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# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

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## Missions involvement priority for TBC president

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — When messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting recently elected a new convention president, they chose a man with a heart for missions.

In fact, they couldn't miss. Three men from West Tennessee were nominated for the position — and all three are missions-minded.

Herbert Higdon, former director of missions now serving as a pastor, won out over Ronnie Wilburn, Jackson pastor, and M. B. Howard, Covington layman.

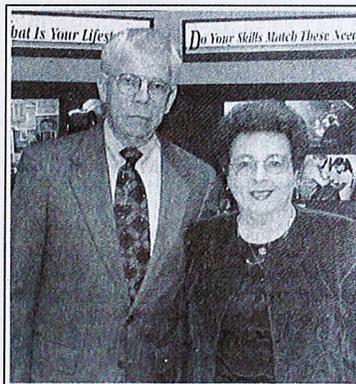
In a post-convention interview, Higdon, who is pastor of Cross Roads Church, Bells, was quick to give volunteer missions high priority.

"One of the best plans Tennessee Baptists have is missions involvement," the new president said.

He has served on many volunteer mission trips, including Poland, Costa Rica, and Chile.

"The great number of people involved in short term missions is indicative of our love for missions.

"I hope this missions involvement will continue to expand," Higdon said. "I'm dreaming of the time when we will have real, honest revival in our churches. That's a second priority, just as important."



HERBERT AND MARY LOU HIGDON — He is new president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Higdon added, "If we make a strong effort to follow Henry Blackaby's exhortations, we could see revival in Tennessee.

"In his devotionals, he has done a superb work in confronting our convention with our greatest need — a fresh spiritual awakening."

Higdon continued, "I believe if we heed this call, the result will be spiritual harmony and total unity among us. I am convinced that it is absolutely essential that we learn to accept diver-

sity in our convention."

Higdon and his wife of 49 years, the former Mary Lou Lankfort, met and married while students at Union University.

He is from Memphis, and she is a native of Ripley.

The new TBC president received his M. Div. degree at Southwestern and Southern seminaries, and earned the D. Min. at Southern.

They have three daughters, Anita Simons, Cordova; Nancy Tucker, Jackson; and Susan Hopper, Jackson. There are three grandchildren.

Higdon served as director of missions for Madison-Chester and Crockett associations for 12 years, retiring in 1994. He has been pastor of Cross Roads Church since then.

He has served as pastor of churches in Brownsville, Celina, Memphis, Dyer, and Nashville.

Higdon has been involved in associational and statewide ministries during his entire ministry. He has served on the TBC Executive Board and has been president, 1995-96. He also has been heavily involved with Union.

"I am grateful in the trust Tennessee Baptists showed in electing me," he said, "and I solicit their prayers. Ronnie Wilburn and M. B. Howard are good friends of mine, and either would have served well in this position." *B&R*

## 4,000 Christians gather to fast, seek God

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — About 4,000 Christians from across the nation gathered for three days of fasting and prayer Nov. 14-16 in St. Louis. Thousands more joined the third annual event — this year called "Fasting and Prayer '96" — via 140-plus satellite sites.

"We're here to challenge Christians to humble themselves before the Lord and pray," said Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright, who co-chaired the event with his wife, Vonette. "We are experiencing what other nations have experienced when they turned their backs on God. The goal here is to say, 'Lord, we have sinned against you, and we ask you to forgive us and heal our land.'"

The event originated two years ago when 600 Christian leaders from numerous denominations met in Orlando, Fla., to fast and pray. This year in St. Louis, people from California to Florida gathered in groups of 10 to 12 to pray for

revival in their lives, their churches, and their country. Many also fasted for the three days.

Sally Crockett, a participant from Knoxville, said she believes real revival in America must begin with Christians getting on their knees. "I need a personal revival. This event is just as much for me as it is for the nation. I'm realizing just how desperately we as Christians need to be humbled. We think the problem is with everybody else, but it's got to begin with us."

The event was divided into seven themes beginning with confession and forgiveness during the Thursday evening session. Speakers focused participants on praying for other themes Friday and Saturday — leaders and government; the church; the family; the Great Commission; "specialty groups," including the media and athletes; and personal spiritual growth.

Speakers included SBC President Tom Elliff; Shirley Dobson, chairperson of the Na-

tional Day of Prayer; Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers; Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network; and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova.

"We as Christians have been saying too much of 'Our Father who is in Washington,' instead of 'Our Father who is in heaven,'" Rogers said in a news conference preceding the event. "The problem is not in the White House, Hollywood, or the schoolhouse; it's in the church house.

"We're here to seek God's face, not God's hand. Revival is the smile of God. He's had to turn away his face from a nation rotten in sin. We are here to beg his forgiveness."

Elliff said he had one request of participants.

"Weep for the church as Christ wept over Jerusalem. Christ loved the church and gave himself for the church, so that we might present a glorious, holy church to God without blemish. But we are not without blemish." ■

## A joyful Thanksgiving!

Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen and the *Baptist and Reflector* staff wish our readers a joyful, peaceful, safe Thanksgiving holiday.

The staff counts you, our readers, among our blessings. Other Thanksgiving thoughts are on pages 4-5. *B&R*

## Blackaby's talks available on tape

BRENTWOOD — Yes, the Henry Blackaby messages given at the recent Tennessee Baptist Convention were taped, and can be ordered.

Many inquiries requesting cassette tapes of the messages on spiritual awakening have come to the Baptist Center.

A set of six tapes can be ordered for \$12.50, plus \$1 for handling and shipping.

Order from Gerald Smith, 113 Chaparral, Hendersonville, Tenn. 37075. The set of six tapes will be sent promptly. *B&R*

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## For those involved in SBC restructuring

# Severance packages approved

By Herb Hollinger  
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The severance benefits package for employees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission who will not be employed by the North American Mission Board has been approved with staff reductions "imminent."

The number of employees to be released as the result of the merger of the three agencies into NAMB has not been announced. Earlier reports said a "considerable" number of the 500 employees of the three agencies would not be employed by NAMB when it officially becomes a part of the SBC in June 1997, as part of a convention-wide restructuring begun in 1995.

Jack Johnson, RTVC president and chairman of the nine-member Logistics Transition Team for NAMB, said the severance package was approved at a Nov. 14 meeting of the LTT here.

He described the package as "completed in the spirit of generosity. However, we understand the pain the employee will feel who learns he or she no longer has a job. We feel we have done everything possible in the severance area to be supportive of each person."

Citing the staff reductions as "imminent, before the end of 1996," Johnson said each employee will receive individual counsel and will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification related to options and severance benefits.

Those eligible for severance benefits include Brotherhood, RTVC, and Home Mission

Board employees who are (1) notified that due to restructuring they will have no job available at their current location or (2) offered a job with NAMB at a lower pay level. Employees who will not have placement will be given four weeks notice before their termination date. Severance policies could be continued through Dec. 31, 1997, because of the transition process.

Benefits, under the package, include one week of pay for each year of denominational service provided with a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of 26 weeks and medical and/or dental insurance benefits currently in place at each agency or insurance benefits of the successor agency (NAMB) will continue through the severance period. Employees also will be paid for unused vacation leave. ■

## Georgia Baptists receive bomb scare

By James Dolson  
For Baptist Press

PERRY, Ga. — The Georgia Baptist Convention elected Atlanta-area pastor Frank Cox as its new president by a margin of more than 63 percent during its 175th anniversary annual meeting, a gathering that turned up a few surprises that added to an already-full agenda.

More than 6,100 registered messengers meeting at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter here Nov. 11-12 also:

(1) handed a surprise defeat to a comprehensive slate of amendments to the GBC constitution and bylaws recommended by the convention's executive committee.

(2) affirmed and adopted as their own a resolution calling on Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey to reconsider the variant theological views in his recent book, *When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest*, and calling on Mercer's board of trustees to address the concerns with Godsey at their next meeting.

(3) celebrated the 175th anniversary of both the convention and its newspaper, *The Christian Index*, and the 50th anniversary of Truett-McConnell College, with an array of activities that included a reception, historical re-enactments throughout the fairgrounds site and an original drama bringing to life the importance of understanding and

learning from Georgia Baptist history.

(4) adopted a record 1996 Cooperative Program budget of \$38 million, which is divided evenly between Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention causes after 10.62 percent is taken out for "shared responsibilities."

The new budget is 4.77 percent above the current year's and retains the current GBC/SBC allocation percentage. GBC Executive Director J. Robert White noted during the meeting that through Oct. 31 Cooperative Program receipts are running 5.35 percent above last year for the same period.

Meanwhile, the convention faced time constraints imposed not only by a heavy business agenda and a shortened schedule that eliminated the traditional final Wednesday morning session, but also a bomb threat the middle of Tuesday afternoon that cleared the Agricenter for about an hour while authorities searched the premises. Observers were impressed with the orderly fashion in which messengers quietly cleared the convention hall.

No bomb was found, however, and most of the time was made up with the elimination of a few hymns and shortened business sessions. The bomb threat apparently came from a female voice at a phone booth at a Warner Robins restaurant, but authorities had no other leads in the case as of press time.

The convention closed with

hundreds of messengers responding to a call by speaker Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., to come forward and join him in prayer for repentance and spiritual awakening.

The election of Cox, pastor of North Metro First Church in Lawrenceville, followed nearly a year of political campaigning on behalf of conservative- and moderate-backed slates. ■

## Native Tennessee missionary sees positive missions results in Germany

For Baptist and Reflector

STRAUBING, Germany — If the baptism of six new Christians wasn't exciting enough, the seven professions of faith that followed should have thrilled a volunteer missions team from Woodstock, Ga., that recently worked with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Tim Vaughn.

The baptism service held in a local swimming pool included Vaughn's 11-year-old daughter, an 80-year-old woman, a professional soccer player, and a lady who had attended Bible study for 30 years but had never made a decision for Christ, said Vaughn, who considers Chattanooga his hometown.

A worship service following the baptism ran for two hours as people gave spontaneous testimonies to God's working in their lives. Among those ac-

## Tom Elliff seeks recommendations

Baptist Press

DEL CITY, Okla. — Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff has issued a request for Baptists' input in the selection of four key SBC committees he is responsible for appointing — Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Tellers Committee, and Credentials Committee.

Elliff said individuals recommended for service should possess the following qualities.

(1) A personal relationship with Christ illustrated by a consistent daily walk with him.

(2) A clear commitment to the view that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

(3) A Christian walk and commitment acknowledged by his or her peers.

(4) A deep and unequivocal commitment to the work of the SBC as supported through the Cooperative Program and annual SBC offerings.

(5) An understanding that any responsibility with the SBC is a place of service rather than "positional glory."

For recommendation forms, write: Tom Elliff, First Southern Baptist Church, P.O. Box 15039, Del City, OK 73155. ■

# Billy Graham to present Christmas 'peace plan' via TV

By Dan Wooding  
For Baptist Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Evangelist Billy Graham will go on television this Christmas season to present the fragile world with an ultimate "Peace Plan" that can change the face — and hearts — of mankind.

Graham's peace message will be presented in a world television Christmas special called, "A Season For Peace," to be aired in North America Dec. 3 and around the world in more than 150 countries and territories in 33 languages throughout the month of December.

Negotiations are in the final stages for an extended broadcast on two international satellite systems whose "footprints" cover two-thirds of the world's population, including many countries traditionally closed to the Gospel.

"Even though we celebrate the birth of the 'Prince of

Peace' at Christmas, peace itself seems illusive," Graham says in the program, in a message from the biblical text of John 3:16. "There are border disputes, ethnic war, religious battles, and perhaps most persuasively, people are battered by conflicts within. All over our world, people are beginning to realize that in their quest for peace, what they are really searching for is God."

"A 'Season For Peace' is not a traditional 'Christmas program,'" said Bob Williams, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association international ministries director. "Instead, it contains a message by Billy Graham about peace with God, peace among people, and the birth of the Prince of Peace, amplified with music and video in a powerful, dra-



GRAHAM

matic way. This program speaks to people — regardless of their language or culture."

In countries where people are less likely to be familiar with the Christmas story, the TV program begins with a contemporary theatrical interpretation of the simple Christmas story. The four-minute segment has a global "feel" in style and uses only Scripture as narration.

The special includes perspectives from Nobel Peace Prize recipients Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa on the world's unceasing quest for peace.

Also featured in the special is a commentary by former President Jimmy Carter on the need to "look within" to find the problems that create tension and distrust.

Viewers also will meet on the TV screen a variety of individuals who have found peace in their lives through a gen-

uine encounter with Jesus Christ.

"These are real people who, despite not being sports heroes or being well known for what they do, will attract people to who they are and, more importantly, what they have found," Williams said. "They are individuals who have begun to experience peace, in spite of the restless circumstances of their lives."

The stories are drawn from places like Paris; Bangkok, Thailand; and Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic — areas of the world staggering under the constant torment of unrest or pressures of urban life. The real-life stories will be told in small segments augmenting points in Graham's message.

Another feature of the Christmas TV special will be "Operation Matthew" in which Christians again will be encouraged to invite friends into their homes to view the program and discuss its message.

"The average Christian in North America fails to realize the evangelistic impact of a prime-time telecast around the world," Williams said, noting that "very few countries have the proliferation of cable and channel selections found in North America."

Graham's "World Television Series" last April confirmed the viability of the house party concept, as one million participating churches had an average of 20 per congregation. National church leaders have expressed renewed commitment to foster even greater participation, aiming for 30-40 house parties per church for the Christmas special.

The broadcast, another step in Graham's worldwide television ministry, will provide Christians around the world an opportunity "to explain to friends and neighbors what Christmas is all about," Williams said. ■

## Florida convention cites Bible as key to 'cooperating' church

By Barbara Denman  
For Baptist Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — Keith Thomas, pastor of First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., one of the largest churches along Florida's Gold Coast, was elected president of the Florida Baptist State Convention during its Nov. 11-13 annual meeting.

Thomas, 40, who ran without opposition for the one-year term, represents the third president in as many years from the baby-boom generation. He will succeed Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church, Pensacola, who was not eligible for re-election.

In other business, after a spirited 45-minute discussion, messengers approved a lengthy document that defines parameters for churches wanting to affiliate with the state convention.

According to John Sullivan, the convention's executive director-treasurer, the document, which revised the convention's constitutional bylaws, offered theological standards as a "yardstick to measure cooperation."

"We must identify who we are as Baptists. You cannot be a Baptist and believe anything you want to believe,"

said Sullivan, to resounding shouts of "amen" and applause.

According to Dan Southerland, president of the state board of missions, which presented the revision, the bylaw is needed because there is no definition of a cooperating church or association. As it stands now, a church which donates \$250 to the state's Cooperative Program can have membership in the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Don Walton, director of missions for Pasco Association, opposed the revision, saying the bylaw would erode a historic Baptist principle of freedom. "My point of concern is once we have given the state convention the power to define what is a cooperating church, what is to prevent the state from drawing more lines in the sand and further limit our freedoms?"

The parameters require that churches requesting an "at-large status," without affiliating through a local association, first must agree with a statement of faith consistent with the *Baptist Faith and Message*. That document states that the Bible is "truth, without any mixture of error."

Messengers voted down an attempt

to refer the recommendation back to the state board for further study. The request to refer the matter was offered by Ed Gilman, director of missions for Suncoast Association in St. Petersburg, who said referring the document would give it "a broader base of support."

The 1,719 voting messengers authorized Florida Baptists to explore a relationship with churches in Cuba, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Western Cuba Baptist Convention. The relationship will provide resources of evangelism, church starting, and church leadership development, through the use of Florida Baptist Convention staff and volunteers. The Cuban relationship will be similar to the relationship Florida Baptists have with Baptists in Haiti, where Florida churches have started more than 150 new churches in that country.

According to convention officials who have traveled to Cuba, the financial and personnel resources to the Baptist churches there will assist pastors who live near or below poverty level while serving several churches at once. The nation is experiencing a religious revival during these harsh economic

times, the Floridians reported. Many Florida Baptist pastors serving in south Florida were trained and educated by the churches and pastors in western Cuba.

Messengers approved a 1997 budget of \$26,015,892, up from the current budget's \$24,878,698.

The convention gave unanimous approval to resolutions opposing same-sex marriages, asking church leaders to contact their Florida legislators to support the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act; calling upon the Federal Communications Commission to consider the development of a regulation to prohibit liquor advertising on radio and television; and asking Florida Baptists to pray for President Bill Clinton and other elected national and state leaders.

At the conclusion of the resolutions committee report, prayer was offered in behalf of the president. Later, David Rice of Tampa, chairman of the resolution committee, noted that although President Clinton is a Southern Baptist, he is "not enormously popular with Southern Baptists." But, he added, all Southern Baptists could pledge to pray for his decisions. ■

## SBC Brotherhood Commission honors Tennessee Baptist RA leaders

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Southern Baptist Convention has honored two state Royal Ambassador leaders with Awards of Merit.

Certificates and plaques will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 1, in Chattanooga. One of the awards will be presented posthumously.

Max Thomas, a member of Brainerd Hills Church, will receive the award. Accepting the award for their son, Steve Steinmann, who died in 1995, will be J.D. and Lillian Steinmann of Ridgedale Church. Bob Davison of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will present the awards.

Each year state Brotherhood offices can submit four names whom they

feel deserve Awards of Merit. This year the Brotherhood Commission presented nationally only two layperson awards and one posthumous award.

Both Thomas and Steinmann received the awards for lifelong service through the Royal Ambassador program. Before coming to Brainerd Hills, Thomas served at Central

Church, Woodmore, Chattanooga. He also has held various state Brotherhood offices at the TBC.

Steinmann was RA director at two Nashville churches — Woodmont and Forest Hills — before his death in 1995 following a heart attack. Steinmann also was associational RA director for Nashville Association from 1988-95. ■



## opinion

### about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and 'open' letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and Ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.

### Liked convention

I was a messenger to the 122nd annual meeting. Though a longtime Baptist layman, my work, as with almost all laity, limits my attendance.

The reports, devotionals, sermons, music, facilities, arrangements, and other features were theologically sound, inspirational, even outstanding. I found solid programs and progress in a wide range of worthwhile ministries: conservative Christian colleges and universities, hospitals and health care, adult and children's homes, missions, student ministries, and numerous church services.

It was significant and encouraging that these programs had wide acceptance, incurred few questions, and then were reconfirmed by a unanimous vote on the budget.

What was disappointing, even sad, was the "squabble" caused by some pastors trying to change the committee and board appointive process — from one like most local churches have used successfully for decades — to concentrating power in the hands of the president. The concern was apparently not program but rather a desire for positions of stature, control, and power.

Hopefully other Tennessee

Baptists will join me in a prayer of gratitude for the fine Baptist programs built over many years in our state, for the pastors who provide Christian leadership, and others.

Earl Sears  
Memphis 38119

### Souls in Atlanta

During the past summer, approximately 1,655 people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior as a result of outreach efforts during the Olympic games. Atlanta International Ministries (AIM) was formed to focus positive attention on the Christian faith during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. AIM is grateful for the volunteers from Tennessee because they were a vital part of this ministry.

As we hosted groups and teams, we were proud of how they represented our Lord to Olympic and Paralympic visitors. We are thankful for their flexibility, preparedness, and commitment to missions.

We are seeing fruits of their labor through salvation decisions, requests for biblical materials, and continuation of special event ministries started during Summer Games energy. Response cards have been returned from many international visitors who heard about Jesus Christ during their visit to the games.

Georgia Baptists were thrilled to work alongside volunteers from other states in this outreach project. We are thankful Tennessee volunteers

were part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Linda Johnson  
Executive Director, AIM  
Atlanta Ga., 30357

### Study the Word

A questionable picture appeared a few months ago in one of our leading Southern Baptist women's magazines. A few people wrote to that editor in protest.

In our time now, we are being told we should not use such words as sin, sinner, sanctified, or redeemed in our witnessing.

Why shouldn't we use these inspired, infallible, inerrant Words of God and use the "Roman Road" in witnessing?

The psychological, sociological terms, sordid little stories, fables and pictures are a form of witnessing from the world, but not the true witness of Scripture. Jesus said, "go and sin no more" and "save yourself from this untoward generation" (flee, or separate).

God's Word, the Holy Bible, is to be used in witnessing, unabridged (2 Timothy 4:4, KJV). And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Thelma Sudberry  
Shelbyville 37160

### How about women

To change the TBC Bylaws/Constitution regarding committee and board nominations by putting part of this process in the hands of one

person is to over-politicize the exercise and alter the tenor of the annual meeting.

Even the proposed amendment presented to the convention as revised would have had this effect. Plus, the revised document did not make the process clear, and on the surface would not necessarily have solved the "representation" problem.

Efforts to diversify membership on boards and committees need to continue, but this year's committees on boards and committees should be commended for their work in this direction.

One group which is woefully under-represented, however, is women. By my count only six of the newly elected 36 members to the Executive Board are women. It was embarrassing to see only one woman (among 10 men) presenting reports of the two nominating committees. Is there a correlation? Women in Tennessee Baptist life deserve more recognition and Tennessee Baptists could profit from more of their leadership.

Bill Junker  
Nashville 37027

### Likes directory

Thanks to the Executive Board Ministries' Communication Service Group for a great looking and very usable TBC directory and the 1997 calendar. Thanks also to the staff for a great convention.

Mark Mangrum, pastor  
Holly Grove Church  
Bells 38006

### Association confronts gambling

In regard to the gambling issue (or, as others say, gaming) the Shelby Association Christian Life Committee has been involved in addressing this moral and social problem.

Here are some things we've done thus far.

(1) Our committee has obtained five tapes entitled "Gambling: the Hidden Addiction," narrated by D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries. We are circulating these tapes to churches throughout Shelby Association and other churches in Memphis.

(2) One of our committee members attending a gambling debate between the Christian Civic Action Committee and a pro-gambling backer of the Amendment Five state lottery of Arkansas.

(3) We have forwarded the name of a gambling addiction consultant in New Jersey to the University of Memphis BSU director to share with students.

(4) Our committee collected information, made and mailed packets to all college and university BSU directors in Tennessee. We sent

the hotline phone number of a gambling addiction resource for those students who already have a gambling problem.

(5) We sent a recent copy of *Memphis Magazine* which had an extensive cover story on the Tunica (Miss.) gambling industry, to several university economic and criminal justice professors. We have been in touch with the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

(6) We respond to letters to the editor in the *Commercial Appeal* that support gambling.

(7) We have obtained studies from other cities on the economic and social effects of gambling.

(8) We trade information with and receive counsel from university economics professors and the former director of the Chicago Crime Commission regarding our efforts to counteract the advertisements and public image of the casino industry.

Allen Seay, member, CLC,  
Shelby Association  
Dale Gravatt, chairman,  
CLC, Shelby Association  
Memphis 38018

## Take time to be thankful every day

### an occasional word

— by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Thanksgiving is a great holiday. It is a time to reflect on God's blessings over the past year and to give thanks.

Unfortunately, this may be the only time during the year some people do that, if they even do it then.

For Christians, however, every day ought to be Thanksgiving. I'm probably as guilty as the next person for not thanking my Lord and Savior every day for the many blessings he has sent my way.

If nothing else, Thanksgiving Day should be a day when we jot down all we should be grateful for — a "Thanksgiving inventory" we can refer to often. Here's mine.

**Salvation.** I am grateful that the Lord used my grandmother to tell me about Christ and to see I was in church just about every time the doors were open. I am thankful for the friend who actually presented the Gospel to me one Sunday night at my home

church. Without my salvation, I would have nothing to offer anyone.

**Family.** God has blessed me with a wonderful wife and two great children. I know I fall short at times in being the kind of husband and father I should be, but with the Lord's help I will continue trying my best to nurture and sustain my family. I also have family in South Carolina, including my grandfather who means so much to me. They all have greatly influenced my life.

**Friends.** Since moving to Tennessee God has blessed me with many good friends, including several who have become especially close over the years. They are the kind you know you can depend on any time — when things are going great or in times of need.

**Church.** This may be an area we forget to thank God for some time. But I am privileged

to attend Tuiip Grove Church in Old Hickory. We have an excellent pastor and ministerial staff who care about their congregation. Most of all they are men of God who are committed first to doing his will.

**Job.** God has blessed me in this area. I honestly enjoy what I do. I believe strongly that I do not have a job; I have a ministry. And while there can be frustrations, as in any job, I am fortunate in being able to do what God has called me to do — be a Christian journalist.

**Health.** This is probably one area we neglect to thank God for because we take it for granted. It only takes one experience with a loved one or friend who is undergoing health problems to make you realize how blessed you are if you are healthy.

And the list could go on. The point is to really think about what God has done. When he is in your life, every day can be "Thanksgiving." *B&R*

# Gratitude first, then Week of Prayer

**I**t seems right that the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions follows immediately the week of Thanksgiving.

The Week of Prayer supports the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering — all of which goes to undergird Southern Baptist missions efforts in nations outside United States boundaries.

No one likes for churches to feel besieged by requests for financial support, especially at this time of year. It seems that "everybody" has a legitimate need for help — which makes decision-making sometimes difficult.

But if we have been thinking, planning, and doing missions the entire church year, the Week of Prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions do not require much explanation. The dates are December 1-8.

And if Thanksgiving Day helps us to have a generous mood — in response to God's great love and generosity, then we also will be generous with time, prayer, and giving.

The Southern Baptist goal for the Christmas Offering is \$100 million — for the second consecutive year.

Tennessee Baptists have set a goal of \$7.5 million. Let's look at those figures another way: \$100,000,000, and \$7,500,000. Yes, we can do it! Our goal is only 7.5 percent of the national goal.

Yes, the goal for Tennessee Baptists is \$7.5 million. Each year churches help foreign missions causes through gifts to the Cooperative Program. But also each year the CP does not provide enough financial support to underwrite all that the Foreign Mission

Board needs for global concerns.

We have learned to think wisely. Why do missionaries serving overseas need more support than the CP can provide!

Perhaps Jeff and Regina Palmer, Western Tennessee missionaries to the Philippines, can help explain the urgency of the open door. In a recent newsletter, they talked about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the World Hunger Offering.

They work with Harold and Joyce Watson at the Rural Life Center on the island of Mindanao.

Agriculture, health care, and community development, are some of the best ways to reach into the hard-to-reach areas of the world. World A people, those who have not had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel, are the poorest of the poor. *Remember December 1-8.*

The Palmers explain that Southern Baptists have a mandate to take the whole Gospel to World A — to provide abundant life in Christ, and to give the people a hope and a future. They cite Matthew 25: 31-46 as the classic mandate. Jeff, Regina, and their children are among the many Baptist missionaries who are able to obey that mandate because of the extra help from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

They say to Tennessee Baptists, "The idea of using these types of ministries to access the unaccessible is what we are doing through your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts (and the World Hunger Offering).

"Our human needs ministry projects in the Philippines are serving as a model for developing projects in

many other countries which allows us to put in place missionary personnel.

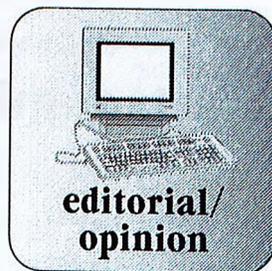
*"Your gifts to the Lottie Moon offering support us as missionaries ... and therefore to implement holistic, human needs projects to some of the most spiritually and physically depressed areas of the world."*

They list several projects of need, such as a farmers' training center in southern Vietnam, a small goat project and seedling nursery in north central Sri Lanka, and others. Prayer support is a great need.

A gift of \$100 can purchase material to seal the roof on a missionary residence in Mexico, pay for a bicycle for a home missionary in Angola, provide a license for radio communications to a bush station in Zambia for a whole year, pay for five New Testaments in Japan. Five dollars can provide a pair of shoes for an orphan child in Bulgaria. Ten dollars can provide a ream of paper for producing discipleship materials in Zambia.

We need to hear these needs. We need to respond with loving, generous, obedient hearts. God calls all of us. We must respond to his particular call — and we must be more than generous in praying and in giving.

The Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is on the calendar for December 1-8. The Week of Prayer is on the calendar. Now, are they in our hearts? *B&R*



**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**

## Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Wife to visiting couple: "My husband is so forgetful that he can't remember the date of our wedding anniversary."

Husband: "I certainly do remember that date. It was the day I got the birdie on the sixth hole at the Country Club."

### Take this truth

One of the surest ways of judging a man's character is to find the central thing around which he makes his evaluations.



WOOD

When we adopt Christ's lordship, as the unreserved priority of our lives, everything else will fit into the proper place.

Why not try it today!

### Memorize this Scripture

Give first place to his Kingdom and to what he requires, and he will provide you with all these other things (Matthew 6: 33, TEV).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to realize I am the only one who can decide to what and to whom I give my first loyalty. ■

## For these pilgrims giving thanks became Thanksgiving

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

They dropped anchor on the shores of a land with promise, new and mostly unknown, on November 21, 1620.

They had crossed the wild and frightening Atlantic, uncharted in many places. They had crossed under stars and bright sun, sailing through dismal and foul weather at times, catching the wind in billowing sails, and sweeping them ever westward.

They numbered a hundred and two, an insignificant band of offshoots of Protestants known as Puritans.

They were bold enough to believe they could purify the Church of England from within. When tyranny and the status quo balked at every suggestion of fresh change, and blocked with violent reaction each attempt at renewal, these Puritans separated themselves and set up their own congregations.

They were separatists. Under the leadership of William Brewster, they fled persecution in England — and thence to Hol-

land — and in 1620, to form the beginnings of a Christian colony on the beaches of America.

What were their thoughts when the shores of their homeland faded in the distance? Fear? Hope? Trust?

They were going to a strange, unexplored, virgin land of tall tales and great expectations.

Perhaps Brewster or William Bradford, or another of them, leaned against the prow of the brave little ship on a bleak night and cried aloud to God for guidance. I wonder who it was.

There were forty-nine free men and several families aboard who gathered to forge an agreement of government.

They were people with names such as Winslow, Allenton, Fuller, Martin, War-

ren, Fletcher, Rogers, Standish. And yes, there was John Alden, the cooper.

There was something to be done before they put to shore. They talked about good government, these sea-weary pilgrims.

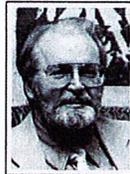
The women prayed for good homes. They talked about stable leadership, civil and religious liberty.

They signed their guarantee, the Mayflower Compact. God granted their prayers and more.

Less than a year later, the pilgrim Puritans honored God with a day of thanks.

What can we add to this account of one of our first Thanksgiving days?

Nothing really, it stands alone. But it is a blessing to note that before the group set foot on land — they prayed. And they did not forget God's bounty, and they told him so. ■



ALLEN

## Choices, choices, choices — everyday fare

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

We live in a day of "entitlement." Everyone seems to feel that the world, the government, the family owes them certain things.

When they make a mistake, it's not their fault. They got bad genes, were raised in the wrong environment, had a dysfunctional family. We live as fallen people in a fallen world.

Most of us are where we are because of choices we made, good or bad.

God used Moses to give the children of Israel marching orders as they prepared to enter the promised land — Deuteronomy 11: 26-28. He dealt with choices. I believe God lays the same choices in front of the family in our day.

A trip to a bookstore would yield an

overwhelming array of resources to help with family issues: Optimum Outcomes for Outrageous Offspring, Building Blocks for Better Brothers, and so on.

These range from sonorously wise to sublimely stupid. How is a family supposed to know where to turn in the maddening maze of relief-offering references?

God's desire for the family has not changed. He said through Jeremiah, "I alone know the plans that I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for (29:11). There are many advisors

who we can eliminate because they believe opposite from God and his Word.

Others are not as easily assessed and chosen. God gives us a choice between blessing and curse. When we do it his way, we are in a position to be blessed.

We should become familiar enough with his Word that we can recognize any idea or philosophy that does not fit. And we will not be able to excuse ourselves by saying we didn't understand.

We should seek counsel from someone whom we believe to be a person who knows God and seeks his will and way. They should be trained, and have credentials to help people. Being a Christian does not take away this need. ■

# Watts family can attest miracles still happen

By David Williard  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Miracles can be huge.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Nancy Watts knows. The fact that her husband, Wade, and her 9-year-old son, Marcus, are alive today is proof enough of that. By all accounts they should have died Feb. 1 when the car the family was traveling in was destroyed in a head-on collision on a mountain road outside Lima, Peru.

It was a miracle no one was killed.



N. WATTS

As it was, both Wade and Marcus were left in grave condition, their minds in comas, their odds for survival slim.

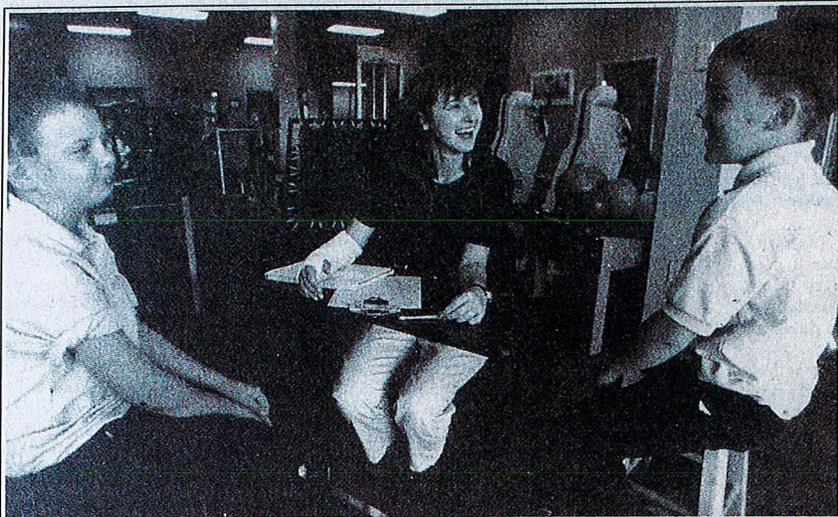


W. WATTS

But that was eight long months ago. Now, as she brings her family through the slow process of healing in Memphis, she finds miracles

also are little things, small blessings that accumulate day by day. The family is currently staying in a missionary home of Leewood Church. Other churches have provided assistance, including their home church, Highland Heights.

The recovery of Marcus has been amazing. Physically and mentally he is back to 90 percent. With a little help, he is adjusting to the fourth grade at Macon Road Baptist School, is making new friends, is dealing, along with his brother, Joshua, 8, with the pain of missing his father.



STEPHANIE EILAND, a speech therapist in Memphis works with Marcus, left, and Joshua Watts. Both boys were injured when the car driven by their father, Wade Watts, a Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary to Peru, was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle on a mountain road outside Lima in February. Marcus' injuries were life-threatening. Nancy Watts, his mother, calls his recovery the first miracle in the family's months-long saga. — Photo by Bill Bangham

Her husband's progress has been much slower. After the accident, weeks went by before he could be flown back to the United States: brain and internal injuries made the lengthy flight too risky. Finally medical authorities decided to move him. But even then, while his body was stabilizing, it was unclear whether his mind would heal.

Every day Nancy visited the hospital. "I would talk, tell him about all that was going on, but we weren't getting any answers from him. ... We didn't know if he understood what we said. I felt like he did, but there was no way we could be sure," she says.

Finally a breakthrough came: He was able to respond to statements by blinking his eyes. Seizing this opportunity, they worked out a system in

which he would blink once for yes, twice for no. By asking him specific questions, Nancy finally was assured that his memory was intact. It was the first hopeful thing.

Such signs of progress have kept Nancy's situation bearable. But she has had to be strong in ways that before the accident she would have thought impossible. Circumstances demand it. The children depend on it.

Although Marcus is recovering steadily, he still has special needs. His short-term memory suffers. The teachers at his school have been helpful, modifying assignments to help him feel successful. But he does not want to be different; he wants things to come easily, as they did for him before.

Nancy tries to be patient. In late September, when Joshua

got a bicycle for his birthday, Marcus wanted to ride. His first attempts were futile. He kept falling off. Exasperated, he became impossible to console. "The next day he did fine. He just took off," Nancy says. "Things like that are frustrating, trying to encourage him until he masters the things he wants to do."

Beyond his frustration in not being able to do things is the problem of needing to understand why things are different.

"Marcus knows that God saved him, that he was very close to dying and that God spared his life," Nancy says. "But he misses Peru and his home a lot. That's where he's coming from: 'Why do we have to be here? Why did it have to happen?' It's tough for me. I have no answer for him. God did not cause it, but for some

reason he allowed it to happen, and we just don't know why."

The questions do not seem to bother Joshua as much, although he, too, does miss Peru. Daily the family talks about friends and the missionary "family" there.

Birthdays and special days are the hardest. On Joshua's birthday, missionary co-worker Kathy Phillips sent a box of cookies from Peru. Nancy suggested Joshua respond by letter. His note "read something like, 'I hope that you're doing good and that you keep praying for my dad so that we can go back to Peru to visit you,'" Nancy recounts.

Nancy, too, is eager to return. She has found much strength in the prayers of friends and colleagues. "If people hadn't been praying, where would I be? Would we be this far along in the recovery process?" Recently one of Wade's therapists called his progress a miracle. "I totally agree with that, and I think it's because God is answering people's prayers."

The experience has drawn her closer to God. "As I look back, I can see how he has carried me each step. I realize that being faithful to God even in the difficult times is the best decision one can make," she says. "The miracle is happening," she continues.

"First we got one in Marcus, and now it appears Wade is (healing), too. We're just going to keep on praying and working really hard, see how far we can get, because no one really knows." ■

## Highland Heights seeks to help Watts family

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Highland Heights Church has voted to refurbish a church-owned duplex adjacent to the church into a single family dwelling. The church plans to allow the Wade Watts family (see story above) to live there for a period of time, perhaps until they return to the mission field, according to Durwood Howard, minister of education/administration at Highland Heights.

Nancy Watts and her two sons are now living in Leewood Church's missionary residence.

Tennessee Baptists wishing to assist the family can have a part in refurbishing and furnishing the single family home. The church will take donations of furniture, appliances, etc., for three bedrooms, kitchen, din-

ing area, two bathrooms, and a living room.

Also, the church properties committee of Highland Heights has prepared a list of items that will be needed, including furniture, linens, washer, dryer, refrigerator, etc.

Check or cash donations may be made by individuals, mission groups, or churches in honor of the Watts family, payable to Highland Heights Baptist Church for the purpose of furnishing the dwelling. The gift will be tax deductible and held in escrow for the completion of the project.

"We hope to be able to move the Watts family (into the new home) by Feb. 1, 1997," according to Howard.

Questions about how to help the Watts family may be referred to the church. Call (901) 454-0546 between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. ■

## Union receives \$850,000 gift

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — A gift of almost \$850,000 from a Tennessee Baptist will fund Union University's first endowed faculty chair and provide scholarships for future Union students.

Edward Hammons, a physician from Forrest City and member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, has turned over a trust established by his parents, O.P. and Evalyn Hammons, to the university. Hammons' parents, who graduated from Union in 1928, established the long-term trust to benefit future generations of

Union students and faculty.

Hammons, however, decided to release the trust much earlier than originally planned, establishing the O.P. and Evalyn Hammons Chair for Pre-Medical Studies and the O.P. Hammons Family Scholarship Fund.

"This gift represents an incredible milestone in the life of Union University," said President David S. Dockery. "Schools like ours must grow endowment to effectively carry out the academic programs we desire to have in the years to come." The endowed chair boosts Union's pre-professional programs, Dockery added. ■



Tennessee  
features



# 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

The Missions Extravaganza was an inspirational event. I'm so grateful for convention leaders who give such opportunities to recognize volunteers and to highlight volunteer missions efforts.

I'm excited about our new partnership with Costa Rica. I believe it will be one of our best. The people are loving and desire that we come and work along side them.

This year, I hope you will make your plans to participate in one of our partnerships. Already we have many great projects, and we need you to pray about those projects in which you will participate during 1997.

As we pause during this social season of Thanksgiving to give thanks, I want to thank volunteers for going and giving of themselves in the service of the Lord as missions volunteers.

I also want to thank Christie Hendricks and Christina Peters for their loyal and diligent work to make Partnership Missions what it is today, and to Marcia Knox for her work with "The Macedonian Call."

God Bless,



SHARP

*Levy*

## Revival workers sought

### Costa Rica

15 teams needed  
Jan. 11-20 - Deadline Dec. 1  
Simultaneous revivals with  
a theme of "Spiritual  
Renewal"

### Poland

60 teams needed  
May 18-28  
Simultaneous revivals with  
a theme of "Here's Hope -  
Christ"

## Costa Rica pastor advises, thanks volunteers

By Marcia Knox  
TBC Partnership Missions Office

NASHVILLE — Tennessee partnership missions volunteers should come to Costa Rica with a vision of love, according to pastor Jorge Arias of La Iglesia Bautista Piedra Angular (Cornerstone Baptist Church) in San Jose.

Arias welcomed Tennessee volunteers to his country and at the same time praised those who have already come to Costa Rica when he spoke to messengers to the 122nd annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 12-13 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. The three-year partnership covenant between Costa Rica and Tennessee was signed Nov. 13.

Prior to the agreement signing in an interview with "The Macedonian Call," the Costa Rican pastor sang the praises of the mission team from Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, which served this summer at the San Jose church. Arias said the team was a great blessing.

The church's team members worked Aug. 9-17 in Costa Rica by helping Arias at the San Jose Church with crusade services and in various outreach ministries. One part of the Kirby Woods team also traveled to the remote village of Tukurique to hold additional services.

"Groups like Kirby Woods give a good example to my church and their team was able to work with everybody," Arias said.

The leader of the team was Benny Jackson, staff evangelist for Kirby Woods Church. Other team members from Kirby Woods Church were Shirley Jackson, Andy and Beth Andrews, Jack and Nancy Young, Tim Carroll, Michael Loftis, Chris Gault, Brent Jones, Andy Limbaugh, and Tom Neiman.



MEMBERS of the missions team from Kirby Woods Church pose with Costa Rica friends. From left to right, back row, are, Brent Jones, Pastor Jorge Arias, Tom Neiman, Nancy Young, Jack Young, Tim Carroll, Shirley Jackson, Benny Jackson, Beth Andrews, Andy Andrews, Missionary Sue Smith; front row, Chris Gault, Michael Loftis, and Andy Limbaugh.

When the group arrived in Costa Rica, Sue Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary who is volunteer coordinator for Costa Rica, served as the host missionary. Following orientation with Smith, the team began ministry in the San Jose community.

Visitation groups were formed of a translator and three or four team members. One of the groups consisted of — See Costa, page 10

## Letter of thanks from Costa Rica

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Benny Jackson:

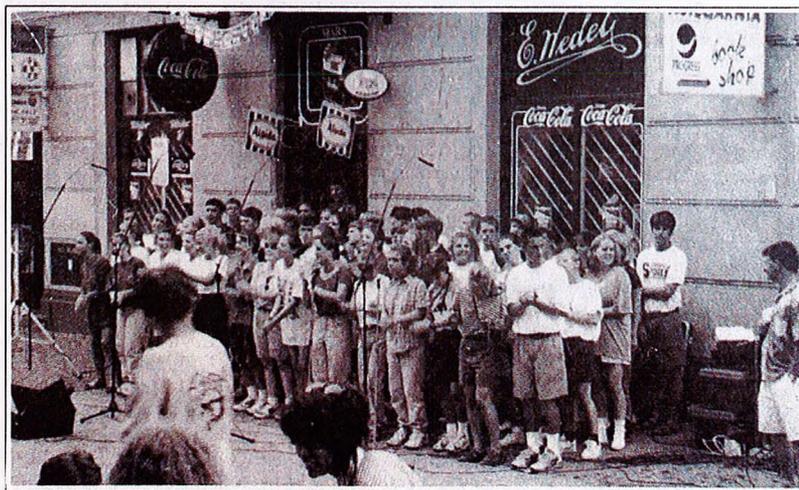
I just wanted to write and express to you, both personally and on behalf of the Costa Rica Mission, my thanks for your coming to share with us here. I truly appreciate both you and your ministry.

You heard over and over from me that your team from Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, was "different." I hope you didn't get a complex, and you truly were different from many teams we host! If your team is a sample of what we're getting with the Tennessee/Costa Rica Partnership, we're glad to have you.

You were a joy to work with in Costa Rica. You can report back to Tennessee that what you experienced here will be pretty typical of their future experiences in Costa Rica.

Thanks again for coming to share yourselves with us and the folks at Piedra Angular Church. You will always be welcome in Costa Rica.

In Christ,  
Sue Smith, Costa Rica Mission  
Volunteer Coordinator



## Viewed by messengers to convention

A video film of this scene including the youth choir of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, performing on a street in Tarnow, Poland, was viewed by those attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The group, which also performed in person, is the largest group to work in Poland under the auspices of the convention. Their effort in Poland in June was led by Denny Brinkman, minister of youth, and David Pletincks, music associate.



# Volunteer Turney finds answer to personal question in Poland

By Marcia Knox  
"The Macedonian Call"

A Tennessee volunteer, Ann Turney, told visitors to Partnership Missions "Meet the Missionaries" area at the 1996 Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting how her life took a different course in May 1995.

A recent widow, Turney prayed for direction in her life and has since been on a globetrotting partnership mission course.

When she traveled in July 1996 to Poland to teach conversational English and to conduct Bible studies, she found out that the project request was made in May 1995 by Tennessee/Poland volunteer coordinator Charles Layton. Turney sees the timing of the request as more than just a coincidence, but as an answer to prayer.

Turney, a member of First Church, Winchester, was joined on the trip by Dick German, a member of Highland Church, Tullahoma. They taught basic and advanced English classes at Kosciot Chrzescyjan Baptistow W Zeloure (Christian Baptist Church of Zelow). It is located about 75 miles

southwest of Warsaw.

The Zelow church was founded by Czech Baptists and is the oldest church in Poland. It has 25-30 members and was without a pastor when the English teachers arrived. Most of its members are young adults.

More than 40 students attended classes led by the Americans. The students ranged from age seven to 77. They divided the classes between the beginners who could speak none to some English and the advanced who knew how to read English.

Turney, a former employee of the U.S. Army, and German, a retired aerospace engineer for Arnold Engineering Development Center, Tullahoma, prepared using books and materials from the Home Mission Board. They referenced the board's *Conversational English Manual* and *English Lessons for the Bible: Book of Mark*.

Other helps were provided by TBC Partnership Missions Department. Turney used *The Purple Cow*, a clock to teach time, and pictures of Jesus to teach the beginner's class. "We took 100 pounds of handouts," German said.

The plan of salvation was presented in the classes using the "power band" bead colors, put together by the Girls in Action of First Church, Winchester.

The response to the two-week classes was remarkable, according to German. They were initially advertised by the Zelow church as English Classes taught by Americans for a small fee. Some students traveled long distances to attend the classes, and one student slept at the church while enrolled in the classes.

"I learned more from the class and that experience than what I taught them," Turney said. One young college woman,

Gosia Piotrowska, accepted Jesus as her Savior during the class.

German and Turney pointed out that Poland is a country where 95 percent of the population professes to be Catholic. They said the people, especially young people, are hungrily seeking for hope and purpose in life which Christ can provide. ■



TOURING the Polish Baptist Seminary were volunteers Dick German, left, and Ann Turney, right, led by, from left, Charles and Barbara Layton, volunteer coordinators in Poland from Texas; and Gustaw Cieslar, seminary rector.

## Partnership Prayer Requests

November - December

- 27 — Pray for the Baptist State convention of Michigan which is seeking an evangelism associate.
- 28 — Praise God for First Church, Millington, whose members helped Columbia Avenue Church, Pontiac, Mich., with a Vacation Bible School and survey.
- 29 — Pray for Indian Church, Prince Albert, and Cochin Church, Cochin. Both Canadian churches in Saskatchewan are seeking pastors.
- 30 — Pray for John Webster, a member of Evansburg Church, Evansburg, Alberta, Canada, who has cancer.
- 1 — Pray for the churches in Michigan without pastors. Pray that God will lead the churches to call the right men.
- 2 — Pray for a Bible study in the home of a director of missions in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- 3 — Pray for church leaders meeting in Poland this week in six different areas. Church leaders will prepare to teach *Experiencing God*.

## Five Tennessee women lead camps for orphans

"The Macedonian Call"

Tennessee women from Oak Ridge, Dyersburg, Monterey, and Nashville along with state

Woman's Missionary Union members helped the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw hold two camps for children from an orphanage this summer in Poland.

Fourteen children, all from the same Polish orphanage, attended each camp. Expenses were sub-

sidized by Tennessee WMU members and First Church, Monterey, members. Approximately \$1,600 was raised for each camp.

Tennessee WMU provided project information about the possibility of camps to WMU members across the state. Women wishing to contribute

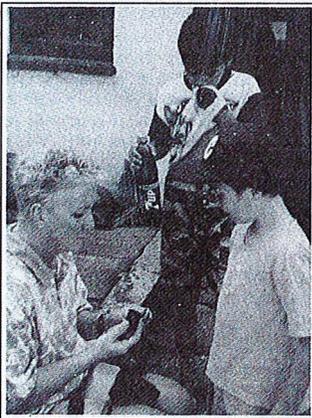
or be volunteers responded to the Partnership Missions office.

The camps were held July 19-30 and July 29 - Aug. 12 in Wisla, Poland. The first camp was held for children 6-8 years old and led by three Tennessee volunteers and students from the Polish Baptist seminary.

Elaine Pearson, Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, and Jenny Fox and Karen Trybone of Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, served. They taught crafts, recreation, music, the Bible, and English.

The second camp was for children 9-11 years old. It was led by Jill Horner, First Church, Monterey, and Vicki Cockrum, Woodbine Church, Nashville.

Eva Hus, a Polish Baptist Seminary student, served as camp director. Hus also serves on the staff of the orphanage. ■



TENNESSEE volunteer Vicki Cockrum, Woodbine Church, Nashville, shows Polish orphans how to load film in a camera.



POLISH CHILDREN who attended the second camp session pose with workers from Baptist seminary.

## 1997 Volunteer Interest Form

If you are interested in participating in a partnership project for 1997, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Send audiovisuals

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

The audiovisuals will not be returned. Send slides and videos to: TBC Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■



## Four-person team leads training

# Ministers train Sunday School workers in Canada

By Liz Lee, Tennessee Baptist Convention  
For "The Macedonian Call"

What is the difference between a state missionary, a home missionary, and a foreign missionary? I know the difference. I am Liz Lee, a state missionary working as a ministry specialist in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Christian Growth Group.

My area of specialization is helping church workers of preschoolers and children, birth through sixth grade. Thanks to Cooperative Program gifts, I am able to travel throughout Tennessee helping directors of missions, church staff, and church workers by equipping, training, and supporting preschool and children's work.

October is association meeting time in Tennessee. I spoke during the morning session at a meeting in East Tennessee. In the evening, I led a two-hour conference for children's workers in a different association.

Back in Nashville early the next day I joined my TBC partnership mission team. Included in the team are my husband, Tom Lee, interim minister of Education/Administration at Central Church, Oak Ridge; Steve Peek, associate pastor, Preschool/Children's ministry, First Church of Concord, Knoxville; and David Acres, minister of Education/Administration, Buffett Heights Church, Knoxville (now pastor of Liberty Church, Wartburg).

We arrived in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where we were met at the airport by Dr. Wallace (Wally) Jordan, pastor of Community Church, and John Ferguson, Sunday School director for the church.

The Community Church building is beautiful. Tennessee Partnership teams, staffed from the state Brotherhood office, completed the building last summer. The church was on the main highway to the airport and located in the center of new subdivisions where it is a lighthouse for Baptists.

The Wednesday evening service was a wonderful time of getting acquainted and fellowship. The team challenged the church members to learn to use Sunday School to grow their church. Then our team met with those who led age groups to determine needs.

We learned the church held Sunday School for those from birth through youth during the worship service. The adults

had Sunday School on Wednesday evening.

Through conferences, talking, praying, laughing, and dreaming, the team and church membership realized that they had unlimited opportunities for reaching the island population through an age-graded Sunday School, separate from the worship.

Saturday was spent in intensive skill development and preparation for teaching. Working along side the church members, the preschool, children, and youth leaders made preparation for Sunday.

The church had collected the usual Baptist "stuff," so we helped them clean up. My husband and Steve went to the island's local store and bought new toys for the preschool to accompany the Bible study for Sunday.

Finally on Sunday morning, Steve, David, and I taught along side the Community Church workers. The church had many more children than

usual, up from 11 to 29.

Squeals were heard when the preschoolers arrived. The preschoolers saw a bucket of water with boats, a play rug with highways for use with the new toy cars and signs. Also in the room was a variety of food and puzzles on a table.

The toddlers quickly were occupied with the stacking and sorting toys. They were quiet as they sat on the floor around Steve as he held his Bible. Then he let them choose a colored marker and he read the verse underlined with the matching color. They were mesmerized by the story of Jesus calming the storm.

Across the hall and in the hall, the children were working in small clusters discovering that they were responsible for their behaviors and choices.

The older children were at a table in the hall making puppets. The younger children were making framed pictures of themselves to learn about responsibility.

The third and fourth graders were drawing people from Bible times acting responsibly and drawing themselves in a responsible action. Excitement spread through the room as the children heard the Bible story and realized that they were responsible for their actions.

Sunday evening was a celebration and future planning time. Each age-group shared goals and dreams that resulted from the training. Then Jordan led them in a time of celebration and challenge.

We left a part of ourselves with the church. The common agreement was that we may be in a foreign country, but in Christ we are one.

As we flew away from Prince Edward Island, from the plane we could see nearly 80 lighthouses dotting the shore. The lighthouse that stands out for our team is Community Church, built and growing with partners from Tennessee. ■



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS in the Community Church sanctuary were led by Dianne Lank, church deacon, and Wallace Jordan, pastor.



PRESCHOOLERS are taught by Steve Peek, center, First Church of Concord, Knoxville, and by a Community Church worker.

# First Church, Nashville, team works at Canadian seminary

For "The Macedonian Call"

Members of a missions team from First Church, Nashville, came back across the U.S./Canadian border this summer with red, white, and blue paint on their hands and work clothes, according to Ejay Vidrine, team leader.

The team's colorful hands and clothes were the result of painting the new academic building for the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta. They were preparing the building for the fall semester.

Included in the First Church team were Cliff Able, Charlene Carter, Joe Carter, Bob Jones, Mary Alice McMains, Heady McMains, Russ Roach, and Fred Turner.

Three of the nine team members also painted one of the two-bedroom student apartments before joining others to work in the new academic building.

One team member built forms for the curbing on the new seminary parking lot. Others cleaned the new enclosed corridor from the new building to the old building. The entrance way to

the old building was also given a new coat of paint.

Joe Carter, a master electrician, provided the professional assistance for the electrical system in the new building.

Their major assignment was to put the final coat of paint on the doors, frames, baseboards, and interior windows, Vidrine explained. The painting was done in the new academic building and a section of the old administration building that had been remodeled.

"To finish out our two weeks of work," Vidrine said, the volunteers helped clean and move student desks into the new classrooms. They hung items like pictures and bulletin boards. They also set up a pool table and a Ping-Pong table.

The Tennesseans enjoyed sightseeing in the Canadian Rockies, in Cal-

gary, and in Cochrane, Vidrine said. They attended Bow Valley Church in Cochrane and Mountain View Christian Fellowship. The small congregation of Mountain View holds its services in the ski tower at the former Olympic Vil-

lage outside Calgary.

The team members reported they feel the Canadian seminary needs continued support through prayers, financial assistance, and the help of volunteer groups because the seminary staff has a tremendous task in a country whose people need the Gospel. ■



PAINTING the student apartment at the seminary are, from left, Charlene Carter, Mary Alice McMains, and Heady McMains.



TEAM MEMBERS pause in front of the entrance to the Canadian Baptist Seminary's administration building. From left, front row, are Russ Roach, Heady McMains, Mary Alice McMains, Ejay Vidrine, and Bob Jones; back row, Charlene Carter, Fred Turner, Cliff Abel, and Joe Carter.



## Costa Rica

Project #: CR71997800  
 Dates: June 6 - July 6  
 Location: Costa Rica  
 A team of six is needed to lead activities, recreation, and Bible studies for missionary kids

Project #: CR71997801  
 Dates: Dec. 13-22  
 Location: San Jose  
 A team of 30 is needed to do evangelistic Christmas concerts in churches and public places. The target is young people.

Project #: CR71997802  
 Dates: Feb. 11-17  
 Location: Costa Rica  
 A team of eight is needed to provide a Centrifuge-type camp for 20-30 youth.

Project #: CR71997804  
 Dates: March 21-30  
 Location: Costa Rica  
 A team of 14 is needed to provide a Centrifuge-type experience for 75-100 adolescents and college-aged young people.

Project #: CR71997805  
 Dates: July 7-16  
 Location: San Jose, Costa Rica  
 A team of 15 is needed to do repair work on a school and lead an evangelistic effort for children.

Project #: CR71997806  
 Dates: Feb. 15-22  
 Location: San Jose  
 Three teams of eight volunteers have been requested to repair three local schools and lead an evangelistic effort for children.

Project #: CR71997807  
 Dates: Aug. 1-10  
 Location: San Jose  
 A computer/network specialist is needed to examine all computer systems among the mission-

aries and at Baptist Center.

## Michigan

Project #: B-1  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Birch Run  
 The Bay Area Association needs five or more volunteers for Back Yard Bible Clubs.

Project #: M-1  
 Dates: June 15 - Aug. 15  
 Location: Roseville  
 Antioch Church needs two volunteers for a church day camp.

Project #: M-2  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Clinton Township  
 Central Church needs construction help on a new sanctuary.

Project #: M-3  
 Dates: ASAP  
 Location: Port Huron  
 A volunteer is needed for church planning involving evangelism, leadership development, and music. The term is one - two years.

Project #: O-1  
 Dates: July 21-25  
 Location: Madison Heights  
 A team of 14 is needed for VBS/ BYBC and survey work.

Project #: O-2-97  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Michigan  
 The churches of Oakland Association need seven teams of 10-50 to do church planting work with block parties, survey work, BYBC, and witnessing. This work includes drama, music, skills, games, and puppets.

Project #: SC-1  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Kalamazoo  
 A team of 20 is needed for VBS or BYBC. Remodeling and

light construction also are needed.

Project #: SC-2  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Portage  
 Volunteers needed for BYBC, VBS, and survey work.

## Canada

Project #: CA-2  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Prince Albert  
 Volunteers needed to purchase and renovate a bus for a mobile chapel.



Project #: FPIVS6601  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Winnipeg  
 A team is needed to complete survey in two areas to help start a church.

Project #: PFP1VS6600  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Winnipeg  
 The Keystone Association needs translators, evangelism teams, choirs, and booth workers at the 1999 Pan American Games.

Project #: PM11997603  
 Dates: Aug. 4-11  
 Location: Birch Hill  
 A team of 16 is needed for Back Yard Bible Clubs and to pour 250-foot concrete walk.

Project #: PM11997614  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Edmonton  
 A group is needed to lead VBS and BYBC.

Project #: PM11997619  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: North Kildonan  
 A team of volunteers is needed

to help start new church.

Project #: PM11997620  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Calgary  
 A team of three - five is needed for a children's festival on a weekend. This work includes drama, skills, puppets, teaching, and preaching.

Project #: PM11997622  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Vancouver  
 A Tennessee church is needed to partner Gladstone Church in sponsoring a Mandarin-Taiwanese congregation.

Project #: PM11997632  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Prince Edward Island  
 Community Church requests a team to do surveys and evangelism in new residential areas.

Project #: PM11997633  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Abbotsford/Chilliwack  
 The Capilano Association needs a church planting partner.

Project #: PM11997636  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Surrey  
 A team is needed to plant a church. They will lead BYBC for Vietnamese children and support the congregation with prayer.

Project #: PM11997641  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Grand Prairie  
 A male volunteer is needed to be camp pastor for a family camp. This is a wilderness camp serving 35-40 people.

Project #: PM11997642  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Grand Prairie  
 A team of three or more is needed to be camp pastor and counselors for a youth camp.

Project #: PM11997643  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Grand Prairie  
 A team of three is needed to lead VBS at New Life Chapel.

Project #: PM11997644  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Grand Prairie  
 A team of three males and three females is needed to be camp pastor and counselors for a children's rustic camp.

Project #: PM11997650  
 Dates: Summer 1997  
 Location: Alberta  
 A team of 10-20 is needed to build a playing field with baseball backstop, soccer goal posts, and landscaping.

## Poland

Project #: PC-1  
 Dates: June 28 - July 13  
 Location: Bielek  
 A team of five-six is needed to teach English as a second language. This work includes evangelism and outreach activities.

Project #: PC-2  
 Date: June 28 - July 12  
 Location: Zyrandow  
 A team of three is needed to teach English as a second language to youth and children.

Project #: PC-5  
 Dates: March 5  
 Location: Bialystok  
 A team is needed to perform African American spirituals with testimonies from a minister and choir members.

Project #: PC-6  
 Dates: Summer 1997

Location: Koszalin  
 A team of three - five males is needed to replace windows in Koszalin Church.

Project #: PC-7  
 Dates: June 2-9  
 Location: Bialystok  
 A team of six - eight is needed to use basketball in visiting schools, competing with teams from Bialystok, and witnessing.

Project #: PC-8  
 Dates: Spring 1997  
 Location: Poznan  
 A team of four - six is needed for preaching, personal witnessing, and music evangelism in schools and public areas.

Project #: PS-3  
 Dates: June 7-20  
 Location: Warsaw  
 A team of 10 is needed to conduct a senior adult camp.

Project #: PS-4  
 Dates: March 8-16  
 Location: Warsaw  
 A team of 10 is needed to lead a Business Education Seminar.

Project #: PS-9  
 Dates: July 20 - July 30  
 Location: Poland  
 A team of three is needed to teach English, music, Bible study, games, and crafts at an orphan's camp.

Project #: PS-10  
 Dates: Aug. 1-10  
 Location: Poland  
 A team of three is needed to teach English, music, Bible study, games, and crafts at an orphan's camp.

Project #: PS-12  
 Dates: March 8-16  
 Location: Warsaw  
 A team of eight - ten is needed for construction on a classroom.

## Costa Rica pastor advises, thanks ...

— Continued from page 7

two college students dressed as clowns and a member who ministered to children and shared with crowds. Translators included Jose Calixto, a missionary to Brazil, and Calixto's son and daughter.

Arias was particularly inspired by Kirby Woods member Carroll, who went house to house giving his testimony in English. Arias said he appreciated Jackson and other team members accompanying him during visits in the community and giving their personal testimonies.

During the night crusade meeting at the San Jose church, the team made up of Jackson, Andrews, and Loftis resulted in 10 people making professions of faith. Jackson preached, Andrews lead music, and Loftis gave his testimony. Again on Sunday during the morning worship service, another 10 people made professions of faith. During the evening service, two more made the same decision.

On that same day, volunteers led services in Turkurrique, which was located more than an hour away. A 10-year-old girl made a profession of faith as a result of hearing the Gospel.

Though the team did not plan to do construction work, they decided to repair the San Jose church's roof which was severely damaged. The men on the team repaired it with pieces of tin saved from the former church's roof. While they worked, the women planned the children's activities during the crusade to begin that night.

The next day, some of the Tennesseans visited a squatters' village. They viewed houses with dirt floors. In one house they led a discipleship training. A young girl accepted Christ and felt

God's call to do missions work.

As the week passed, friendships were formed between the North and Central Americans which resulted in better and better crusade services.

Arias admitted that he was worried before the American group came. "I thought the San Jose church and other Costa Rica churches would not make a good impression on the American visitors because most of our Costa Rica churches are small in size and some churches meet in homes."

Arias praised Benny Jackson for working along side him during the crusade. Arias said Kirby Woods was a good partnership missions example.

"People who come from Tennessee should be willing to do everything and to relate to the humble folks in Costa Rica," he said.

At the end of the crusade, the Costa Ricans gave each Tennessean a certificate of participation and a framed feather painting. The volunteers reciprocated with gifts they had brought.

According to Arias, about 76 people made professions of faith during the week as a result of a children's Bible school and outreach, street evangelism, home discipleship, and crusade meetings. A total of 10 people rededicated their lives to God.

The San Jose church has begun to follow up on the effort. Forty people are studying *Experiencing God* from workbooks sent by the Tennessee church. Kirby Woods also gave the church a gift of money.

The Baptists from the two countries "worked well together," said Arias. "We would like for them to come back," he concluded. ■ — Benny Jackson contributed and Tim Hill, TBC, translated.

## 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**

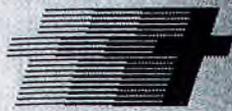
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Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_



## Tennescene

### churches

■ **East Union Church, Jackson**, celebrated its 36th anniversary Nov. 3. Wayne Dowling, former associate pastor, spoke.

■ **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, will present its annual "Windows of Christmas" Dec. 8-10 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. The drive-through or walk-through event features 17 scenes including live characters. A musical accompaniment on cassette is provided. For more information, call (423) 986-3583.

■ **Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet**, will hold its annu-

al drama, "Bethlehem Inn," Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Participants become part of the cast as the drama takes place around them and they enjoy a meal similar to a first century Palestinian meal. To make reservations, call (615) 758-7853.

■ **Poplar Heights Church, Jackson**, held a revival recently which was kicked off with High Attendance Day. The day drew 549. Revival services were led by Paul Tsika, Billie Kaye Tsika, and the Baltzglier Family.

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, will hold a Youth-Led Christmas Service Dec. 8, which will feature two choirs.

■ **The Girls in Action of West View Church, Cookeville**, led church members to send four 70 pound boxes of food to people who are starving in North Korea.

■ **Washington Avenue Church, Cookeville**, will hold its Living Christmas Tree presentation Dec. 12 and 14-15.

■ **First Church, Hunter**, will hold a revival Nov. 26. Glenn Rogers of Tri-Cities Church, Gray, will speak. The group "His Praise" will lead music.

### missionaries

■ **Gary Odom**, former pastor, Round Lick Church, Waverly, and his wife, Terrie, have been appointed by the Home Mission Board as home missionaries in Columbus, Ohio. The Odoms have been foreign missionaries to San Jose, Costa Rica, and Ecuador from 1984-1993. He will serve as a church starter strategist.

### leaders

■ **Bill Highsmith** will celebrate his fifth anniversary as director of recreation, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, on Dec. 1.

■ **Paul M. Broyles**, pastor, will be honored for 40 years of service to Pleasant Grove Missionary Church, Limestone, Dec. 8. Activities include recognition at the morning worship service beginning at 11 a.m. and at a reception from 2-4 p.m.

■ **First Church, Morristown**, has called **Jon Marks**, minister of music, Calvary Church, Marietta, Ga., as minister of music, effective Dec. 15.

■ **Bill Vance** of Orinda has been called as pastor of First Church, Monterey, effective Dec. 1. **Bill Powell** has been interim pastor.

■ **Smyrna Church, Chapel Hill**, recently ordained **Rickey Clardy, Rob Lowe**, and **Kevin Smith** as deacons.



**LEADING A GROUNDBREAKING** ceremony for Fairfield Glade Church, Fairfield Glade, for an addition to its campus are, from left, Greer Ruble, TBC; Doug Turner, pastor; Ralph Samuelson; Lorene Barrow; Charlie Biter; Erin Goudin; Chuck Naylor; Charlie Miller; Jean Curley; Mary Ann Mercer; and Roy Davis, director of missions, Cumberland Plateau Association. Those from the church are members of the building committee for the new addition.

### associations

■ The Baptist Center at Western Heights, Knox County Association, needs small toys which are unwrapped. The toys will be given to families visiting the Clothing Room of the center. The staff will arrange a tour of the center for groups bringing the toys. For more information, call (423) 525-9068.

tion, call (901) 661-5300.

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, led the state this year in the number of student summer missionaries appointed by the Home Mission Board. The school also ranked seventh in the nation. Seven students accepted the assignments. A total of 70 summer missionaries from C-N served last summer sponsored by different entities.

### state events

■ Seventy-three volunteers from across the state helped build the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes administration building Nov. 9 in Franklin. Some of the churches represented included Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville; First Church, Franklin; First Church, Nashville; Hillview Church, Franklin; Woodmont Church, Nashville; First Church, Fairview; Clearview Church, Franklin, and Immanuel Church, Nashville.

### the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will offer four courses for seminary credit through the school's seminary studies program beginning in February. The program allows students to take seminary-level courses on Union's campus and apply earned credits toward graduation at any Southern Baptist seminary. Classes will meet from Feb. 10 to May 12. For more informa-



**PARTICIPATING** in a Nov. 16 reunion of alumni of the Baptist Student Union, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, during the 1950s were, from left, Luell Smith, Springfield; Mary Joyce Temple Hughes, Sevierville; Griffin Henderson, student ministries director, 1949-51; Bob Hall, current director, and Elbert Williams, director, 1952-61. The event drew 72 alumni from eight states to the BSU center in Knoxville.

### Officers elected in meetings associated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention



**OFFICERS** of the Tennessee Baptist Recreators Association elected at its Nov. 11 meeting are, from left, Archie Fendley, Knoxville, east regional coordinator; Jim Phillips, Clarksville, president; Marty Blakely, Knoxville, president-elect; and Paul Bowman, Brownsville, secretary-treasurer.



**CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE** officers elected during its Nov. 11 meeting include, from left, first row, Henry Simpson, Huntingdon, president; Mark Karki, McMinnville, vice president; second row, Kevin Hamilton, Memphis, vice president; Tom Wickes, Cleveland, secretary-treasurer; Tracy Wilson, Dandridge, president-elect; third row, Donnie Smith, Chattanooga, vice president; Mike Dannel, Athens, secretary-treasurer elect; John Bunn, Elizabethton, vice president; and Julian Suggs, TBC.

# Enrollment up at six Southern Baptist seminaries

By Lee Weeks  
For Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Each of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries reported increases this fall in student enrollment.

Two seminaries showed significant gains over their 1995 fall figures en route to setting enrollment records, while the four other seminaries experienced growth ranging from 12 to 78 students.

Overall, total enrollment at the six seminaries for fall 1996 rose by 6.3 percent. In 1995, 9,177 students were enrolled in seminary courses for academic credit. This fall, 9,755 students are taking courses for academic credit at an SBC seminary.

Midwestern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., have established record highs in student enrollment this fall.

Midwestern reported the largest increase at 32 percent, followed by Southeastern with a 23 percent jump.

Midwestern reported 654 students, an increase of 160 students over fall 1995. The school's previous high enrollment was 606 students in 1986.

Southeastern's fall enrollment of 1,353 students has surpassed the school's previous high mark of 1,282 established in 1982. This fall's enrollment marks the third consecutive year the seminary has experienced double-digit percentage

growth. In 1995, Southeastern's enrollment increased by 19 percent, following a 34 percent gain in 1994.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., reported the third-highest increase in enrollment with 1,220 students, compared to 1,142 in 1995. The seminary's 6.8 percent increase follows an 11.2 percent rise in 1995.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, rebounded from a 7 percent drop in 1995 with a 1.6 percent gain in 1996. The seminary's fall enrollment of 3,077 students represents an increase of 51 students over 1995. The seminary experienced a 61.6 percent increase in the number of new students enrolled in fall 1996 who were

not enrolled in fall 1995.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with 1,643 students, saw a 1 percent increase over fall 1995. The 22-student increase represents a positive turn following a 13 percent drop a year ago.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary experienced little noticeable change in their fall enrollment, netting an increase of 12 students over 1995. New Orleans reported an enrollment of 1,808 students for 1996 compared to 1,796 for 1995.

The seminaries' fall enrollment figures are based on the "non-duplicating headcount" of students enrolled in pre-baccalaureate programs, basic degree programs, and classes for academic credit. ■

## Former HMB staffer enters Freemasonry

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Gary Leazer, a former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board official who led a 1992-93 study of Freemasonry, has announced he has become a Mason.

Leazer, formerly director of the board's interfaith witness department, was asked to resign from the HMB staff by President Larry Lewis in October 1993 after delivering a speech sympathetic to Masons and critical of the HMB to a regional Masonic convention in Atlanta.

Leazer initially became a point of controversy in early 1993 over a sympathetic letter he had written to a Mason while the study, commissioned at the 1992 SBC annual meeting, was under way. He was removed from further involvement in developing the HMB report and then removed as department director.

Leazer said he "had no interest at all in becoming a Mason until after I studied the fraternity during the controversy and after leaving the HMB" in a letter circulated on the SBCNet computer network. ■

## Holiday radio spots offered by RTVC to churches

By C.C. Risenhoover  
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Eight 30-second holiday radio spots have been produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission for use by local churches and radio stations.

The spots, available on compact disc (CD), are titled "Cookies," "Christmas Guest," "Loving Home," "Whose Birthday," "Give Life," "Extra Place," "Our Future," and "1997."

"Each spot provides a Christian holiday message and has been produced so that a local church can add a brief message at the

end," said Ed Malone, RTVC vice president of radio services.

Spots prepared for and sent directly to stations close with statements such as, "Brought to you by your Southern Baptist friends," but special CDs have been prepared so churches can personalize the spots for their particular area.

"We encourage local churches to add their own brief message to the end of each spot," Malone said.

"A CD with all eight spots is available to churches at no cost. A church can use as many of the spots as it chooses and can work with local radio stations in personalizing the messages," he added.

Churches wanting the spots for use in their area are encouraged to contact Stan Grubb, RTVC church media consultant, at 1 (800) 292-2287.

"Our radio people have produced some wonderful spots in the past," said Lisa Young, RTVC director of radio marketing.

"But I think these take us to a new plateau of excellence. They appeal to a wide range of listeners and touch on timely Christian topics such as loneliness, the importance of family, and the true meaning of Christmas."

Young said the spots have been sent to more than 11,000 radio stations. ■

## Clinton, CLC disapprove

### Ban lifted on liquor advertising

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist ethics agency has joined President Bill Clinton and alcohol watchdog groups in criticizing the American hard liquor industry for dropping its longtime voluntary ban on television and radio advertising.

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States recently announced it no longer would abide by a ban on broadcast advertising, in place on radio since 1936 and on television since 1948. DISCUS, a trade association representing producers and marketers of hard liquor, said it had adopted a code governing broadcast advertising by its members which has two core principles:

(1) "To ensure responsible, tasteful, and dignified advertising and marketing of distilled spirits to adult consumers who choose to drink.

(2) "To avoid targeting advertising and marketing of dis-

tilled spirits to individuals below the legal purchase age."

Such a code did nothing to allay the concerns of opponents of lifting the ban.

"The decision to drop (the ban on) hard liquor advertising demonstrates what we already knew about the alcohol industry," said Will Dodson, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "They are definitely more concerned about profits than they are concerned about the welfare of society."

President Clinton called the liquor industry's decision "simply irresponsible."

In his weekly radio address Nov. 9, the president said Americans' message to liquor companies should be: "You were right for the last 50 years when you didn't advertise on television; you're wrong to change your policy now. This is no time to turn back. Get back on the ban. That's the best way to protect all our families." ■

## Classified

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY:** Growing congregation in search of bivocational Minister of Music. First Baptist Church, Watertown, P.O. Box 187, Watertown, TN 37184; (615) 237-3312. \*\*\*\*

**POSITION OPEN:** Child Development Center director needed. B.S. in Education, some business/financial experience required. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, 291 Stonewall St., McKenzie, TN 38201, or call (901) 352-5391. \*\*\*\*

**STAFF POSITION:** Opening for associate pastor. Membership is approximately 1,100 with average attendance around 400. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Hopewell Baptist Church, 9845 Hwy. 128, Savannah, TN 38372. \*\*\*\*

**PART-TIME POSITION:** Highland Church seeks applications for a part-time minister of music to direct the adult choir and coordinate the music ministry. If interested, submit resume by Dec. 20 to Search Committee, Highland Baptist Church, 808 W. Hickory Street, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

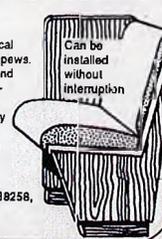
## TBC Staff Position Open

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces that applications are being accepted for the position of Church Annuity Accounts Specialist in the Church Staff Leadership Group. Please contact the Human Resources Office, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (615) 371-2013 for further information. Interested persons must submit an application to be considered for the position.

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**Purpose of foreign missions emphasis**

# Churches key to nurture, support of missionaries

By Teresa Dickens  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptist churches nurture the missionary call and sustain missionaries, as they teach about missions, pray for missions, and give to missions, according to denominational missions leaders.

The chief executives of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union — the entities which coordinate the promotion of the Season of Foreign Missions — highlighted the importance of these activities in their interpretation of the 1996 theme, "Missionaries: From Church with Love."

The 1996 Season of Foreign Missions includes the Foreign Mission Study (which was scheduled for Nov. 17-20); Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Dec. 1-8; Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School, Dec. 8; and the collection of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which has a goal of \$100,000,000.

The missions leaders said the theme not only emphasizes the love churches express for missionaries, but also the motivation behind sending more than 4,200 missionaries around the world.

"It is a good theme because the support churches give reflects their love for the missionaries and what the missionaries are doing on behalf of the churches," said FMB President Jerry Rankin.

"It also is a theme that plugs into the idea of our love for a lost world and our desire



**MISSIONARIES**  
*From Churches with Love*

**Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions**  
Dec. 1-8

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
National Goal: \$100,000,000  
Tennessee Goal: \$7,500,000

to bring them to Jesus Christ through the witness and work of our missionaries.

"It also helps to emphasize that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering does provide support for the missionaries," he continued.



**RANKIN**

WMU to collect the offering, it was to support more missionaries to come to China. It has always provided a large portion of our overseas budget which is basically missionary support.

Jim Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, said the theme reminded him of Southern Baptists' responsibility and commitment to send out the best they have to offer.

"Southern Baptist mission-

aries represent the finest from among our congregations," Williams declared.

"The New Testament mandate for us to be missionaries demands that we send nothing less than our best, and the commitment to send the best demonstrates our love for lost people around the globe."

Williams recalled the story of the Indian woman who had two sons, one healthy and the other crippled. When the woman told a Christian missionary she planned to sacrifice one of her sons to her god, the missionary pleaded with her not to sacrifice the child. Later, the missionary saw the woman with the crippled child and assumed that she had convinced her not to sacrifice the child. In quizzing the mother, the missionary learned that the woman had sacrificed her healthy son.



**WILLIAMS**

When asked why, the mother replied, "Why should I give anything less than my best to my god?"

"Likewise," Williams concluded, "Southern Baptists must offer their best with love."

"Missionaries represent the heartbeat of Southern Baptists," he said.

"We have a passion for missions fueled by our interpretation of Scripture's missions mandate and our commitment to evangelism. Missionaries are an extension of the local church, sent by the local church, and supported by the local church through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien emphasized prayer in her interpretation of the theme.

"It brings to mind the picture of churches being rope holders — of reaching out and spanning the gap of separation of missionaries from their homeland through love and support during the time they are overseas. Love implies a personal relationship and we certainly foster that when we pray for them and learn about their work."

"Love is not always the term we use," O'Brien acknowledged, "yet it certainly is the kind of expression that God would have us to experience because it was his love that sent them out from among us all across the world in the first place." ■



## Foreign missions facts

For *Baptist and Reflector*

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board notes the average cost of maintaining a missionary for:

- One year: \$32,126.48
- Per month: \$2,677.21
- Per week: \$617.82
- Per day: \$88.02
- Per hour: \$3.67
- Per minute: \$0.06

These figures include salary and other benefits, language study, school allowance, rent, travel, and other items related directly to missionary expenses for the year ending Dec. 31, 1995. These are not the figures used in connection with the the board's missionary support program and does not include other administrative and support costs.

The Foreign Mission Board appointed 523 missionaries in 1995.

The total number of missionaries appointed between 1845 and 1995 is 13,049. ■

## Missionaries in Philippines report awareness of prayers

By Dana Williamson  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

DEL CITY, Okla. — Southern Baptists in the United States prayed for Paul Stevens on his birthday last Dec. 12. That's precisely when he and his wife, Ruth, Foreign Mission Board missionaries in the Philippines, needed prayer the most.

That day, the couple was Christmas shopping in Davao City when they received a message of a letter delivered to their home in Malita, threatening to kill their entire family and helpers unless a great sum of money was paid.

The entire family — including Cheri, 12; Sam, 10; Angela, 7; and Katrina, 2 — stayed away from Malita for 10 days, then returned to see if there was further word about the threat.

Two days after Christmas, a pastor's wife in Malita told the Stevenses she had heard their children were going to be kidnapped.

The couple immediately packed up the children and left to celebrate New Year's with another missionary family. Missionary administrator Sam Stallings, a Tennessee native from Bolivar, advised the family to relocate.

"It was a hard decision to leave," Stevens said. "We had invested so much time in the area."

Besides, the family was not sure the threat was real. They had lived for the past three years with the problem of heavily armed bandits raiding villages in the area.

"But it's a little different when your name is on the targeted letter," Ruth Stevens admitted.

On Jan. 2, the couple was praying for specific instructions from God.

"I was reading about Joseph being warned in a dream not to return to his home because of a threat to the young Jesus," Stevens remembered. "We realized even Jesus had to evacuate," his wife added.

So in January the family left the coastal town where they had invested 12 years and moved into an apartment in the Chinese district in Davao City.



**MISSIONARIES** Paul and Ruth Stevens of the Philippines sort through an album of photos from their service in Malita. They now serve in Davao City. — Photo by Kent Harville

Stevens began a new job researching Filipino language groups.

The couple was appointed missionaries in 1982 and, after language study, began serving in Malita, an isolated spot with no electricity, no phones, and no medical service. They visited the 40 churches in the area by boat, horseback, or on foot. "It is the poorest of areas," Stevens noted. "Some of the churches had an annual income of \$10."

With their relocation, Stevens' job now is to establish viable church bases with every ethnic group in the southern Philippines. "That way, people could continue if missionaries had to leave," he explained.

The family has been very aware of support from churches in the United States.

"When we received the death threat letter, I told Paul that all those people were praying for him on his birthday. I knew the Lord hadn't abandoned us," Ruth Stevens said. ■

# Arkansas pastor has 'open door' opportunity with president

By Russell N. Dilday  
For Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Rex Horne viewed part of the presidential election "from the inside" as he prayed with President Bill Clinton just prior to his acceptance speech. Horne, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, where Clinton is a member.

Horne said he responded to a call at his home from a Clinton aide "that the president wanted me to come down and have a time of prayer with him before his speech."

Moving alone with Clinton to a private room in the Old State House, "I prayed for the president as I always do. Some of it, honestly, was of a personal nature, just praying as I always pray for him and with him that God would give him strength and wisdom and that he would do that which is first right before God and then

helpful to our country."

Minutes later, in his acceptance speech, Clinton thanked "my pastor, Rex Horne, who prayed with me before I came out here tonight" and "all the ministers and people of God who prayed for me and with me over these last three years."

Horne said that while he has opposed Clinton "on several of his policies, and have done so publicly on some such as partial-birth abortion and others," Clinton's faith does provide "an open door" to be heard.

"I know him and some of those things about him better than many people that make their assessments of him," Horne said. "While I can't know what is in any man's heart, I think that his faith is a foundation for him and it pro-

vides an open door for me.

"If he allows me the access to talk with him about my convictions in whatever matters, he allows that because his faith is something that provides that door," Horne explained.

"I can't say it's always caused him to make decisions that I would make, but it has provided me an access, a line of communication that he keeps open to me to share that with him."

Emphasizing the need for Southern Baptists to pray for the president, Horne said, "None of us could know the unbelievable stress and responsibility that lies upon the president of the United States." ■

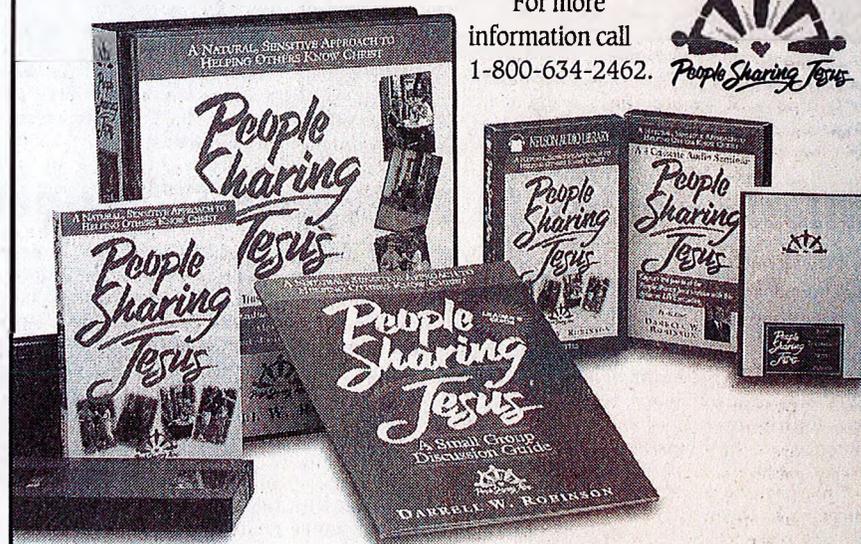
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# Stop! Thief!

By Ron Galyon

**Focal Passage — Exodus 20:15; Amos 8:4-6; James 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:28**

I worked with the criminal justice system from 1979 to 1985. I knew the majority of criminals in the four county judicial circuit that I was assigned to. We dealt with thieves that ranged from bad check writers to armed robbers. There was one man we dealt with who made his living stealing meat from grocery stores. There were housewives who supported a lifestyle they could not afford by writing bad checks. There was a shoplifting ring that actually took orders from people. You could tell them the size, brand, and color of the clothing you wanted and they would steal it for you and charge you half price.

When I was in the criminal justice system we called theft a property crime. This was to distinguish theft from assaults and other crimes that were felt to be a crime against a person. I think we probably missed the point that God was making in the Ten Commandments when he told his people not to steal. We need to understand why this principle was important enough in God's economy to make his top ten list. Let's look at the Old Testament practice and then draw from that practice God's eternal principle.

The Old Testament practice prohibited stealing (Exodus 20:15; Amos 8:4-6). This is a two-word verse in the Hebrew language. This verse contains one of the two Hebrew words for "no" and one Hebrew word that we translate with the phrase "You shall steal." Thus, we have "you shall not steal."

This negative represents the stronger of two Hebrew words for "no," which was understood as a permanent injunction. The word for "steal" means "to thief" and by implication "to deceive or cheat." It means to take that which belongs to another without their consent or knowledge.

The ancient world treated stealing as a very serious crime. Property rights were the main concern of the ancient Code of Hammurabi. The usual punishment was death. The criminal code of the ancient Assyrians in the 12th century B.C. required the cutting off of a body part for stealing. Generally a nose or ear would be cut off because it was visible.

The ancient Hebrew law code was very different. Rather than death or the removal of body parts the Hebrew law code usually required restitution (Exodus 22:7). Only in rare cases like kidnapping (Exodus 21:16) and the taking of devoted things (Joshua 7:11,25), was death prescribed. Why?

God's principle prohibited the taking of another person's opportunity (Exodus 20:15; James 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:28). In the Hebrew world there were no banks and no insurance. When something was taken, the person suffered a loss. In the ancient world your possessions represented your opportunity — to gain wealth and to help other people — or a crime against a person.

Allow me to illustrate. There was a 16-year-old in north Georgia that committed a string of armed robberies at small grocery stores. He would put a gun to the clerk's head and threaten to blow their heads off. After a robbery, one man closed his store out of fear for himself, his family, and his employees. His opportunity was stolen.

I believe we are to promote for everyone the opportunity to excel, to become all that God has created all people to become. We are to add to the experience of life for others and not take from them. ■ — Ron Galyon is pastor of First Church, Pulaski.

# Elizabeth and Zechariah

By Michael Smith

**Focal Passage — Luke 1:5-13, 24-25, 59-60**

What kind of person can God use to accomplish his purposes? In theory, most of us would insist God can work with any willing person to accomplish great things. Often, though, in practice we expect God to turn to people with outstanding gifts, skills, or means. The story of Elizabeth and Zechariah reminds us of God's well-attested tendency to select "ordinary" people as the lead characters in the drama of salvation.



A surprising announcement (vv. 5-13). Luke reminds us that Elizabeth and Zechariah lived in a world dominated by powerful people, such as King Herod. Their lives, in the normal course of things, would never be recorded in history.

Both were of priestly descent, pious people who carefully kept God's commandments.

Priests were divided into 24 groups. Zechariah was a member of the Abia division. As such, he was chosen by the casting of lots to burn incense at either the morning or evening temple service. Because of the large number of priests (by some estimates 20,000 or more), no priest could serve in such a way more than once during his lifetime.

## Family Bible Lesson

Elizabeth and Zechariah experienced the grief of childlessness. Their culture looked upon children as evidence of God's blessing or approval. In all probability, some people gossiped about the old couple, imply-

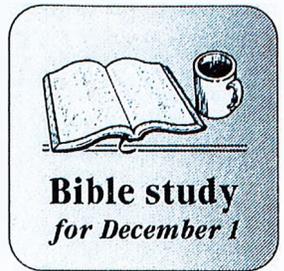
ing their condition was God's punishment for some hidden sin. Perhaps Elizabeth and Zechariah wondered if the gossips might not be right. Certainly as they entered into old age, they put aside all realistic hope of having a child.

Zechariah, then, was understandably surprised at the angel Gabriel's announcement: Elizabeth would bear a son, and he would be named John. God's blessing was about to fall upon them after all their long years of serving, waiting, and suffering.

Elizabeth's reaction (vv. 24-25). Elizabeth became pregnant. After so many years of frustrated dreams, and perhaps after enduring the scorn of others, she withdrew from public life for five months. Verse 25 records her joy as she thanked God for acting to "take away my reproach among men." God sent John to prepare the way for Jesus, but God's gracious action brought a blessing to Elizabeth as well.

The birth of John (vv. 59-64). God's promise came to pass, and John was born. In accordance with religious custom, the child was circumcised. Since Zechariah could not speak (v. 20), friends and relatives attempted to name the baby after his father. Elizabeth objected that his name was to be John. Finally Zechariah wrote on a tablet: "His name is John."

With that action, his voice returned to him. Immediately Zechariah praised God for all he had done, and news of the events surrounding John's birth spread throughout the land. Through this aged, faithful couple God had launched the career of the one who would prepare the way for the Lord. ■ — Michael Smith is pastor of Second Church, Memphis.



# Spiritual fruitfulness

By Thom Tapp

## Explore the Bible Lesson

**Focal Passage — Matthew 13:8, 18-23**

Have you ever heard anyone say "God saved us to win others to Christ," or "God saved us to work for him?" Although God commands us to share the Gospel, and leads us to work for him, those are not the reasons he saved us! He saved us because he loved us. Period. The only meaningful fruit we can bear is born of our love for the Lord, and his love for those around us.

**The parable of the sower (13:1-9)**

Jesus used many illustrations to teach God's truths to people. An excellent study on this parable as it relates to winning others to Christ is *Witnessing Through Your Relationships* by Jack R. Smith and Jennifer Kennedy Dean.

The first seeds fell by the wayside. This represents superficial hearing of the Gospel. The second seeds fell on hard ground or stones. This represents hard-hearted rejection of the Gospel. Next was the seed that fell among the thorns. This represents people who allow the cares of the world to have priority over their potential acceptance of the Gospel. Then there were the seeds which fell on good soil, representing seekers.

**Jesus' reason for using parables (13:10-17)**

Some people have minds like ce-

ment; thoroughly mixed, and firmly set! Jesus' parables spoke on the level of those listening. The Spirit of God speaks to the heart of seekers (v. 11). Jesus didn't teach to impress, but to impart knowledge and wisdom.

**The explanation of the parable of the sower (13:18-23)**

In verse 18, Jesus tells his disciples to "hear" the parable of the sower. In other words, understand and apply the parable. In verse 19, this concept of understanding is addressed. The seed sowed by the wayside is superficially accepted because it is not understood. Secondly, verse 20-21 refer to people who "jump the gun" and embrace what they understand Christianity to be. In verse 22, the thorny ground is explained to be trust in riches and self sufficiency. Finally, the good soil characterizes those who accept the Gospel, and bear spiritual fruit.

**The parable of the tares among the wheat (13:24-30)**

Only when wheat bears fruit can it be judged to be wheat and not a weed. So it is with God's servants. The Bible says "Ye shall know them by their fruit" (Matthew 7:16).

**The parables of the mustard seed and leaven (13:31-33)**

Jesus' earthly ministry lasted only about three years. He called out 12 men to follow him in ministry. From this beginning, millions of souls have come to the Lord. Our potential in Christ is limitless. The leaven in this passage represents the catalyst effect Christians have in the world through the Holy Spirit.

**The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl (13:44-46)**

These two parables express the same truth. There is great joy in finding salvation. The treasure is "buried" in Scripture, and revealed by the Holy Spirit. One part of the fruit of the Spirit is joy. This is the fruit Jesus refers to in finding the treasure of salvation.

**The parable of the net (13:47-52)**

The picture Jesus draws in these verses is that of a large net being cast, and fish of every kind being caught. The fishermen would separate the fish into types. Some day there will be a judgment, and souls will be sorted by God.

The fruit we bear speaks volumes of our relationship with God. We don't earn anything by our actions, but our actions reflect what we are! ■ — Thom Tapp is pastor of Oral Church, Lenoir City.



Board, which is undertaking a sweeping reorganization to change the way it offers ministries to churches. ■

### Oklahomans adopt plan for restructuring

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A new executive director-treasurer and a new state convention structure were approved during the 91st annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Nov. 11-13.

Native Oklahoman Anthony Jordan, who has served 14 years as pastor of Northwest Church in Oklahoma City, was approved as executive director Nov. 11 during an extravaganza that doubled as a 50th anniversary celebration for the BGCO church music department.

On the convention restructuring plan, the BGCO will move from 12 departments to three "teams" that will use more consultants than in the past and change from being program-driven" to being "purpose-driven."

The 1,408 messengers also approved a 1997 Cooperative Program annual budget of \$18.25 million, a 1.82 percent increase over the 1996 budget.

Ted Kersh, pastor of Village Church, Oklahoma City, was elected president of the convention. ■

### Virginia Baptists retain more money in state

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Virginia Baptists approved a budget Nov. 12 that allocates more money next year for ministries in the state.

The \$15.5 million budget for 1997 adopted during the Nov. 12-13 annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia keeps a higher percentage of funds in the state and sends less money to support ministries beyond Virginia's borders.

As a result, two of the BGAV's main recipients for national and world mission causes will get fewer funds next year: the Southern Baptist Convention, about \$360,000 less, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, about \$135,000 less.

Almost all the increased revenues for Virginia — about \$1 million — will be allocated to the Virginia Baptist General

## Tennessean elected to lead Louisiana Baptists

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — A record number of messengers to the 149th annual session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention welcomed the state convention's new executive director, Dean Doster, and re-elected Michael Claunch to a second term as president during their Nov. 11-12 meeting.

Doster, 52, a native of Gleason, is a former Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes staff member and pastor of churches in Ripley, Brownsville, and Granfield.

Doster comes to Louisiana from the Home Mission Board in Atlanta where he has been a staff member since 1984, most recently as a regional coordinator. He is tentatively scheduled to take over March 31, 1997 for Mark Short, who retires in February after 10 years in the position.

A record 2,600 messengers registered for

the annual session.

Louisiana Baptists adopted a record \$18 million Cooperative Program budget for 1997, an increase of 2.3 percent over the current budget goal.

In other action, an amendment to the Louisiana Baptist Convention constitution failed to receive the two-thirds majority required for passage.

The amendment called for the convention to do "its work in accordance with the principles that the Bible is the Word of God and is truth without mixture of error in every area of which it speaks, and that the confession of faith of the Louisiana Baptist Convention shall be the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on May 9, 1963." The amendment drew 55 percent approval from messengers, falling short of the 67 percent required for passage. ■

### Hawaii Baptists elect layman

Baptist Press

KAHULUI, Hawaii — A layman was elected president of the Hawaii Baptist Convention and messengers adopted a resolution upholding marriage during their 54th annual meeting earlier this month.

George Moyer, a layman from Honolulu, was elected president by acclamation.

In other actions, messengers adopted a \$2,209,866 budget for 1997, up 4.3 percent from the current budget and passed a resolution speaking out "in opposition to those who promote same-sex marriages as acceptable lifestyles." ■

### NW Baptists approve bonds

Baptist Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Messengers to the 49th annual meeting of the Northwest Baptist Convention approved a bond offering of \$2 million to complete construction of the \$4 million Northwest Baptist Center, the new headquarters in Vancouver, Wash.

The facility has been under construction for more than a year and is expected to be completed in 1997.

The convention, which attracted 495 messengers Nov. 12-14, also approved a budget of \$4,091,139 for 1997.

Terry Little, a Mead, Wash., pastor, was re-elected convention president. ■

### Arizona Baptists set future course

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — Arizona Southern Baptists set a course

for the future at their 68th annual meeting Nov. 12-13.

The future will entail a state convention emphasis on "Serving Churches on Mission," which also was the theme of the two-day meeting.

Messengers adopted a mission statement which lists four priority principles: developing creative leadership with vision for a new day, "resourcing" local churches, creating additional networks of cooperation, and providing opportunities to reach the world through "hands-on" mission experiences.

David Johnson, pastor of First Southern Church, Phoenix, was elected convention president by four votes over Bruce Coe, pastor of First Church, Chandler.

Messengers also, on a voice vote, adopted a missions giving plan that provides churches more flexibility in their Cooperative Program giving by allowing churches an option to depart from the budgeted percentages and set their own formula for how their Cooperative Program funds are divided between the state convention and the SBC. ■

### Californians address women as pastors, Disney

Baptist Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Another attempt to reject messengers from a church with a woman pastor and a move to boycott the Walt Disney Company for anti-Christian values failed during the California Southern Baptist Convention's 56th annual meeting Nov. 12-13.

But the entertainment giant was censured for alleged anti-Christian policies, in a statement messengers adopted af-

firming a resolution critical of Disney passed at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last summer in New Orleans.

For the fourth year in a row, one of the convention's first matter of business was to decide whether members of 19th Avenue Church, San Francisco, could register as messengers. At issue once again was that the congregation has a woman pastor.

The challenge was defeated 268-289, but the question of whether churches with women pastors are welcome in the California convention remains unclear as a motion presented the next day assures the issue will be addressed again next year.

President Harry Lewis, a pastor from Ridgecrest, was re-elected for another one-year term. ■

### BWAid shifts Rwandan focus

Baptist Press

McLEAN, Va. — Baptist World Aid is increasing its efforts in behalf of programs to resettle refugees returning to Rwanda from Zaire.

In recent weeks, BWAid has supported Baptists in Rwanda as they have cared for returnees, particularly in the Cyangugu area. Now, the BWA relief arm additionally will support a larger initiative of Rwandan Baptists as they provide care for returnees living close to their churches. The program will include the provision of seeds, tools, basic household equipment, and emergency food aid.

Rwandan Baptists have asked BWAid for \$500,000 in support of the program. Since 1994, BWA has expended more than \$750,000 for relief work related to the refugees. ■



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