, she is really telling me she loves me and wants me to have a long, healthy life.

When you are invited to church, asked to support, encouraged to be faithful in attendance, or to be more like Christ — it is only because someone cares and you are loved very much. ■

Station Camp Church celebrates 200th birthday

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

COTTONTOWN — Moving into a new century won't be new to the congregation of Station Camp Church, Bledsoe Association. Nestled on the banks of Station Camp Creek in a picturesque valley, Bledsoe Association, the church house has been the spiritual home for Baptist worshippers since 1796. That makes it a full two centuries old.

Most of the church's history is on personal scraps and bits of paper — and oral tradition. The church's extensive minutes were lost in a fire years ago. But the members and Pastor Billy Chitwood know the age. "We're 200 years old," they say with pride.

Other sources verify that claim.

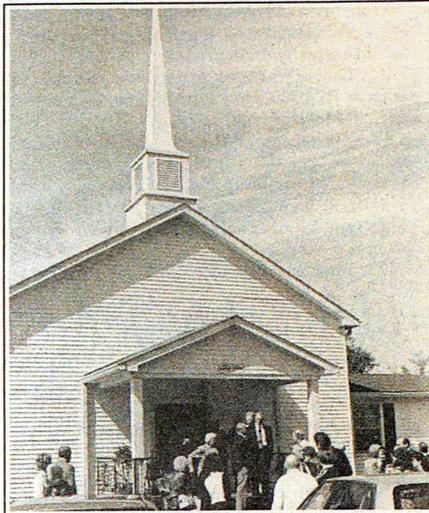
The church celebrated its 200th anniversary on a picture-perfect Sunday, Oct. 13.

Chitwood preached, and the church and friends had dinner under a huge tent. The afternoon program included plenty of music and a message by Ken Hubbard, pastor of First Church, Smyrna, and Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

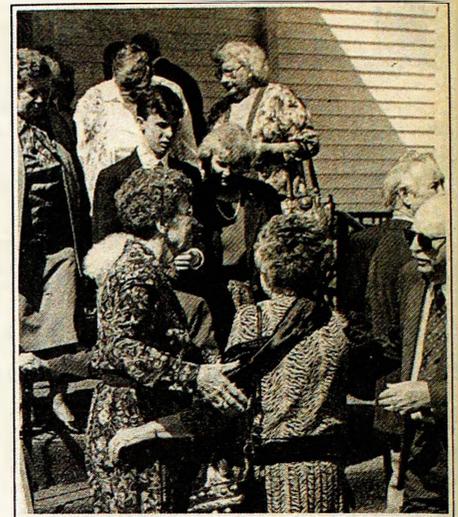
And the usual fare of Baptist-prepared cooking was more than enough to accent the mood of the day. The church house was packed for all the programs, and a third century of history had a good beginning.

Station Camp was organized by Elder Patrick Mooney, who also helped establish the Mero Association. Station Camp has been in six associations and has had at least 30 pastors.

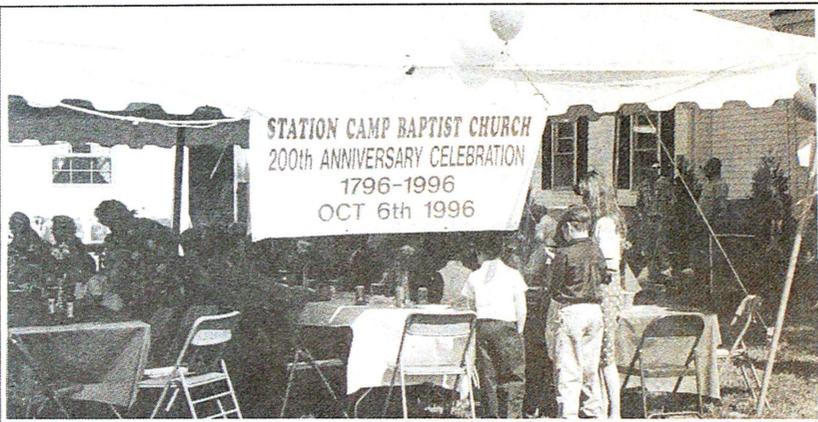
The first meeting house was close to the present site in 1800. It was the Baptist Society Meeting in Phipps Meeting House. **B&R**



A PICTURE-PERFECT DAY brought many former members and visitors to Camp Station's bicentennial observance.



OLD FRIENDS renewed friendships and current members greeted those who came to participate in the celebration.



YOUNG AND OLD, members and visitors, gathered under a spacious tent after the morning worship time to celebrate the 200th birthday. There was plenty of food, fun, and fellowship.



PASTOR BILLY CHITWOOD, LEFT, talks about the afternoon program with Pattie Goad, pianist, Charles Belcher, and Vernon Hunnicutt, chairman of deacons.

Evangelism provides focus for BSU session

For Baptist and Reflector

The Tennessee Baptist Student Convention was held at Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, Sept. 27-28 — with the theme of "Pathway to Relationships."

Speakers and seminar leaders chal-

lenged more than 300 participants to share their faith in Christ on campuses across the state.

Speaker John Kramp, associate director of discipleship and family ministries, Baptist Sunday School Board, introduced students to the concept of "lostology."

He explained it as the study of being spiritually lost and what that experience can teach Christians about evangelism.

Jay Austin, associate in the Evangelism Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, dared students to be

bold in their witness.

"Evidence," a musical group from Carson-Newman College, provided worship leadership for the weekend.

Several students shared testimonies of their summer experiences as BSU missionaries.

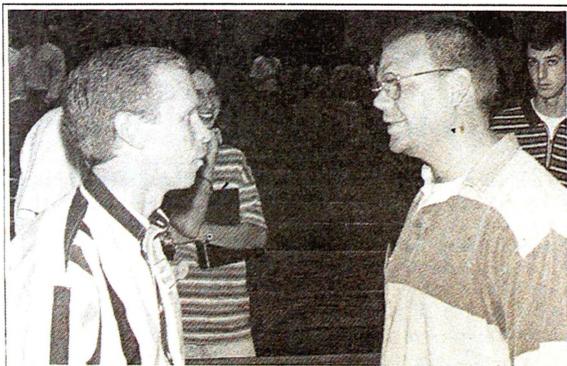
During business session, the students adopted a 1996-97 Student Missions Budget with a financial goal of \$109,405.

Foreign positions will be offered in Canada, China, Costa Rica, and South Africa.

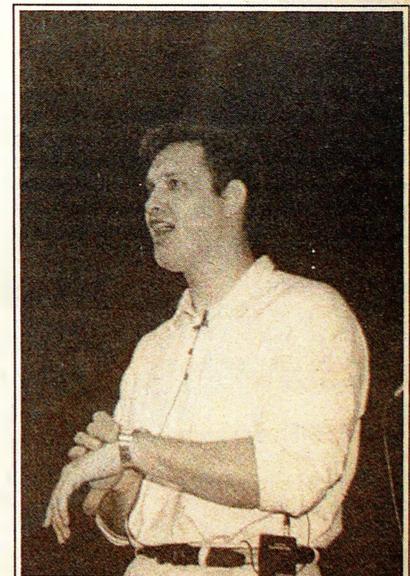
Students also will serve in eleven states. Thirteen Tennessee placements are available.

Presiding at various sessions were State BSU President Ashley Mofield, Austin Peay State University; and Vice President Scott Link, Middle Tennessee State University.

The meeting was sponsored by the Student Ministries department, Tennessee Baptist Convention. ■



AT THE BSU CONVENTION, John Kramp, left, talks with State BSU president, Ashley Mofield.



JAY AUSTIN of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Office challenges BSU students.



Partnership Missions Newsletter

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

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

From the director

I am happy to announce what many of you have been awaiting — revivals.

Yes, both Costa Rica and Poland have requested evangelistic teams for 1997.

We have an immediate need in Costa Rica, Jan. 11-20, 1997. We need 15 teams, each one consisting of three people. The theme for this evangelistic campaign is "Spiritual Renewal." The approximate cost for this trip is \$1,200, depending on the location of departure. Look for more details and a response form in this newsletter.



SHARP

In Poland, "Here's Hope — Jesus" will be the theme for the evangelistic campaign, planned for May 18-28, 1997. We will need possibly as many as 60 teams, each consisting of four or more people. Each team will have a preacher, a music leader, and a lay person. The approximate cost for this trip is \$1,750, depending on the location of departure.

This will be one of the most unique and strategic evangelistic opportunities ever given to Tennessee Baptists. Tremendous preparation is being made now!

For more information on these projects, contact the Partnership Missions Office at (615) 371-2021 or (800) 558-2090.

Levy

Audiovisuals requested

TBC Partnership Missions is making a promotional video. Missions volunteers are asked to send slides and video tapes from missions efforts for the video.

Keep in mind that these items will not be returned to the owners. Send slides and videos to the TBC Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024-0728. ■

New TBC group cooperates to help partnerships

By Marcia Knox
TBC Partnership Missions Office

The new TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group which includes Partnership Missions, Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, and Collegiate Missions has hit the ground running with interdepartmental projects.

In support of the partnership with Poland, WMU and Brotherhood are already donating their time and funds to worthy projects. WMU recently sponsored a kitchen shower for the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw by asking participants at the March Missions Get-together in Gatlinburg to donate supplies. At the WMU meeting, a money tree also was provided. Its proceeds went to purchase white erasable boards for the seminary's classrooms.

WMU also was instrumental in collecting donations for library books for the Polish Baptist Seminary. These contributions were initiated by the state WMU Executive Board and promoted by Associational WMU Leadership Teams.

After receiving word that Polish Baptist Seminary students needed dress suits, the Brotherhood contributed money for those purchases. The money was given by Baptist Men from across the state.

The Brotherhood constructed a church in Charlotetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, with a multifaceted support team which led construction and completion within two years. Some Brotherhood team members also were responsible for the actual building design.

Currently, WMU and Brotherhood are combining efforts for the North Korean Relief project and plan to continue to fund efforts for Partnership Missions projects.

They also are coordinating a Missions Volunteer Celebration at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. ■



TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER coordinators to Poland present funds to Polish Baptist Seminary officials for white erasable boards and library books raised by Tennessee Woman's Mission Union. From left to right are: Henryk Podseadly, seminary administrator; Gustaw Cieslar, seminary rector; and Barbara and Charles Layton, volunteer coordinators for the Poland/Tennessee partnership.

Letters to new convention group of workers

Tim Bearden
Brotherhood Department
Tennessee Baptist Convention
PO Box 728
Brentwood, TN 37024

We are very grateful for your generous gift. We used the money to buy new clothes which we really needed.

May God bless you in everything you are doing for his glory. Thank you.

Students at the Polish Baptist Seminary

####

To Our Friend:

We would like to say a big thanks for your support. We are both students at the Polish Baptist Seminary. This year in May we finished studying here in Radosc and we are going to study more. We don't know where yet. We are waiting for God's answer where he wants us to be and serve him. Please pray for this decision.

We got money from you which we could spend for buying new clothes. We are going to buy

a jacket, two pairs of trousers, and a sweater. Every time we wear them we will ask God to bless you.

Thank you for your gift.

Edyta and Zbigniew
Wierzchowscy

####

The Tennessee Brotherhood
Dear Brothers in Christ:

At its recent General Business Meeting, the membership of the Community Baptist Church (Charlotetown, Prince Edward Island) voted unani-

mously that a letter be forwarded to you advising our heartfelt thanks for the support extended to us over the past two years.

We are assured that without this support, we would unlikely be in this beautiful house of God. We shall always be grateful.

Through our pastor, we send you greetings from this corner of his kingdom and trust that God will be with you always.

In His Name,
W.J. (Kip) Holloway,
Church Clerk

First Brotherhood team from state works in Poland

by Bob Davison
TBC Brotherhood Office

The first TBC Brotherhood Mission Team recently returned from Poland after spending two weeks doing light construction on a rustic youth camp outside Torun.

The seven-man team was led by Brotherhood program associate Bob Davison, a member of Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch. The following is his account of events leading up to the trip and the trip itself.

In November 1995, the Tennessee Brotherhood Department received the request to put together a team of five to seven members to go to Torun, Poland, to do light construction on a

rustic youth camp.

The project consisted of a two-week stint in very rustic conditions. The project was promoted as a trip for Older Challengers, a missions education program for senior high young men led by the Brotherhood Commission, through Baptist Men. It was also for those who could rough it for two weeks.

As interested individuals began to request information, more information became available on the camp. The conditions were extremely rustic. The new camp outside Torun had no running water or electricity.

It consisted of a barracks, constructed for Russian workers at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw, disassembled,

transported, and resembled in Torun. There was also a cooking shelter and a storage building.

By April we received pictures and a better description of the conditions at the camp from Partnership Missions volunteer coordinators Charles and Barbara Layton and Polish pastor Adam Gutsche. Gutsche serves as the administrator of the camp and pastor of the Baptist Church of Torun.

The camp pictures were taken in February when snow covered the ground. The barracks or main building had daylight shining through the walls and no insulation. This was the building where the team would be sleeping. There was a lake about 30 minutes from the camp where — See First, page 6



First Brotherhood team from state works ...

— Continued from page 5
the teams might be able to get a bath.

In May, the team included Jack Adkisson, Big Spring Church, Cleveland; Klyce Nolen, Sylvia Church, Charlotte; Aubrey Wilson and Craig Collins, both of North Jackson Church, Jackson; Adam Brannon, Central Church, Hixson; and Charles Fitzgerald, Oak Grove Church, Gray. Brannon was the youngest team member and the only Challenger. The seven, including myself, came together for the first time at the orientation for missions volunteers at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Although the conditions had been explained to all team members, seeing the camp pictures made everything become real. However this did not lessen God's calling to go or individual desire. All were excited about serving in Europe. For some it meant serving overseas for the first time, even though all were veterans of other missions trips.

The team members began their preparation for the trip. They purchased two manual post hole diggers and sent them with another team that went in June. We knew in advance that we would be building a fence around the camp property.

Our first day in Poland we wor-

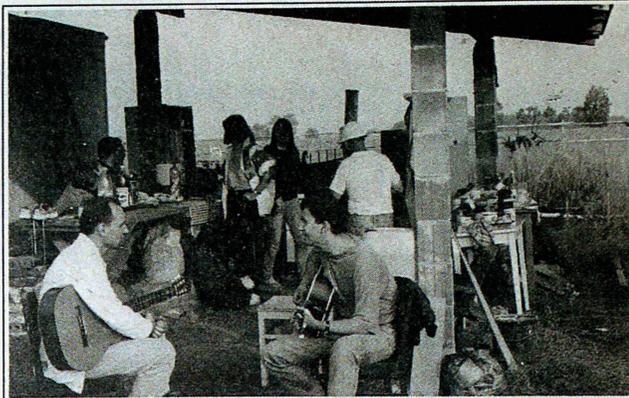
shipped with the English-speaking First Baptist Church of Warsaw where Robert Springle is pastor.

Monday morning began a new experience. There was a three-hour drive to the camp over Polish highways with European drivers. Often there were three and four vehicles abreast on a two-lane road.

After arriving at camp, we decided the pictures had shown a very true representation of the setting. It was rustic, but adequate for the team.

Our first assignment was to erect a large circus-type tent for storage of materials. Next we set up the newly made "outhouse."

The next morning we did not rise very early because of jet lag. Then the real work began. Some of the team began digging footers for the foundation of a new building while others began to skin the bark off 25-foot pine trees to make a fence.



MEMBERS OF the Baptist congregation Torun prepare to hold a worship and celebration service at the camp one evening.

cooked over a wood burning stove.

Our sleeping arrangements also were simple. Our hosts had supplied some folding cots from the seminary and we also used some beds already at camp.

On Sunday, the team worshiped with the members of the Baptist Church of Torun, a congregation of 17 which meets in Pastor Gutsche's home. This is the church that owns the camp and for whom we were working. The service was in Polish. The team did what Gutsche suggested, "If you do not understand the words, just worship along with us as you do your own thing."

By the end of two weeks, the team had painted the outside walls of the main barracks building and installed insulation in the ceiling. We installed five large windows in the exterior walls and put in four interior doors. We had also poured a foundation for the fireplace and leveled the floor so daylight only entered through the windows.

We built a fence that encompassed almost the entire camp property. We constructed a two-room building from the ground to the roof. We also remodeled the inside of the existing small

We learned that because of our late rising, we had missed the first breakfast in Poland which consisted of bread, meat, cheese, and jellies. We began getting up earlier. It was an experience eating traditional Polish meals, but no one lost any weight. One afternoon, we were served Polish sausage for dinner,

storage building, so it could be used as sleeping quarters for a family, and painted the outside of this building. We painted the roof of the cooking shelter. We were told that the team had accomplished the amount of work it would have taken them a year to do.

On our last night at camp, the church members came to camp to celebrate what had taken place with a meal and worship service. It was a great time together and a blessing to our team members to

have met and worked with the Church of Torun. They will be remembered and prayed for as we continue our lives.

Many of our team were able to give their testimonies on several occasions. In Warsaw and Torun, we witnessed to people on the streets. As for the construction work done at the camp, many young people will have the opportunity to attend this camp and hear the Word of God.

The entire team felt it was a rewarding trip — that they received a greater blessing than they could ever provide to those in Poland. Upon leaving, Gutsche asked if the team might consider returning next June to put on a few finishing touches. This would be before the church has their first group of campers next summer. All the team members agreed to consider the possibility of another trip and are seeking God's will.

The entire team has stories and photos to share with those interested in hearing more about Poland. If you are interested in a team member visiting your church or group, contact the Brotherhood Department at (615) 371-2025. ■ — Marcia Knox contributed to this story



VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE a load of pine trees at the camp. From left are Charles Fitzgerald, a Polish logger, Jack Adkisson, and Adam Brannon.

Poland coordinators envision 'dream camp' in Poland

By Barbara Layton
For "The Macedonian Call"

Barbara and Charles Layton are Tennessee/Poland Partnership volunteer coordinators who live and work in Warsaw. Barbara recently revealed her thoughts on the transition of the camp outside Torun by the Tennessee Brotherhood team in August.

It was one of the coldest days I had ever experienced in Poland. The wind whipped unmercifully across the open fields, covered with ice and snow.

A small wooden building and a lean-to shed, which stood alone in the midst of a barren field, was the beginning of a Polish pastor's dream

for a youth camp

My husband and I had traveled from Warsaw to Torun on a February Sunday to survey the situation at the area and to see if the Tennessee partnership could be of help in building a camp.

We listened intently as Polish pastor Adam Gutsche told us of his ideas and the possibilities of holding youth camps here. You could see his eyes sparkle as he envisioned what it could be. As we contemplated this rugged, half-finished building with no water and no heat, we too were caught up in Gutsche's dream.

Prayer requests were sent to Tennessee and you prayed with us for this camp. In August, you sent seven hearty

men who had a heart for God. They were willing to work from daylight to dark in a very unkind environment. They were a joy to know and an encouragement to our spirit.

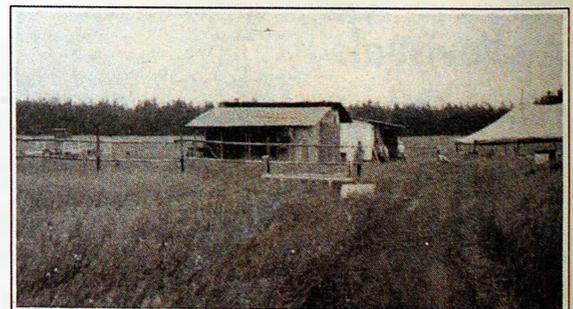
Two weeks later as we drove to the camp site, our eyes rested once again on this Polish pastor's dream and it was much closer to reality. Now there was a fence and an additional building and new doors and windows, and floors which had been rebuilt.

Gutsche told us the Brotherhood team had accomplished more in two weeks than he could have accomplished in a year.

Polish Baptist churches are small. Their funds are limited,

but their hearts are filled with love for the Lord. Their minds are full of dreams for the future.

How about you? Have you considered the possibility of becoming a volunteer? Poland is waiting. ■



THE DREAM CAMP TAKES shape outside Torun, Poland. In the foreground are the fence and building constructed by the Tennessee Brotherhood team. In the background is the main building.



Lead summer camp

Tennesseans minister to Filipinos in Canada

For "The Macedonian Call"

This summer Harvest View Church, Readyville, sponsored a missions team to lead a summer camp for the Filipino

Church in Calgary, Canada. The missions team was made up of 24 people from six churches. The team included members from Mt. Hermon Church, Southeast Church, and First Church,

all of Murfreesboro; Eagleville Church, Eagleville; and Trinity Church, Hendersonville.

The Filipino Church camp was held campsite in Cremona, which is around 45 miles northwest of Calgary. Over 150 people attended the camp which was held for five days with activities for all ages.

Meals for the Filipino campers were served by the Ten-

nessee crew. The menu consisted of Tennessee, Canadian, and Filipino meals.

Daily activities at the camp included camcraft, drama, singing, arts, crafts, Bible study, nature hikes, adventure games, and other special events.

The team made special friends in Canada, but also grew together in God's love, according to Brian Harrell, pastor, Harvest View Church, Readyville. It is hoped that this trip was the first of more missions efforts in Canada and other parts of the world led by the church, he said. ■

Letters from this Canada/Tennessee project

The trip to the Filipino Church camp was one of the best that I have experienced. The presence of the Lord was overwhelming. My life was blessed.

Since I got back to Eagleville, the Holy Spirit is continuing to work in my life. I have been able to give a testimony at church for the first time since I went through my divorce. I actually feel good about myself. I know that I can be used by God in many ways.

I want to be used as much as possible by the Lord. I would love to go back to Canada or anywhere else the Lord would have me go.

Benny Bolden
Eagleville Church, Eagleville

This trip lit a fire in my heart because of the fire I saw in the Filipino's hearts. God's spirit moved and challenged me to be more vocal about how much he has blessed me.

I was challenged to start a family Bible study with my husband and daughter and change things in our home. The Filipino children were so respectful. God used them to challenge us.

It opened my eyes and blessed my heart to see that God truly is working all around me. I have a family in Christ all over the world. God is so good!

Stephanie Eaglen
Harvest View, Readyville

Dear Terry Sharp,

Our mission work this summer to Cremona, Canada, was a blessing for Harvest View Church, Readyville!

God is so good! Our group is still celebrating all the great times that we shared in Canada.

I would like to thank you and the Tennessee Baptist Convention for providing us with the opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's great to be a part of the best missionary-sending convention in the world. Thanks for all your hard work.

We are currently putting together a prayer group to seek God's leading for further mission trips in the near future.

In Christ,
Brian Harrell, Pastor



MEMBERS OF THE mission team, led by Harvest View Church, Readyville, pause before heading for Cremona, Canada.

First Church, Erin, works with children in Michigan

For "The Macedonian Call"

A mission team from First Church, Erin, traveled this summer to Michigan to conduct two Backyard Bible Clubs. The clubs were held in Sturgis and White Pigeon, Mich., according to Ray Sorrells, pastor.

Included in the seven person team from First Church, Erin, were: three youth, Crystal Bailey, Allison Guinn, and Lisa Lane; youth minister, Amanda McGrady; Tom Moore; and Sorrells and his wife Bonnie.

The first Backyard Bible Club was held in a housing project, called Village Manor Apartments, in Sturgis where 37 children were enrolled. The club was promoted by the youth dressing up as clowns, passing out flyers, and personally inviting the children to attend.

The second club was conducted in the backyard of a private home in White Pigeon, which is around 12 miles from Sturgis. The home belonged to Dan Bosler, a graduate of a Southern Baptist seminary who formerly served as a pastor. He still has an interest in the pastoral ministry and said he would follow up on the children and families in the area.

The team primarily promoted this club among children in Kenny's Mobile Home Park outside of town. They provided van transportation for the children from the mobile home park to the Boslers' backyard, where a total of 22 enrolled in the club.

According to Sorrells, the team members felt that this club was the most significant because older children were enrolled. An older child made a profession of faith in this club

and the team gave the child a Bible, a *Survival Kit for New Christians*, and letters of encouragement. Bosler also made visits to the mobile home park since there is no Baptist church of any kind in White Pigeon.



LEADING a sing-a-long are, from left, Allison Guinn, Amanda McGrady, and Crystal Bailey at a Backyard Bible Club in a housing project in Sturgis, Mich.

Because they had a good experience on the trip, the team members expressed a desire to do another mission trip. Team members believed their ministry during this effort was effective and worthwhile, Sorrells said. ■

Church leads fifth effort in Michigan

Dear Terry:

Thanks for the certificates and beautiful pins for our missions team from Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet. This was our fifth trip to Michigan, and we ministered at Mt. Vernon Church in Redford.

Our teens held six simultaneous Backyard Bible Clubs as well as led worship services at Mt. Vernon Church. We spent about three months preparing our Bible club teams, and they also led a week of Backyard Bible Clubs in Mt. Juliet before we left for Michigan.

We have an active youth ministry program at Green Hill Church. We do many things and go many places. However, the mission trip to Michigan was by far our most rewarding experience. We slept on the floor at Mt. Vernon Church and took showers in a "monk monastery."

A highlight of this year's Michigan mission trip was an opportunity to lead worship services in a girls' detention center. I highly recommend that other groups consider a mission trip as a great avenue of blessing for their teens.

In His Grip,
Jerry Williams,
Assistant Pastor

1996 Volunteer Interest Form

If you are interested in participating in a partnership project for 1996, please complete this form and return it to our office: Tennessee Baptist Convention, Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____ Association _____

Please check ONE of the following areas where you could serve:

Canada Michigan Poland Costa Rica

Type of project you would like to be involved in _____

Date you would like to serve _____

Estimated number on team _____



Partnership Missions Newsletter

Canada

Dates: Aug. 5-10
Project #: CA-1
Muskoday Church in Birch Hill, requests 16 volunteers.

Dates: Open
Project #: FPIVS6601
Volunteers have been requested to complete a survey in two areas in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The survey will be in communities with many Vietnamese or Chinese residents.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PM11997614
Crossroads Church in Edmonton, Alberta, requests volunteers to do VBS/BYBC.

Dates: Open
Project #: PM11997620
Cambrian Heights Church in Calgary requests a team of 3-5 volunteers to conduct a children's festival including music, drama, puppets, teaching, and preaching.

Dates: Open
Project #: PM11997622
The Capilano Baptist Association in Gladstone, British Columbia, requests a church to partner with them in sponsoring a church plant.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PM11997632
Community Church in Charlotte-town, Prince Edward Island, requests a team to do a community survey and pass out information.

Dates: Open
Project #: PM11997641
A camp pastor is needed for a Wilderness Family Camp in Grande Prairie, Alberta. The camp serves 35-40 people. Pastor to focus on Bible studies and sermons.

Dates: Summer '97

Project #: A team of three or more volunteers (one camp pastor, two counselors) are needed for a youth camp in Grande Prairie, Alberta. They are expecting about 20 youth, ages 13-17.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PM11997643
New Life Chapel in Grande Prairie, Alberta, requests three volunteers to work in VBS.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PM11997644
New Life Chapel in Grande Prairie, Alberta, requests six volunteers (three males and three females) to act as camp pastor and counselors for a children's rustic camp with 50 children in grades 1-6.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PM11997650
The Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, requests 10-20 volunteers to help construct a playing field for various sports. Need baseball backstop, soccer goal posts, and landscaping.

Dates: July '97
Project #: PM11997652
The Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary requests 5-10 volunteers to work in the seminary library processing new books and audiovisual materials.

Michigan

Dates: Open
Project #: B-1
The Bay Area Association in Birch Run, requests five or more volunteers to do Backyard Bible Clubs.

Dates: June 15 - Aug. 15
Project #: M-1
Antioch Church in Roseville, requests two volunteers to work in a day camp.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: M-2
Central Church in Clinton Township, requests volunteers to help in the construction of its new sanctuary. The church has asked for people with all types of construction skills.

Dates: ASAP
Project #: M-3
The Macomb Association in Port Huron, requests a volunteer to do evangelism, leadership development, church planting activities, and music while helping begin a new church in the community.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-4
The churches of the Macomb Association request two volunteers to do a variety of ministries in several different churches. This would include music, creative arts, evangelism, VBS, drama, BYBC, puppets, and leadership development.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-5
A metro church in Harrison Township, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for ten weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-6
New Hope Church in Macomb Township, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-7
Dequindre Road Church in Warren, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama,

evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-8
Memorial Church in Sterling Heights, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-9
Genesis Church in Centerline, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-10
Antioch Church in Roseville, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-11
Bethel Church in Roseville, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Project #: M-12
Beaconsfield Church in Eastpoint, requests a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks. This would include VBS, puppets, BYBC, drama, evangelism, leadership development, etc.

Dates: July 21-25
Project #: O-1-97
Madison Heights Fellowship Church in Madison Heights, requests 14 volunteers to help in

VBS, BYBC, and to do survey work in the community.

Dates: Open
Project #: SC-1-97
Victory Church in Kalamazoo, requests a team of volunteers to conduct VBS or BYBC. Also some remodeling and light construction is needed.

Dates: Summer 1997
Project #: SC-2
South Central Association requests volunteers to do BYBC/VBS as well as some survey work or visitation.

Poland

Dates: Nov. '96
Project #: PS-1-96
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests a volunteer to develop plans for the landscaping of the campus grounds.

Dates: Open
Project #: PS-1
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests 60 volunteers to help finish the seminary Chapel basement and Fellowship Hall.

Dates: Summer '97
Project #: PS-2
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests a team to do finishing work on the attic over housing for the administrator and professors to make a couples' or women's dormitory.

Dates: June 7-20
Project #: PS-3
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests 10 volunteers to conduct a senior adult camp. This would involve devotionals, crafts, worship, etc.

Dates: March 8-16
Project #: PS-4
The Polish Baptist Seminary in

Warsaw requests 10 volunteers to do an educational business seminar. Also a classroom needs to be remodeled.

Dates: July 6-14
Project #: PS-5
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests 20 volunteers to lead a youth camp for about 80 students. This would include singing, recreation, Bible studies, crafts, discipleship training, and evangelism.

Dates: April '97
Project #: PS-8
The Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw requests volunteers to do general landscaping on the campus grounds. This work includes planting flowers, trees, etc.

Dates: June 29 - July 11
Project #: BP-1
Bielski Podlaski Church in Poland requests five - six volunteers to teach English as a second language to around 100 students. This includes evangelism and outreach activities in evenings. Saturday is for relaxing and sightseeing.

Costa Rica

Dates: Jan. 11-20
Project #:
Volunteers are needed to do simultaneous revivals in 20 churches in Costa Rica. A total of 15 revival teams are needed to be made up of three people. In each team, there will be a preacher, a musician, and a layman.

Dates: June 26 - July 5
Project #: PM719977800
Costa Rica has requested a team of six volunteers to do recreation, studies, and crafts for the missionary kids during the annual meeting of the missionaries.

Partnership Prayer Requests

October

- 16 — Pray for the growth of mission congregations in the Michigan Baptist Convention.
- 17 — Pray for the family of Andrew Kim, one of four university students killed in an automobile accident in Canada. His parents are members of the First Korean Church, Toronto.
- 18 — Pray for needs to be matched between Polish and Tennessee Baptists as they look forward to God's harvest in 1997.
- 19 — Pray for the Promise Keepers conference to be held today in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- 20 — Pray for the First Korean Church, Toronto, Canada, and its pastor III Hyun Yun as they minister.
- 21 — Pray for Rob Ross, pastor in Cumberland, British Columbia, Canada, who is seeking an additional job.
- 22 — Pray for Beaconsfield Church, Eastpoint, Mich.

Partnership Missions Office adds additional staff member

Do you want to be a Partnership Missions volunteer? Have you been one in the past? You may be interested in knowing about some recent changes in the Partnership Missions Office.

Partnership Missions now has a new staff member. Christina Peters began working for us in July. She will be the person to contact if you are interested in being a volunteer. If you need information on current projects, or if you would like to commit to a project, talk to her.

Peters can tell you about available projects with our partnerships in Canada, Costa Rica, Michigan, or Poland. She is not only working to promote projects, but to serve your needs as a Tennessee volunteer. She will provide you with the answers and the information you need to become a volunteer.

Once you have accepted a project, then your contact per-



HENDRICKS



PETERS

son will be Christie Hendricks. Hendricks has been managing the Partnership office since February 1996. She will be answering any questions about travel arrangements, insurance, and other important information you need for a successful mission trip.

Hendricks and Peters, otherwise known in the office as Christie and Christina, are making it easier for the Partnership Missions Office not only to meet the needs of our partnerships, but to efficiently meet the needs of the volunteers. Contact Hendricks at (615) 371-2064 and Peters at 371-2021. ■

Check online for info

The TBC Partnership Missions Office is now online with SBC Net through CompuServe. Access the SBC Net and then State Convention Forum. Go to Library Browse and then Tennessee. Under Partnership Missions, look for the updated "Macedonian Call."

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

Send Prayer Requests online through CompuServe's e-mail to Marcia Knox, 104520,3323. ■

Become a Prayer Partner

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

Prayer Partner

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Church _____

Association _____

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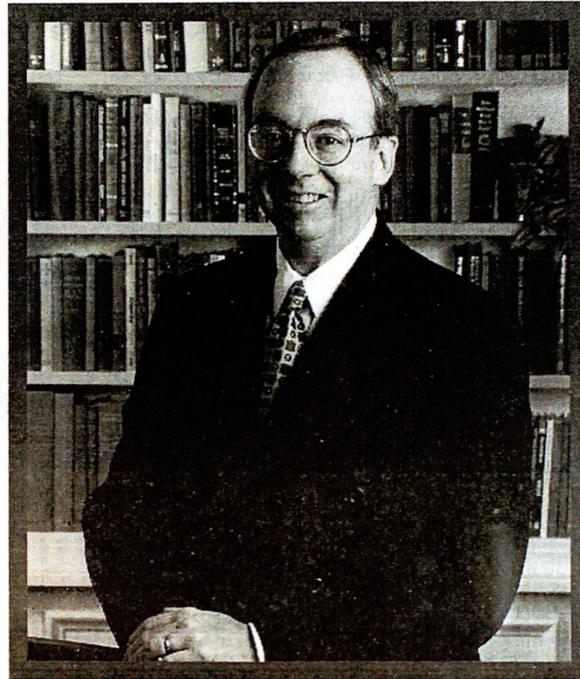
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"Under God's leadership, Union University is building on a solid foundation to create an exciting future. The features that characterize Union—our dedication to Christian distinctives, emphasis on academic excellence, and evangelical commitment—are the elements which will make Union one of our nation's premier Christian universities in the 21st century. We invite you to be a part of Union's future."

DAVID S. DOCKERY, PRESIDENT, UNION UNIVERSITY



The Trustees of Union University are pleased to announce the inauguration of David Dockery as the University's Fifteenth President.

Dr. Dockery, author of six books and widely-known New Testament scholar, has preached and lectured around the world. He is the former general editor of the *New American Commentary* and currently serves as a contributing editor for

Christianity Today. A nationally respected educator and a visionary leader, David Dockery is prepared and committed to continue Union University's tradition of excellence into the 21st century.



Recent Books by David Dockery

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<http://www.uu.edu>

Jewish organization targets SBC for protest/funds campaign

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — B'nai B'rith has launched a campaign against the Southern Baptist Convention's 1996 resolution on Jewish evangelism and is using the campaign to raise funds.

B'nai B'rith describes itself as "the world's oldest and largest Jewish organization," founded 153 years ago, now with programs in "community service, public affairs, and disaster relief." It has headquarters in Washington and members in 56 countries.

In a national mailing, B'nai B'rith urges an attached, form letter-type postcard be sent to SBC offices here, which declares, "The outrageous Southern Baptist Convention resolution advocating an active program of converting Jews to Christianity is both condescending and contemptuous. This profoundly disrespectful action demonstrates a basic lack of respect for Judaism as a sister religion. For men and women of the worldwide Jewish community, Jewish identity is a meaningful and joyous part of who we are. Our Jewish values sustain us today as they have through centuries of persecution. And we are proud of our Jewishness. That is why this organizational decision by the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion is so deeply offensive. I strongly urge its immediate repeal."

The letter also asks for funds to finance the effort.

The letter detailing the B'nai B'rith campaign, from the organization's international president, Tommy Baer, is on stationery topped with "AIR EXPRESS" and underscored by the word, "URGENT," nine times. The appeal was mailed to about 100,000 people, said Robin Schwartz-Kreger, B'nai B'rith's director of media relations.

Several thousand postcards have been received by the SBC Executive Committee and are being answered by Morris H. Chapman, the committee's president and chief executive officer.

Chapman writes: "The Resolution on Jewish Evangelism, adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13, 1996, states that 'We are indebted to the Jewish people, through whom we have received the Scriptures and our Savior, the Messiah of Israel.' I believe it demonstrates respect rather than 'a basic lack of respect for Judaism as a sister religion,' as your communi-

cation asserts.

"The resolution does not suggest or imply that Jewish people should forsake their Jewish identity or their Jewish values," Chapman continues. "The Southern Baptists who adopted it believe, as did the apostle Paul who held his Jewish identity and values in high regard, that 'there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men - the testimony given in its proper time' (1 Timothy 2:5-6). The apostle Paul also taught 'That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved' (Romans 10:9-10).

"That belief, coupled with

love and goodwill for all people, culminates in the earnest desire that our Jewish friends know Jesus as the Messiah," Chapman writes. "The resolution implies no coercion and no rejection, religious or social. It only affirms the communication of New Testament theology that grows out of Old Testament history and prophecy, in which Baptists have been involved for centuries. ... I encourage you to take note of numerous congregations of 'Messianic Jews' in the United States and Israel who celebrate their Jewish culture and historic religious rituals as well as their devotion to Messiah Jesus."

On June 10, SBC Home Mission Board directors ap-

pointed a couple, Jim and Kathy Sibley, as home missionaries to develop evangelistic ministries among Jews and start churches in predominantly Jewish communities. HMB work with Jewish people began in 1921. The position was suspended in 1989, but work among Jewish people has continued through the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship and dialogue with Jewish leaders.

Phil Roberts, director of the HMB interfaith witness department, said Baer's letter evidences the resolution "has been largely misunderstood and misrepresented by the press and by much of the Jewish community." ■

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No substitutes

By Ron Galyon

Focal Passage — Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 4:19; Jeremiah 7:12-15; Colossians 1:15; 2:9

Have you ever known anyone who was so independent when they went into a department store to buy something they prefer to search and search to find it themselves rather than ask a store clerk for help? Many of us have the attitude we want to do it ourselves. My son tells me I am that way. He has even gone so far as to say I am stubborn! I tell him I am fiercely independent. To be stubborn sounds like you have to have things your way. I want to be in control. There are probably many like me who want to be in control rather than submitting to God's control. The lesson title is accurate because there can be "No substitutes" when it comes to God being the Lord of our lives.

There is a very interesting process that you can use in the study of the Old Testament. This process can help you gain insight into the principles that apply to your life. Here are the three steps: understand the Old Testament practice in its proper setting and context, draw from that Old Testament practice God's eternal truth, and make the application of God's eternal truth to your life.

Walk with me through this process as we seek to understand the second of the Ten Commandments.

The Old Testament practice: God cannot be limited or controlled (Exodus 20:4-6, Deuteronomy 4:19). In the Old Testament world the people believed in many gods. The gods were represented through different images. For example, the Canaanite god, Baal, was the image of a warrior who held in his hand a thunderbolt. Other gods and goddesses were depicted either in human or animal form. The form of the image of the god would reveal something about the role or power of the god. Usually different gods controlled different aspects of nature and the image revealed what the god controlled.

To have an idol was to have a god that had been limited and could be controlled. It is critical to understand that this commandment applied to attempting to limit the true and living God to a form that could be controlled.

The eternal principle: God is the sovereign Lord (Exodus 20:4-6). The principle that we can draw from this Old Testament practice is that God is in absolute control. Even when God has given us a choice, he is in charge. Exodus 20:5-6 shows us the great impact of obedience and also the impact of disobedience. To attempt to control or manipulate God is a self-deception. It cannot be done. God is in control.

Present application: We must live in the joy of submission to God (Exodus 20:6; Colossians 1:15; 2:9). God has designed us, created us, and knows what is best for our lives. It is best when we live in obedience to his word and in submission to his Lordship. When we do, we will be surrounded by his mercy.

Wait a minute before we stop. If God cannot be limited to an image that I can hold in my hand, then how can I know God? Colossians 1:15 shows us that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God" and in verse 19 that the "fullness" of God is revealed in Jesus. We know God through Jesus.

Who is your Lord? You or God? You do not need a substitute for your Lord. You need submission. ■ — Ron Galyon is pastor of First Church, Pulasqui.

A rebellious people

By Michael Smith

Focal Passage — Ezekiel 2:3-7; 3:4-11

Where did the prophets find the necessary strength to endure in their work? Ezekiel's calling, ministry context, and equipping supply answers.

Ezekiel's calling. The focal passages portray God speaking to Ezekiel. How God did so is not the point. That God spoke to the prophet is crucial. God communicated with Ezekiel and commissioned him as a prophet. Throughout the long and difficult years of his ministry, Ezekiel drew strength from his assurance of God's direct call.

God defined the timing and content of Ezekiel's message. The prophet would speak only what God gave him to say (ch. 2:4, 7; 3:4). Ezekiel was "to listen carefully" to all the words God would speak to him. Ezekiel would be able to endure in his ministry because his message was from God and not of his own contriving.

How does the calling of Ezekiel relate to a Christian's life and ministry? It suggests that we minister best when we have a strong sense of God's calling to a particular task coupled with an ongoing experience of communion with God.

Family Bible Lesson

Ministry context. God sent Ezekiel to a specific group of people, those who were exiles (ch. 3:15). The exiles had been uprooted from their homes and lifestyles in Jerusalem. We can imagine the variety of their reactions to their circumstances and even God: depression, denial, resentment, hope, anger, and the like. They certainly brought one trait with them into exile: a stubborn resistance to God and his ways (ch. 2:4; 3:7). Ezekiel would spend his life working among

a displaced people and speaking a message they did not want to hear.

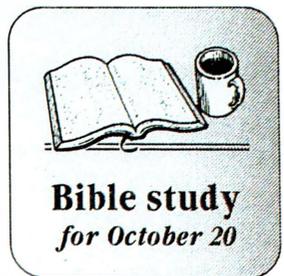
God still sends us into difficult ministry contexts. Sometimes the most challenging assignments require us to minister to Christians who are in quiet or open rebellion against God. Never mistake the call of God to be an invitation to a life of ease.

Equipped by God. Having called Ezekiel to be his prophet among an "obstinate and stubborn" people, God provided him with what he needed. First, God strengthened Ezekiel's courage. The prophet would not be cowed by apparent failure or threats. Second, God nourished Ezekiel's mind and spirit with his word. Ezekiel's work would be draining, and he would not be able to rely upon others to refresh him. God would supply his need. Third, God bestowed upon Ezekiel a stubbornness to match that of God's wayward people. The very name "Ezekiel" means God strengthens or God hardens. In short, God equipped Ezekiel for his particular mission.

When God calls us, he also begins to equip us for our personal ministries. God never sends us unprepared into his mission fields.

When all was said and done, God directed Ezekiel to "go now to your countrymen." God's calling and equipping work in our lives is not an end in itself but rather preparation for ministry. He sends us to work among the people and within the circumstances he has chosen for us. The task is hard. We will be sustained by the reality of our calling and the gifts which God has given us.

Like Ezekiel, may we be open to God's direction. ■ — Michael Smith is pastor of Second Church, Memphis.



The person who is blessed

By Thom Tapp

Focal Passage — Matthew 5:3-12

One of the happiest persons I know is "Granny W." She isn't wealthy. Granny is 96, and loves life. How do people like Granny maintain such a bright outlook? Is there a formula for happiness?

As Jesus' ministry grew, many responded to his message of love and hope. The Beatitudes represent the elements required for true happiness. In contrast, religious leaders of Jesus' day emphasized slavery to the religious system.

The setting (vv. 1-2). Jesus spoke to his disciples, and to the multitudes who followed him. A master teacher, he used word pictures, illustrations, and object lessons. The multitudes followed Jesus for many reasons and he kept their attention.

The Beatitudes (vv. 3-12). Just as every Christian should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, each quality embodied within the Beatitudes should describe every Christian. Jesus made two general points with the use of the Beatitudes. He taught that a child of God had a new nature and there were rewards for God's children. Joy doesn't depend on circumstances, but on a person's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Explore the Bible Lesson

In the first four Beatitudes Jesus pronounces a blessing on the person who totally depends on God for his well being. In the last four, he tells us the benefits of trusting God.

Verse 3: Being blessed means one is joyfully satisfied. Jesus wasn't saying poverty was a mark of spirituality, but that the first step toward a right relationship with God is the recognition of our need of God. The Kingdom of heaven here is the surrender of self to God's kingship.

Verse 4: Have you ever met a "happy sad person?" The Bible says "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." That is what Jesus was saying. Our sorrow over sin brings us to confession and repentance before God.

Verse 5: Meekness is restraint from abuse of power. It enables us to stand firm on our principles while we tolerate the shortcomings of others. A Christian will not claw his way to the top, but will accept God's blessings as they are "inherited." Jesus was our example in meekness.

Verse 6: The focal point of the Beatitudes is found here. When a person "hungers" for righteousness, he will find it in Jesus Christ. Happiness can be gained only through a personal relationship with Jesus. Je-

sus is the embodiment of joy.

Verse 7: Jesus says it is to our benefit to be merciful. There is a great satisfaction

in mercy. Merciful people are usually dealt with mercifully.

Verse 8: To the people of Jesus' times, the heart was associated with emotion and intelligence. Blessed are those who have pure thoughts, and whose emotions are under control. "Unto the pure in heart all things are pure." They don't expect the worst of people.

Verse 9: Those who make peace with God are called to help others make peace with God, and with each other. All peace is tied to peace with God.

Verse 10-12: Those who are at peace with God are at enmity with the world system. Even when persecuted, God's presence is abundant compensation, and we look forward to God's promise of the Kingdom of heaven.

Salt and light (vv. 13-16). Jesus called God's children the salt of the earth. Salt provides taste, it preserves, and it is needed to sustain life. As Christians we are called on to give flavor to our world, point to the one who can preserve and sustain life, and be salt in this world in the physical absence of our Lord. ■

— Thom Tapp is pastor of Oral Church, Lenoir City.



Tennessee features

leaders

■ **John Billington**, Baptist Student Union director the University of Tennessee - Memphis, for 24 years who has served in BSU



ministry for 38 years retired recently. He also led BSU work at the UT - Martin, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va. Billington is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Springfield College, where he earned a master's in physical education; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned a master's in religious education; and the University of Memphis, where he earned a master's of education.

■ Retired missionary **Anne Sowell Margrette**, who worked in Argentina, will be honored by Eudora Church, Memphis, where she is a member on Oct. 20 during the morning worship service and in a reception following.

■ Holston Valley Association honored **Johnnie Hall Jr.**, Tennessee Discipleship Training Director, at its Discipleship Rally '96. Hall spoke at the event, which was held at First Church, Rogersville, which Hall considered his home church when growing up. About 400 people attended. Hall was given a University of Tennessee football jersey signed by the football team's coaches and a photo of the church. He also was given the

report that 37 Bibles will be placed by the Gideon organization in his honor. Hall will retire at the end of the year after serving the convention for 37 years.

missionaries

■ **David and Jana Benjamin**, missionaries to Hong Kong, are on the field and can be reached at Mongkok City Centre, 5th Floor, 74-84 Sai Teung Choi St. S, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong. She considers Nashville her hometown.

■ **Steven and Susan Jett**, Baptist representatives of Germany, are on the field and can be reached at Wannsee Strasse 9, D-49661 Cloppenberg, Germany. He is a native of Knoxville.

■ **John McPherson**, missionary to Zambia, is on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 320034, Lusaka, Zambia. He is a native of Knoxville.

churches

■ **Dyllis Church, Harri-**man, will hold revival Oct. 27-30. Steve McDonald, pastor, Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, will speak and Bruce Gouge, minister of music, will lead the music.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will host Kirk Talley in concert Oct. 20 at 7 p.m.

■ **Milton Church, Milton**, will hold revival Oct. 20-27. Leroy Jennings from Clark's Hill, Ind., will speak and Carl Connelly will lead the music. To kick off the services, homecoming activities will be held Oct. 20.

■ **Gallaher Memorial Church, Knoxville**, will hold a homecoming Oct. 20. Former pastor D.L. Hammer will speak during the morning worship service. Activities will include a luncheon and music

★ THREE ★		★ BEST OF '96 ★					
1		AUGUST 25TH					
★ SIX ★		★ TEN YEARS OF GROWTH ★					
CLASS	GOAL 8/4	8/25	CLASS	GOAL 8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
GEN. OFFICERS	6		YOUTH III				
PRESCHOOL I	5		ADULT I	11	11	12	
PRESCHOOL II	7		ADULT II				
PRESCHOOL III	10		ADULT III	48	81	52	
PRESCHOOL IV	16		ADULT IV				
CHILDREN I	16		ADULT	14	17		
CHILDREN II	9		ADULT				
CHILDREN III	13		ADULT			17	25
YOUTH I	13		ADULT				
YOUTH II	24		TOTAL	267	332		

CELEBRATING 10 consecutive years of growth in Sunday School Aug. 25 are leaders of Highland Park Church, Jackson, Jerry Eggenberger, left, pastor, and Carl Lee, Sunday School director. Eggenberger has been pastor for 10 years, and the church has grown from an average of 85 in Sunday School to 241. The Best of the Year Day, a promotional program devised by Eggenberger, drew 332. The church also has averaged 20 baptisms each year and grown in other areas.

service beginning at 1:30 p.m.

■ **Bordeaux Church, Nashville**, will hold Homecoming and Old Fashioned Day Oct. 27. Activities include a luncheon and afternoon program featuring the Music City Boys.

■ **First Church, Hunter, Elizabethton**, will host the Blackwood Brothers Quartet of Memphis Oct. 17. The group, which began performing in 1934, will perform at 7 p.m. They have won nine Grammy awards and 27 Dove awards.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will observe its eighth anniversary Oct. 20. Activities will include a luncheon following morning worship service and a program beginning at 1 p.m.

■ **First Church, Rogersville**, will hold revival Oct. 20-23. Carroll Owens of Nashville, retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Aubrey Floyd will speak.

■ **Immanuel Church, Nashville**, is joining St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville, and the Jewish Temple there in sponsoring the third annual Boulevard Bolt on Nov. 28 at 8 a.m. The fundraising event is a five-mile run/walk on Thanksgiving

morning. It will benefit three agencies in the city providing assistance to people in need of housing. For more information contact Debbie Maxwell at (615) 297-5356.

■ **Ken Story**, pastor, Germantown Church, Germantown, and former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is the featured speaker of the fall revival of **First Church, Watertown**, Oct. 20-24. Leading the music will be Jane Greene Johnson.

■ **Valley Grove Church, Knoxville**, will hold its second annual Fall Ladies Retreat Nov. 15-16 at the Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg. Paulette Phillips of Central Church, Hixson, will speak. Rhonda Thomas of First Church, Smithville, will provide music. The theme is "The Time of Your Life." Call Jim Alexander at (423) 579-3794 for more information.

state events

■ **The Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association** will hold a pre-convention meeting Nov. 11 at First Church, Donelson. It will feature Kent and Gloria Fox and a meal. Reservations should be

made with Conroy Ryan, secretary/treasurer of the group, by calling (423) 922-2322.

associations

■ **The Woman's Missionary Union of Holston Valley Association** held its fifth Missions Fair Sept. 21 at Cherokee Comprehensive High School in Rogersville. Over 800 people participated. Thirteen churches provided booths. Special guests were Terry Sharp of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Gustar Cieslars, president of the Polish Baptist Seminary. Tennessee and Polish Baptists are participating in a partnership relationship. Other guests were Johnnie Hall Jr. of the TBC and six missionaries.

■ **The Shelby Baptist Foundation of Shelby Baptist Association** has awarded four scholarships recently to the following students, Angela Paige Potter, a member of Eudora Church, Memphis, and a student at the University of Tennessee; John Prince, a member of Audubon Park Church, Memphis, and a student at Oklahoma Baptist University; Jeanine Hallberg, a member of Boulevard Church, Southaven, Miss., and a student at Crichton College; and Robert Bellw, a member of Forest Hill Church, Germantown, and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Shelby Association** will host a conference, "Reclaiming Urban America," Nov. 14-16 at Dellwood Church, Memphis. For more information call Phil Weatherwax at Bellevue Church, (901) 385-5820. It also will hold a Conversational English Workshop Nov. 1-2, 8-9 at Germantown Church, Germantown. The training can provide certification to teach English as a Second Language. For more information contact Jean Thompson at (901) 682-4298 or Ruth Harrod at 682-8074.

Center Hill Church, Counce, celebrates 125th anniversary



PAUSING before the morning activities on Sept. 22 are members, from left, Tom Burks, Luther Hindman, Harry Byrd, and Leck Wilbanks, who are dressed for the occasion.



RECEIVING a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society is Lauren Locke, right, interim pastor, from John Bedford, director of missions, Shiloh Association.



DRESSED for the activities are Judy and Frances Locke.