

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH

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

As birthplace of Ku Klux Klan

Pulaski Baptists help town overcome reputation

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

PULASKI — Many in Pulaski regret its historical identity as the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan in 1865. Besides, said the pastor of First Church, the town of 8,000 has a more positive side to its history: This is where two African Americans helped form the first Southern Baptist church for white residents in the 1890s.

"In my opinion that deserves more attention," said Ron Galyon, pastor of the predominantly white First Baptist (Pulaski's other First Baptist is a primarily black congregation).

"Within the context of 100 years ago in the South, two black men overcame the prejudice against them to help whites. And the Tennessee Baptist Convention saw their concern as legitimate. What I read into that is they were treated with respect and dignity. It shows that something else was taking place here."



GALYON

The pioneers were Baptists Jerome Gentry and David Howard, who later pastored several churches in the south-central Tennessee region. Gentry wrote a letter in 1895 to the *Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*, which ultimately led to a tent revival from which came the white Baptist congregation. A century later, the church is returning the favor.

It celebrated its centennial last August with a four-day celebration. Guests included two of Howard's nieces and a member of one of the churches he pastored.

During its homecoming, First Church took a love offering for Temple of Praise,

the newest African American Baptist church in the community. It also made mission fund donations to its fellow First Baptist and the Boys and Girls Club, with more than \$3,000 going to the three groups.

Earlier last summer, First Church established an outreach to the Boys and Girls Club, which encompasses most African American youth.

The work began after youth pastor Lewis Thomas began planning a summer mission trip to another state. But after two months of prayer, he felt the Lord saying, "Your mission is here."

At a meeting with the church's missions committee to discuss a local project, he received several names. One was Deborah Patterson, director of the Boys and Girls Club.

"The first time I talked to her I knew this was the door God had provided for us," Thomas said. "She got excited and started praising the Lord and saying, 'I've been praying for God to send someone and here you are.'"

Like most mission trips, First Church sponsored a week-long backyard Bible club. But in Pulaski, it continued all summer, with members returning once a week for crafts, music, games, and Bible stories.

About 25 different members of the youth group participated, along with another 20 adults, said the youth pastor.

The youth found it rewarding, Thomas said. "When it came to the end of the week, they wanted to know when we were going back. And when we did they had the

same zeal."

For Thomas, another highlight is the tutoring program that has since developed. Half a dozen youth group members go to the Boys and Girls Club regularly to help children with homework, he said.

So do several students from nearby Martin Methodist College. The youth pastor spoke to the campus ministry organization last September and challenged them to get involved.

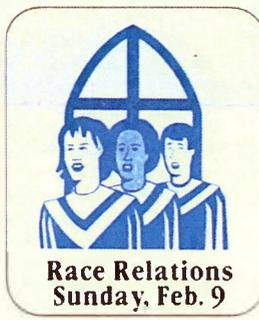
Patterson said First Church's assistance has proved invaluable. While many of its recreation and other activities already were established, she lauded the members for spreading the word about the need for volunteers.

"I can talk about it on radio and TV, but until I have people coming in elbow to elbow and working with the kids, the word doesn't get out," said Patterson, a member of Campbell Chapel AME Church.

Although not directly connected, this is another example of how Pulaski is taking action to overcome its past links to the KKK. The town has taken "proactive" measures to discourage KKK rallies in Pulaski, as well as holding a "unity celebration" each January on the weekend of the Martin Luther King holiday, said Galyon, who resigned effective Jan. 19 to accept a

pastorate in South Carolina.

While Pulaski isn't a racial utopia, Galyon said, positive steps to heal old wounds have occurred. However, First Church didn't set out to cross racial barriers at the Boys and Girls Club, he added. Just help children. ■



Race Relations
Sunday, Feb. 9

1996 Annie Armstrong home missions offering sets record

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — For the fourth year in a row, Southern Baptists gave a record amount to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

The year-end total for 1996 was \$39,508,440, according to Ernest J. Kelley, HMB interim president.

Through Jan. 15 Tennessee Baptists had given \$2,815,165 to the 1996 Annie Armstrong offering.

Kelley announced the record offering to the executive board of Woman's Missionary

Union during their annual meeting which began Jan. 11. WMU, in conjunction with the Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board, promotes the offerings.

The nearly 200 participants in the WMU meeting applauded the news of the record offering and Kelley expressed appreciation of their support. "Home missions has no greater friend than Woman's Missionary Union. On behalf of our missionaries and those whom they serve across the country, thank you and God bless your dedication to missions."

Kelley singled out the efforts of several state conventions which led in increasing their offerings over the previous year, including Alaska with a 10 percent increase, followed by Canada and Iowa with 9 percent gains.

Alabama led state conventions in dollar increase, giving \$167,000 more in 1996 than in 1995. Four other states also increased their giving by \$100,000 or more — Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

According to Kelley, the home missions offering has grown 214 percent since

1978, more than any other aspect of Southern Baptist financial life including local church income.

"I believe the continued record mission offerings are a reflection of Southern Baptists' commitment to reach our nation for Jesus Christ," Kelley told Baptist Press.

"The United States is Southern Baptists' base. If a strong base is not maintained and even strengthened, the next generation will experience a reduced commitment to foreign missions and theological education as well as home missions." ■

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Former Tennessee pastor helps equip laypeople

By Susan J. McDaniel
For Baptist Press

GERMANTOWN — Bill Darnell accepted Christ when he was 16, and the first thing he did was win his best friend to Christ.

Then he and his friend won most of their friends to Christ. In the process, God gave Darnell a motivation to win people to Christ, but not to do it alone.

After graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1970, Darnell served as minister of evangelism and counseling at First Church, Pasadena, Texas. His pastor was Darrell Robinson, now Southern Baptist Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism and author of the book *People Sharing Jesus*.

"Through Darrell's leadership I learned how to make evangelism an ongoing strategy of the church," said Darnell,

who served as pastor of Kirby Woods Church in Memphis from 1981-86.

"He had 300 people trained to go out and share Jesus with the community, and they did it all the time. I saw how it could work."

Darnell subsequently became pastor of First Church, Weatherford, Texas, and adopted the People Sharing Jesus approach before any of the material was written.

"We literally knocked on every door in Weatherford in two years and had people saved every Sunday," Darnell said. "We experienced an incredible moving of God because of obedience to those principles. Then I got the vision of beginning People Sharing Jesus Witness Weekends in other churches and taking laypeople with me."

Describing himself as a "full-time evangelistic equipper," Darnell, now based in

Germantown, has dedicated his life to training people to share Christ effectively.

Through People Sharing Jesus Ministries, Inc., Darnell and a team of laypeople conduct People Sharing Jesus (PSJ) Witness Weekends in churches. A PSJ Witness Weekend begins on Friday evening. "I do a little teaching and the laypeople come up. I always take six to eight laypeople with me. All of them actively share their faith. They talk about how they share Christ on the job, how God blesses, and how people respond." The weekend continues with more teaching and lay testimonies on Saturday morning, followed by a witnessing experience in the afternoon.

At a PSJ Witness Weekend at First Church, Palacios, Texas, for example, 27 people prayed to receive Christ Saturday afternoon. When Darnell

and his team left, they left behind a group of equipped laypeople to work with the pastor.

"The key is laypeople. We preachers can never do it. God doesn't even call us to do it by ourselves: God calls us to equip the church to do it.

"I'm afraid we equip the church to do a lot of stuff that has very little to do with what Jesus asked us to do. That grieves me. For the remaining years of my life, I'm going to train as many laypeople as I can to effectively share Jesus."

PSJ Witness Weekends are designed with flexibility to meet the needs of each church. The church is asked to house the laypeople who accompany Darnell, and a love offering is taken to assist with travel expenses.

For more information about People Sharing Jesus Witness Weekends, call Darnell at (901) 853-6343. ■

Internet gambling may fuel addictions, societal toll

By Tammi Ledbetter
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — If casinos typically attract middle-age to older Americans willing to crank the arm of a slot machine for hours on end, what will it take to develop a new generation of gamblers raised in a technologically advanced age?

Some entrepreneurs are betting on the newest branch of the industry — gambling on the Internet — to hook younger Americans comfortable with personal computers.

Casino-style games have long been available on computer software. With the Internet vehicle, computer users will be able to sit down to a computerized version of a slot machine, video poker, roulette or black jack, securing bets with a credit card.

For now, wagering on the Internet is illegal in the United States. But that hasn't stopped enterprising outlets from luring American customers on-line by conducting financial transactions outside the country in foreign casinos.

World Wide Web Casinos hopes to gain an on-line share of the gambling market in which \$550 billion was wagered by Americans last year. Company president Peter Demos told *The Los Angeles Times*,



"We think we're onto something rather huge. The Internet is the future, and the world is our casino."

Fighting the spread of gambling through the Internet becomes complicated by the lack of clear regulation of a technology that moves beyond the scope of any one country's borders.

A case involving Internet regulation may be considered by the Supreme Court this year and may have ramifications for on-line gambling. And the newly authorized National Gambling Impact Study Commission could include computer casinos in its assessment of the impact of gambling on crime, the economy, and families.

The National Association of Attorneys General has recognized the difficulty of regulating gambling on the Internet and asked the federal government to get in-

involved in its control. According to *The New York Times*, the Justice Department turned down a proposal for prosecuting such computer users.

"The department does not agree that federal law should be amended so broadly as to cover the first-time bettor who loses \$5, particularly when Internet gaming is expected to mushroom and federal resources are shrinking," John C. Keeney, an official in the criminal division at the Justice Department, was quoted as writing in a letter to the state officials.

But Minnesota Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III believes the federal government is "either going to want to get into it now, or they'll be drawn into it later," according to the *Times* article. "This is moving so fast that we have to get out in front of it."

Because of Humphrey's success in filing a lawsuit against an Internet gambling casino doing business with Minnesota residents, Bernie Horn of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling is encouraged that existing state laws could be applicable to gambling by computer. ■

Related to abortion-on-demand

CLC leader decries violence

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists have joined other pro-life groups in denouncing violence as an alternative to fighting abortion-on-demand after a suburban Atlanta professional building was bombed Jan. 16.

The building houses, among other offices, the Atlanta Northside Family Planning Services facilities, an abortion clinic.

"It is never permissible to do an evil thing for any ostensibly good

or redeeming motive," said Richard Land, president of the SBC Christian Life Commission. "Pro-life Christians everywhere should condemn people who seek to take the law into their own hands and put other people's lives at risk."

No one was hurt in the first bomb blast, but the second explosion injured seven people, none critically.

Also speaking out against the violence were representatives from Concerned Women for America and the National Right to Life Committee. ■

Lynn Porch still hospitalized

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Lynn Porch, wife of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board executive director, James Porch, was readmitted to Baptist Hospital here Saturday afternoon, Jan. 18.

A second blood clot had developed in her arm, related to a malignant tumor.

She had undergone

surgery at Baptist Hospital Jan. 13 to remove the tumorous mass from her neck.

"Our family again expresses its great appreciation for the many calls, cards, flowers, and prayers of Tennessee Baptists and others," said James Porch.

The *Baptist and Reflector* reported on Lynn Porch's cancer surgery in last week's issue of the paper. ■

SBC study profiles 'typical' SBC church

By Martin King
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The typical Southern Baptist church has 233 total members, of whom 168 are resident members. The current pastor has been at the church three to four years. The church has 70 people in its Sunday morning worship service; reported five baptisms and five other additions during the 1994-95 church year; has 98 enrolled in Sunday school, with 55 in attendance; and gives 12 percent of tithes and offerings to missions.

This profile was derived by Home Mission Board researchers from information supplied by more than 36,500 churches through the 1995 Annual Church Profile, according to Phil Jones, HMB research director. "It is a picture of what I have called the 'typical' SBC church, which is a compilation of the median statistics of all the reporting churches. That means half of all SBC churches are larger and half are smaller on any particular statistic," Jones explained.

The information indicates the current status of SBC churches as well as trends, according to Jones.

"While large, growing churches receive a great deal of attention, the Southern Baptist Convention continues to be composed primarily of small churches," Jones summarized. "Seventy percent of SBC churches have 400 or fewer members, and less than 10 percent have more than 900 members."

Jones also found that although most churches are small, 70 percent of South-

ern Baptists are members of larger churches. "A few mega-churches with several thousand members each can more than compensate for hundreds of small churches," Jones said.

The study also shows some growth indicators of the typical SBC church in 1995 may be smaller than the typical church 10 or 20 years ago, but Jones said reasons for declines are difficult to pinpoint.

"There were some problems with data collection the past couple of years causing some churches to not report, although I don't believe that would dramatically affect the outcomes," Jones said. "Some declines in the typical church baptism rate, Sunday School enrollment and attendance, and WMU enrollment appear to be due to declines in older established churches."

Jones explained not all declines are negative. "The decrease in the median number of resident members is not really an unfavorable trend since the decline is due to the influx of new, smaller churches into the convention. In fact, the baptism rate would have declined even further if not for the starting of new churches in the convention."

The study showed substantial increases in church receipts; however, the increases were smaller when adjusted for inflation. "The income for the typical SBC church in 1995 would purchase just 14 percent more than in 1972," Jones said. Total mission giving fared even better over time, reflecting what Jones called the "missions mindedness of the typical SBC church."

Although the typical church has experienced some decline, statistics for the en-

tire Southern Baptist Convention continue to increase. The total number of members reported by SBC churches has grown 34 percent since 1970, a time when most major Protestant denominations experienced serious declines.

Combined income of SBC churches grew more than 200 percent between 1978 and 1995 to \$5.6 billion. When adjusted for inflation, the growth in purchasing power still increased 29 percent. And, missions giving over the same period grew 170 percent.

SBC leaders told Baptist Press the typical church figures are not a surprise and cited such trends as reasons for recent, ongoing and planned changes at most SBC agencies.

"Of course, we are interested in this trending data which indicates some declines at the local church level," said Ernest J. Kelley, HMB interim president. "However, we must not lose sight of the fact that the SBC is very healthy and continues to grow despite strong trends to the contrary by other denominations. Our agencies and churches are well aware of the need to be more effective in all of our ministries." Kelley cited as an example the present reorganization of national SBC agencies.

"The 'Covenant for a New Century' was initiated to deal with these very trends by closing, merging, restructuring, and refocusing the work of the agencies to help churches be more effective in reaching people for Christ, which will result in more and growing churches," Kelley said. ■

Arson fund disbursement tops \$700,000

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" slowed in December but the total distributed passed the \$700,000 mark, according to an SBC Executive Committee spokesperson.

For December, \$7,371 was received at the Executive Committee offices from churches, primarily through regular state convention channels. Following six months of Arson Fund activity, a total of \$715,451 has been received and distributed.

The Arson Fund assists 95 African American churches victimized by arsonists. Like the five earlier distributions, the January distribution is based on a formula developed by the SBC Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force.

The Arson Fund was begun from an offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans last June. That offering came at the request of then-SBC President Jim Henry, and initially raised \$282,000 in pledges and cash gifts. Most of the gifts since then have come from SBC-related churches wanting to assist in the rebuilding of burned churches, according to Jack Wilkerson, SBC Executive Committee vice president of business and affairs.

Tennessee received 9.2 percent of the January distribution. ■

Youth ministers see growth of student ministry in public schools

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Youth ministers are excited about the rapid growth of student ministry on America's public school campuses, according to participants at a national conference Jan. 11-14 here.

Approximately 400 attended the National Network of Youth Ministries annual meeting. The organization, based in San Diego, works at building bridges among the nation's 6,000 youth ministries.

From a handful during the 1980s, the number of Bible clubs at public schools has mushroomed to 10,000. Aiding this growth has been increasing interdenominational cooperation, said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Yet, he added, considerable work remains to be done.

With approximately 56,000 secondary schools (grades six through 12) in the country, Ross said visible campus ministries are still needed in more than 80 percent of public schools.

The majority of existing outreaches originated with para-

church ministries, he said. Despite those significant efforts, only local churches have the resources to carry the Gospel to every school, he said.

"We must work hand in hand with para-church ministries but no longer abdicate school ministry to them," he said.

Randy Brantley, youth evangelism associate for the Arkansas Baptist Convention, said a major challenge for campus ministry is overcoming a "program mentality" among some churches. This stems from pastors or deacons who insist their youth pastor bring members to maturity in Christ and forget about the world, he said.

However, Brantley said churches who think they have penetrated the youth culture must awaken to the seriousness of the problem. Surveys show 85 percent of the students in most communities aren't plugged in to any church, he said.

Despite these conditions, the job of evangelism is getting easier, he said, with students and principals more receptive to a spiritual approach.

"There's an openness from school administrators for churches to help because what they've been doing doesn't

seem to be working," he said. "This is a new development. Their attitude is, 'If you can come in and help our kids, you're welcome.'"

Ross said he sees a discernible move of the Holy Spirit in the youth group he leads at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.

Unchurched teens are coming to salvation regularly because members bring them to church and other activities, he said. "Never in my 27 years of youth ministry have I seen teenagers more concerned for their lost friends," said Ross. "There is an unusual spiritual interest and hunger among teens in the late '90s. This represents a great opportunity because they are more willing to listen to the claims of Christianity than in recent decades."

One of the major support arms in the growth campus ministry is First Priority, a four-year-old organization in Nashville, founded by a Southern Baptist.

Benny Proffitt, president of First Priority, established the

ministry to promote the spread of Bible clubs and help churches work cooperatively to reach lost youth. In addition to this job, he is serving as interim youth minister at Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

While they form clubs using their name, they support other Christian efforts, including the M-Pact clubs developed by the youth evangelism office of the Home Mission Board, he said.

This networking strategy is either being used or organized in approximately 100 cities.

In addition, First Priority has released four 100-page manuals for clubs. They include a student leaders' guide, youth ministers' manual, one for business and community leaders, and a manual for adults who want to support these clubs. All are published by the Sunday School Board.

These materials are being used by such diverse groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Youth for Christ. Proffitt also has coordinated efforts with everyone from Catholics and Episcopalians to Nazarenes and Pentecostals.

"We all have a common goal, to reach teenagers with the Gospel," he said. ■



ROSS

California relief work continues

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Volunteers at Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding units in California learned Jan. 15 their services may be needed for up to two more weeks, while units in other western states finished shutting down.

"It's going to be a long-term recovery process here in California, with water still covering some communities," said Mickey Caison of the Brotherhood Commission, serving as on-site coordinator. "Cleanup has begun in some of the higher elevation areas, but it will take from 10 days to two weeks in the delta areas before the work can begin there." ■



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.

Partnership Prayer Requests

January

- 22 — Pray for the Baltic Mission which includes the Polish missionaries. The group will have a prayer retreat in Rega, Latvia, during the second weekend in February.
- 23 — Pray for Tina Thomas, 8, and a member of Evansburg Church in Alberta, Canada. Tina is in danger of losing her arm due to an infection.
- 24 — Pray for churches in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan that are without pastors.
- 25 — Pray for Tennessee's Belmont University sports/evangelism basketball team and their coach Betty Wiseman. The team is scheduled to travel to Tarnow, Poland, this month.
- 26 — Pray and ask for healing according to God's will for Liza Hale, a member of Worsley Church in Alberta, Canada, who has a malignancy and has undergone radiation treatments.
- 27 — Pray for George Bulson, who retired Dec. 31 as director of Michigan's South Central and Southwestern Association.
- 28 — Pray for wisdom and discernment as projects are prepared for Poland in 1997. Ask God to call the right people for each project.

Helping 'sinners'

I read with interest the response of Paul G. Jones II to the contract Baptist Memorial Health Care System Inc. has signed to provide health care services to the employees of the Grand Casino. I do not gamble nor do I pass judgment on those who do gamble or those who work in a casino. I am sure Mr. Jones truly feels the decision is "both regrettable and offensive" as he stated.

I would like to look at it from a different perspective. The role of the church is to provide spiritual healing to all — the lost as well as the saved. In the same way, the role of a hospital is to provide physical healing to all — the lost as well as the saved.

Should we object to hospitals who provide services to the divorced, the drug addict, the gossip, and the liar (all of whom are sinners and in some cases Baptist)? Or is it just the "gambling sinners?"

We Baptists have already made "sinners" feel unwelcome on our turf (church), why shouldn't we go where they are?

Is ministry, and in this case health care, only for the "sin-

free?" I am sensitive to Mr. Jones' concern about the work environment of BMHCS employees, but was Christ worried about that when he went to where the sinners were?

Lane Wallace
Knoxville 37931

Fitting tribute

The Jan. 15 *Baptist and Reflector* article on Frances Dial's 50 years as organist at First Church, Cookeville was well done. The comments on her lifetime musical contributions were appropriate tributes.

For me, however, her magnum opus is the stream of living letters which keep flowing from her pen to the *Baptist and Reflector*. These letters reveal a finely tuned Christian conscience. With her spirit tuned to middle C, Christ, she humbly lays waste the theology of power Southern Baptists have managed to put in his place.

God bless you Frances.

Larry Maples
Cookeville 38501

Prayer in court

The article concerning prayer in Judge Roy S. Moore's Alabama courtroom made such

an impression on me.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone took a stand in the same way?

What a difference it would make, and wouldn't God be pleased? Our prayers go out to the judge.

Peggy Tillman
Savannah 38372

Impressed, but

As a first-time messenger to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November, I was impressed with the "free" satchels given to all who registered and the very nice publications — 1996 Book of Reports and 1997 Resource Directory — given to each one.

These things are helpful and I am sure all appreciated them. However, when I considered that they were bought with Cooperative Program money given by individuals and churches at some sacrifice, I wonder if it was used the best way.

My guess is that at least \$25 was spent on the materials for each of the 1,500 or so messengers which could be a total of about \$35,000. Perhaps half of that could have been saved by a more frugal approach.

Does anyone know of a need

for a sum like this?

Let's all strive for wise and effective use of the Lord's money.

Larry Trimmer
Manchester 37355

Hopes for solution

I appreciated the summation of the key issues facing Southern Baptists in the next several years in the article on page 3 in the Jan. 8 issue.

I especially appreciated the manner in which the problem of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was presented.

In my opinion, it might be the first glimmer of reason evolving from the chaos God's permissiveness has allowed to evolve over the course of the last 30-40 years.

It would seem that all the other controversial flare-ups are spin-offs from the original clash of interpretative viewpoints relating to the extreme conservative/liberal opinions.

I do pray we followers do not have to endure the shattering of the total Southern Baptist Convention structure state by state before some solution is forthcoming.

Grace H. Lee
Lawrenceburg 38464

Learning new terms a small price to pay for progress

I goofed.

It wasn't the first time in my life, and undoubtedly will not be the last. Even though some may not think so, journalists really are human after all. And, that being the case, we do make mistakes.

In a story I wrote last week I credited new TBC staffers Jan Moye and Sue Raley as being in the Church Development Growth Group (CDG). That sounds good, but actually they are in the Christian Growth Development Group (CGD).

To make it short, I'm especially having trouble with initials. I'm not even going to attempt to figure out how I confused Christian and Church, except that in my weak defense, one of the new groups at the TBC does have "Church" in its name.

In Baptist circles we probably rely too much on initials. Hence, we write BSSB

an occasional word

— by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

for Baptist Sunday School Board, FMB for Foreign Mission Board, SBC for Southern Baptist Convention, TBC for Tennessee Baptist Convention, etc.

For card-carrying Southern Baptists the initials often times are as familiar as the name.

In the case of the TBC we are going from departments (where we rarely used initials) to groups (where initials make it convenient), so there is a whole new set of initials to learn and get used to. As is obvious from last week I'm still learning.

And as if that isn't going to be hard enough, all of a sudden I'm going to have to learn the SBC lingo all over again. Believe me, it's taken almost all of my 15 years in the convention to get RTVC (Radio and Television Commission) written right. For some reason my fingers like to type RTCV.



WILKEY

Dying minister's final request leads to popular Baptist hymn

A wave of evangelical fervor swept through Philadelphia in 1858. Noonday meetings sponsored by the YMCA drew as many as 5,000 people.

The leading personality in this spiritual renewal was Dudley Tyng, a young Episcopal minister. His preaching of an anti-slavery sermon caused him to be ousted from his parish. He established a new church and great throngs came to hear him.

One weekday afternoon Tyng went from his study to the barn where a mule was walking in circles powering a cornshelling machine. As he patted the mule, the sleeve

Hymns we sing

— by Wm. J. Reynolds, Southwestern Seminary

of his silk study jacket caught in the cogs of the wheel. His arm was torn from his shoulder, and despite all medical efforts and the prayers of his friends, he died five days later.

George Duffield, one of the ministers who stood by Tyng's bed in his last hours, asked if he had any message to send to his people. Tyng replied, "Let us all stand up for Jesus."

So instead of simple things like CLC for Christian Life Commission, HMB for Home Mission Board, and FMB, I'm going to have to learn NAMB for North American Mission Board (I can tell now that won't come easy), IMB for International Mission Board (That's IBM just waiting to happen), and I don't want to even think about Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

But change is inevitable. The new names reflect real ministries at both the national and state convention level. In a few years those names (and initials) will be as commonplace as the ones we have now. I'm just going to have to buckle down and learn them as will most Tennessee and Southern Baptists.

I'm going to prove you can teach an old journalist new initials. Now, I'm not saying you won't ever see another mistake. Just rest assured that when you see IBM instead of IMB or CDG instead of CGD, I knew better. My brain just took TLOA (Temporary Leave of Absence). ■

The following Sunday morning Duffield preached to his Presbyterian congregation on the text, "Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of the righteousness (Ephesians 6:14).

The sermon ended with the hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," which Duffield had written, based on Tyng's dying testimony.

The hymn reflects the imagery of a Roman soldier's fighting equipment as described by the Apostle Paul. The imagery of the Christian life as a warfare with evil is still valid. ■

Any guesses on state shortfall?

Get ready, get set, go!
The Tennessee General Assembly was called into its regular session last week — and the three-pronged challenge to the race by school children is significant.

Note that lawmakers and others in state government predict a \$70 to \$100 million budget shortfall during this fiscal year, and a possible \$300 million figure for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Get ready, get set, go!
Already the state government is scouting around for ways to "find" the needed money.

No doubt there are many worthy and needed programs at stake. Money for the schools always seems to require shoring up.

And when this occurs, legislators begin scrambling for ways to trim the budget, and ways to increase income. We haven't heard the dreaded "L" word much yet, but you can guess what it is.

Lottery! Bingo, jackpot, we have stumbled upon the prefect and desirable method to fund the entire educational system of Tennessee. Let's get a state-sponsored lottery — it will take care of all our budget problems.

Whoa! In the background discussions of budget shortfalls, someone will "innocently" mention that a state sponsored lottery is the answer. Certainly, they may naively claim, we can't rely on lottery income now, but after we push it through the legislature

again this term, we will be much closer to solving our problems. Really? Problems will be just beginning.

Perhaps it's a coincidence, but there seems to be more television reminders about nearby state lottery "winners" than we've had.

Legislators and the governor's office have been saying they have to "find" \$70 million to cover the state budget shortfall.

What are the chances of a person "winning" a state lottery? The odds of a person's being hit by lightning are about one in two million. Several years ago it was reported that in Ohio the lottery jackpot of \$27 million had odds of about one in nine million.

A lottery is a game of chance, not skill. The bettor buys one or several "lucky" tickets, hoping to win. The lottery makes the poorest payoff, on a percentage basis, of any legal form of gambling. But supporters of a state-sponsored lottery don't want you to know that.

What does a legalized lottery really do?

In a pamphlet released several years ago, the Christian Life Commission, SBC, reported that state-sponsored lotteries appeal dramatically to the poorest citizens of the state. Many times, this group is the same group that the "benefits" of the lottery should be helping.

The promise of easy money is constantly and glibly made by lottery supporters — easy money for the state, and easy money for the "winners."

In reality, the lottery is a regressive and inefficient way to raise taxes. It draws a larger percentage of its revenue from the poorer citizens than from others.

Beware! The lottery threat may be more real than we think. Talk to your legislators — now. *B&R*

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Race, religion, gender, age bias — not appropriate

Race Relations Day is February 9.

How do we relate to people of other races? The editor remembers Jim Goudelock, James Toney, James Jackson, Johannes Ndabadogombe, Eliezar Zihembere, Etienne Antoine Bitababaje, Jeremiah, Vincent, Silas and Marta, Bert Sams, and others.

Most Tennessee Baptists can call names of people from other cultures who have shaped our lives.

As we think about the quality of race relations in 1997, and put those thoughts alongside the brave witness of Martin Luther King and others, each of us needs to re-examine our personal lifestyle.

It would be good also to widen the scope of examination to include all prejudice and discrimination.

We must be unwilling to harbor any prejudice personally, and to accelerate the fight against it at home and across the world.

The dignity of being created in God's image is his personal affirmation that each person is worthy in his sight. So how can anyone harbor prejudice and discrimination of any kind

Race, religion, gender, age, status — should not be cause for bias. Dignity, respect, and courtesy are common denominators that recognize equality. *B&R*



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Salesman in sports department: "Would you like to see our bicycle model that's on sale for \$2,999?"

Shopper: "No, but I would like to stick around to see the nut that would even consider for a moment buying one."

Take this truth

Don't misunderstand! I love bicycles, but, wait a minute!



WOOD
Do you remember the fellow who was trapped in a department store over night — and to keep busy, he switched the price tags?

On the next morning, the clerks went wild. An ordinary hammer for \$795. A 20-inch television for \$3.25.

Are our priorities today this confused also?

Memorize this Scripture

For riches are not forever (Proverbs 27:24).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to keep from being a sucker for things of the world. ■

'Who's in charge here?' It's good to know the answer

It was very hot, very dusty. There was no relief from the heat, and everything was going wrong. For absolutely no reason — everything was going wrong.

I was the officer in charge of the firing range that day, the day when everything went wrong. There were two or three hundred men on the firing lines, undergoing target practice.

The targets were not being lowered, marked, and raised quickly enough. There was mass confusion, and nobody was very happy. There was a struggle for discipline, and I didn't have much experience.

In the hubbub of "things going wrong," a belligerent "regular army" major shouted at me, "Who's in charge of this outfit?"

In that moment of madness, I wanted to surrender my uniform and shout back at him, "Sir, I don't know and I don't care. Here, you take over and try to make some sense out of this mess."

But I didn't.

I did what any good army officer would

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

do (especially if you wanted to stay out of the military stockade). With a bit of false bravado, I responded, "I am, sir."

The next few moments were an eternity. As I waited for calamity to happen, and pondered the consequences of being sent to the stockade or the front lines of Korea, something good was on its way.

I don't know how or why, but the major assessed the situation and concluded that I was able to regain control of the situation.

As I cringed, waiting for the verbal assault that surely must follow my admission, he surprised me with a remark that was music to my ears.

"Lieutenant, I like that," he said, and he almost smiled. "You've learned a good lesson. You haven't tried to weasel out of



ALLEN

your responsibility."

As he turned to leave, he said, "Get this firing line in order. Carry on."

I did carry on. I "fixed" those things which I could fix. I managed to organize some order. And at day's end, I knew it was not a total failure.

In retrospect, I can laugh and realize that the circumstances were not life-threatening. I can see the events of that steamy, dusty day as stepping stones — and not stumbling blocks.

Also I realize that the major gave me another chance. He charted his own method of damage control, and did not "go by the book."

I can't say I really enjoyed the rest of the day. But I know I handled it better.

Living is more than occupying space. Living is a constant becoming what God wants you to be. Learning makes living exciting, and also entertaining. ■

Every church can start something new

Start something new. Hmm.

Can a church do that? Is it possible?

The Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 2-9 — but let's not wait until then to start something new.

The theme for this special week of prayer — and the gathering of the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions is provocative: *Start Something New*.

Starting something new is exciting, and causes every congregation to be involved in a variety of missions activities.

Start something new — a church, a mission, a Bible study, an outreach plan, a prayer emphasis, a Lay Renewal Weekend, a churchwide involvement in jail missions, building and repairing for the elderly, family ministry for deacons, beginning or re-emphasizing the children's

missions activities, involving the church in Partnership Missions.

What about starting new Sunday School classes, and helping children to be involved with Bible Drills through a revived interest in Discipleship Training.

Any and all of these suggestions will strengthen the witness of the local church.

Yes, every congregation, no matter the size, can start something new, one new growth unit, a spark in the spiritual life of the church.

The new unit can be a support group for divorced and/or blended families. It can be a group of mentors for engaged couples, newly married couples, couples with relationship problems.

The new unit can be a second morning

worship service, or a second Sunday School.

The very idea and planning for something new will be a contagious growth agent in the life of the church.

The congregation may sponsor an English Bible study class, or a class for the hearing impaired, or a youth choir, perhaps a recreation program for community youth.

Determine the needs, dream your own dream, undergird it with prayer, join God in the planning and the doing!

If every Tennessee Baptist congregation starts something new, the total impact on the people of the state will be breathtaking.

Get on board. Start something new. — Wm. Fletcher Allen

Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

Approximately 35 students with Tennessee ties were among December graduates of five of Southern Baptists' six seminaries: Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (GGBTS) Mill Valley, Calif.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas. The other SBC seminary, Midwestern Kansas City, Mo., did not report any Tennessee graduates.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: bachelor of arts (B.A.); doctor of ministry (D.M.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); master of divinity, (M.D.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.); master of arts in theology (M.A.T.H.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in missions (M.D.M.); master of church music (M.C.M.); master of music (M.M.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of divinity with counseling ministry (M.D.C.M.); and master of divinity in missions (M.D.M.).

Photos were not provided for the following graduates:

Southern Seminary — Cherie Ann Cruze, Knoxville, M.D.C.E.; Billy Skinner, Union City, D.M.; Toby Everett, Powell, M.D. New Orleans Seminary — William McGough, West Cleveland, M.D. ■



Melissa Tiebout
Memphis
GGBTS
M.D.



Gary W. Douglas
First Church
Greenfield
NOBTS
M.D.



Will Tim Page
Knoxville
NOBTS
M.A.C.E.



Thomas C. Ward
Dotson Memorial
Maryville
NOBTS
M.A.C.E.



Dwight A. Jenkins
Clinton
SEBTS
M.D.C.M.



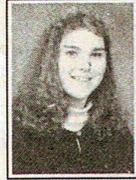
Angela Wilson
Soddy Daisy
SEBTS
M.A.C.E.



Phillip C. Barnett
Una
Nashville
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



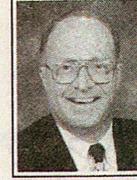
Jeffrey Brown
First Church
Erwin
SBTS
M.D.



Cynthia Denker
Memphis
SBTS
M.A.C.E.



Mark E. Diddle
Johnson City
SBTS
M.D.



Carl Freudenthal
First Church
Hendersonville
SBTS
M.D.



Robert Hammer
Nashville
SBTS
D.M.



George Ingram
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.M.



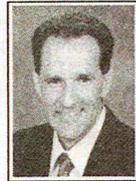
Mary Maddox
Dalewood
Nashville
SBTS
M.D.



Marvin Sartain
Clarksville
STBS
M.D.



Mike Shelton
Pastor, Bellevue
Nashville
SBTS
D.M.



Joseph Smith
Knoxville
SBTS
M.D.



Jennifer Stanfield
Kingston
SBTS
M.D.C.E.



James R. Tidwell
First Church
Murfreesboro
SBTS
M.D.C.E.



Ray D. Westveer
First Church
Goodlettsville
SBTS
M.C.M.



Byron Alexander
Colonial Heights
Kingsport
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Amy M. Byrd
Westwood
Cleveland
SWBTS
M.A.M.F.C.M.A.R.E.



Michael Fargason
Bellevue
Cordova
SWBTS, M.D.B.L.



Edward Hall
Two Rivers
Nashville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Todd Helm
Manley
Morristown
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Brian Isbell
Germantown
Germantown
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Wesley Loveday
Dumplin
New Market
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



Timothy McGinnis
Belmont Heights
Nashville
SWBTS, M.A.T.H.



Jeffrey Powers
Moscow
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



William Sikes Jr.
First Church
Athens
SWBTS
M.D.



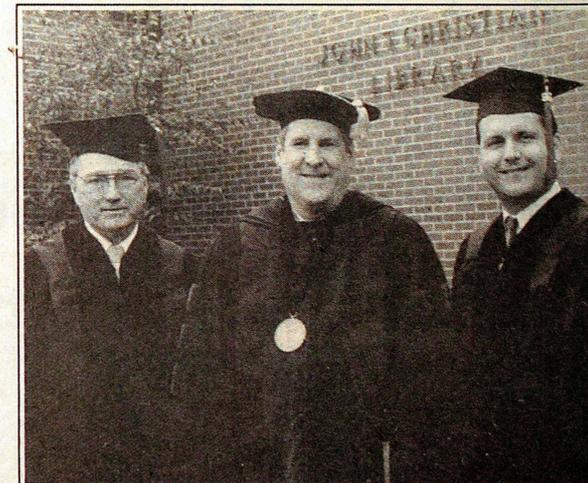
John Stith III
Indian Springs
Kingsport
SWBTS
M.M.



William Taylor
Crossville
SWBTS
M.A.R.E.



Mark Warren
First Church
Rutherford
SWBTS
M.D.B.L.



TWO STUDENTS with Tennessee ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement exercises in December. Standing with New Orleans Seminary President Charles S. Kelley Jr., center, are Danny Harvey, left, formerly of Jefferson City, who completed the doctor of ministry in pastoral ministries, and Billy Godwin of Collierville who completed the doctor of ministry degree in theological and historical studies.

Staffers needed for Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A limited number of positions remain open on the 1997 TRAC (Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp) staff to serve as summer missionaries, according to Bob Davison of the Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries team.

Applicants must be at

least 16 to be accepted as a Counselor-in-Training. Other qualifications include having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; being able to serve the entire camp schedule (June 1-Aug. 3, which includes a week of pre-camp training), and a minimum age of 17 for a first time staffer except for those accepted as a Counselor-in-

Training. The positions are paid and include room, board, and travel expenses.

A total of 17 young men are needed to fill positions of counselor, counselor-in-training, group leader, and support staff positions. Applications are now being accepted.

For more information, call Baptist Men's Ministries at (800) 558-2090. ■

Benefiting from Tennessee Baptist Foundation

Retired home missionaries continue to serve

For Baptist and Reflector

MCMINNVILLE — Two home missionaries who have retired in McMinnville are busy in ministry despite retirement. One reason is that they don't have to worry about housing. Robert Womack, a farmer, provided for that 25 years ago through the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

January is "Make Your Will Month" to support the work of Baptist Foundations across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mildred Womack and Rosa Lee Franks retired in 1984 after more than 40 years of service at the Miami Baptist Association Good Will Center. They were thankful that they could move into a home that was placed in trust by Mildred's father.

They are not just recipients of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. The women believe so much in the foundation and other Baptist work that they have designated the foundation to distribute the home and



RETIRED MISSIONARIES Mildred Womack, left, and Rosa Lee Franks don't really know the meaning of retirement.

their life savings to Tennessee Baptists, the Home Mission Board, and the Miami Baptist Association after their deaths.

Mildred Womack also called upon the foundation when her sister, Ruth, died after retiring in Tennessee from foreign mission service. Mildred Womack set up the Ruth Womack Memorial Fund. Its income is paid to the Woman's Missionary Union's Second Century Fund.

Womack and Franks contin-

ue ministry together through First Church, McMinnville. They lead a monthly worship service at a nearby nursing home and visit shut-ins regularly.

The two met in the mid-1940s when Franks arrived in Miami by train from Birmingham and was joined by Womack. They began their work to help underprivileged families in a small four-room house.

They lived in the back two bedrooms of the house and began a kindergarten in the front room. Their first students were three girls, they reported. One spoke Greek, another Spanish, and one English. Soon more than 100 boys and girls crowded the space.

The missionaries formed girls and boys Bible clubs and led Vacation Bible Schools. They gave people clothes and food and even provided health care. They prayed for more space and, as they tell it, "God answered our prayers."

Another house and a garment factory were bought with the help of Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts, several churches, and the Miami Association. Even a junk yard was bought and transformed into a playground.

Thousands of children and parents from more than 20 language groups came to the Good Will Center through the years. The center moved more than once to other facilities.



Womack and Franks provided for the spiritual, physical, and social needs of family. They also enjoyed working with many short-term missionaries and workers. Some of them, they report, became missionaries themselves because of their experiences at the Good Will Center.

The missionaries officially retired in 1984, but because of the needs in the community, they remained another 10 years as short-term workers.

Bo Childs, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, said they are an example for other Baptists because "Not only are they busy serving their church, they have prepared their wills to make sure that what the Lord has given them will be used to carry on the Lord's work into eternity." ■

Millington government led by FBC members

For Baptist and Reflector

MILLINGTON — When the new Board of Mayor and Aldermen of this suburb of Memphis were sworn in Jan. 1, six out of the seven aldermen were members of First Church, Millington. This is not a new development. Six of seven former aldermen were members of the church.

Baptists hold an 86 percent majority on the board for the next four years, reported *The Commercial Appeal*, the daily newspaper in Memphis.

Ray Newcomb, pastor, told *The Commercial Appeal*, that the involvement of church

members in city government could not be traced to the church. Newcomb said he and other church leaders only get involved in politics to the extent of encouraging voting.

"I've been here 21 years and I've been to two aldermen meetings. I went on the issue of a beer permit next door to a church. I don't advise them (aldermen who are members of his church). I don't call and tell them we need this or that," said Newcomb.

Newcomb is proud of the involvement of church members in city government leadership.

"I think we've got men of

principle in there. I preach the Word; they know the Word, and they know what they should do. ... We pray for our city leaders, just like we do our national leaders," he explained.

One measure of the lack of church-wide effort in city politics is one outcome of the past election. An incumbent who was a church member was defeated by another First Church member.

The mayor, George R. Harvell Jr., agreed with Newcomb that church affiliation is not an issue for the board.

Aldermen Richard Hodges and Linda Carter, who are

members of First Church, pointed out that another reason citizens need not fear domination by Baptists is that most of the church's members live outside the city. And Hodges noted if the members were a voting bloc he should have won a 1988 bid for mayor against Harvell which he lost.

Finally, the aldermen pose no voting bloc because they are members of a 1,700-member church. And the aldermen are busy serving there too, said Newcomb, where they are church leaders. *B&R* — *The Commercial Appeal* contributed to this story

Watauga Association helps give food to 870 families

For Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — Watauga Association, through its Hale Community Ministries, worked with a community organization for the first time in its history to spread Christmas cheer to hundreds of people in Carter County last month. In addition, the association ministered in Johnson County during the holiday.

Seven hundred families benefitted when the association and Carter County Community Services Council coordinated efforts to provide food baskets. Also, about 600 children received toys.

Families receiving assistance were eligible based on income and family size, reported Becky Brumitt, director of Hale Community Ministries.

Working with outside assistance, the association provided food baskets to 170 families residing in Johnson County, she added.

To make the endeavor possible, Baptists of the association's churches donated more than 1,000 new toys and over \$3,000 for food which was used to fill the food baskets, Brumitt reported. *B&R*



WORKERS ORGANIZE canned goods to be used in the 700 food baskets distributed at Christmas by Watauga Association and a community organization.

Minister, 92, plans global Bible mission

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — R. Paul Caudill still has a few things he'd like to do with his life though he's 92 years old.

He would like to deliver a new Bible to every prison inmate on the face of the earth, for example.

The prominence of the retired pastor of First Church, Memphis, in this area of ministry is apparent when considering that he launched the ministry from the Caudill Chapel at Shelby County Correction Center.

The Trans-World Bible Society will work to make Bibles available, at no cost, to all inmates around the world. It's a task Caudill has been working on for many years, reported *The Commercial Appeal*, the daily newspaper of Memphis.

"He's been doing this for years on his own, distributing Bibles he pays for out of his own pocket. It's time he had some help," said Stephen Anderson, a realtor who is temporary chairman of the ministry's executive committee. *B&R* — *The Commercial Appeal* contributed to this story.



Thiele to lead SBC seminary extension work
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Edward Thiele has begun work as executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Seminary Extension.

Thiele has served as professor of discipleship and director of field education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He occupied the Broadmoor Chair of discipleship at the seminary.

He views his new responsibility as "an expansion of my ministry — training leaders who will train others."



THIELE

Thiele is a graduate of the University of Texas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.

Thiele also has served as pastor of churches in Texas and Mississippi and is the author of books on discipleship.

He and his wife, Catherine, have four children. Catherine Thiele also served on the NOBTS faculty.

Seminary Extension offices are located in the SBC Building. ■

High court looks at physician-assisted suicide
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court, pondering one of the most hotly debated issues of recent years, greeted calls for legalizing physician-assisted suicide with some apparent doubt in oral arguments Jan. 8.

Justices from across the ideological spectrum seemed to express skepticism about upholding lower court rulings striking down state bans on assisted suicide during two consecutive hours of arguments. While the justices repeatedly

interrupted attorneys inside the packed chamber, opponents and supporters of assisted suicide fervently expressed their positions in front of the court building.

A decision in the case is not expected before June. ■

NOBTS given \$1 million grant
Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has been named as the first recipient of a \$1 million grant from Baptist Community Ministries, a private foundation in New Orleans.

Given in recognition of the service of Landrum P. Leavell II, NOBTS president 1975-95 and long-time member of the BCM board of trustees, the grant will endow a chair of pastoral care and counseling in the seminary's division of pastoral ministries.

The gift is historic, providing the first chair in the school's history to be fully endowed with \$1 million.

"We are delighted to receive this grant and are proud of Baptist Community Ministries' determination to take their founding vision and continue to keep the faith," said Chuck Kelley, NOBTS president. ■

HMB's Kelley committed to SBC restructuring
Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Ernest Kelley, new interim president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the agency's staff he "is and has been for some time committed to restructuring and to bringing about the North American Mission Board as envisioned in the 'Covenant for a New Century' approved by the SBC."



KELLEY

"I am committed to doing the right thing in the right way and to being honest and open in all dealings with you as staff as well as others involved in the transition," Kelley said during the first employee meeting of the new year.

He told the staff Jan. 8 the next few months would be difficult with anticipated reductions in staff, acknowledging he does not know how many employees will be needed in the new organization. "More important than the number of people are the functions the

new agency will be asked to perform. You could run the new organization with 100 people, or with a thousand, but you couldn't perform the same number of functions. We want the right number of people to perform the ministries assigned.

Kelley said he believes the NAMB will be a more focused, effective agency, and said "home missions will continue to be done by dedicated missionaries supported by an equally dedicated staff. ■

Former Texas exec Landes dies
Baptist Press

DALLAS — James Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1974-83 died Dec. 28 in Waco, Texas, at the age of 84.

Landes was a former president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and was pastor of several churches in Texas and Alabama.

Landes was a former president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and was pastor of several churches in Texas and Alabama.

He also served Southern Baptists in numerous capacities on the national level. ■

Fishing is easier if you have the right tools.

When it comes to sharing our faith, many of us get wet feet. We want to share Jesus, but don't know how. That's why every pastor in Tennessee should bring 10 church leaders to the *People Sharing Jesus Conference*.

Get hands-on guidance and equip your church to reach out to the lost in natural, loving, effective ways. With an investment of just 6 hours and \$13, the *People Sharing Jesus Conference* will equip you to:

- turn everyday conversations into sharing opportunities
- listen to others and share Christ at the point of their need
- recognize God-given opportunities to share
- share the Good News of the gospel in creative ways.



WALTER JACKSON
Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, TN



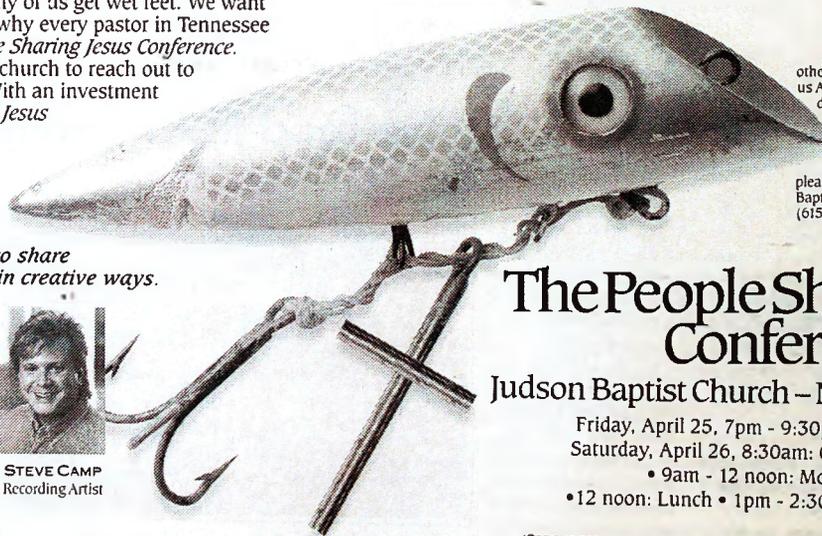
JAMES GARLOW
Pastor, Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego, CA



DARRELL ROBINSON
Vice President for Evangelism, Home Mission Board



STEVE CAMP
Recording Artist



And once you're equipped, you can train others. So bring 10 leaders with you, and join us April 25-26. Before you know it, people will describe your church as *People Sharing Jesus*.

For more information or to make reservations, please call Judson Baptist Church at (615) 833-6606.



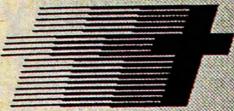
The People Sharing Jesus Conference

Judson Baptist Church — Nashville, Tennessee

Friday, April 25, 7pm - 9:30pm: Evening Session
Saturday, April 26, 8:30am: Continental Breakfast

• 9am - 12 noon: Morning Session
• 12 noon: Lunch • 1pm - 2:30pm: Afternoon Session

*PRE REGISTRATION PER PERSON \$13.00 \$15.00 AT THE DOOR. REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES ENTRANCE TO ALL SESSIONS, A CONFERENCE SYLLABUS AND TWO MEALS.



Tennescene

churches

■ On Jan. 26 **Zoe Church, Memphis**, will dedicate its new building. It was built with the help of volunteers after a fire damaged its building. The service will begin at 3:30 p.m. Michael L. Shea, pastor, Parkway Village Church, Memphis, which has served as a sister church to Zoe Church, will speak.

■ On Jan. 12 **First Church, Joelton**, burned a note representing the debt-free status of a \$1.1 million education building built in 1988. It used a Building Tomorrow Begins Today program which enabled it to pay the debt but also buy three more acres and a new bus. Because of additional growth, the church is planning another building program.

■ The Royal Ambassadors

of **First Church, Martin**, raised money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions with a "Pins for Missions" bowling event.

■ The **Hispanic Congregation of Brownsville Church, Brownsville**, dedicated its worship center Jan. 12. It is located in the church's basement.

■ **Southside Church, Parsons**, observed its 40th anniversary Dec. 8. Ronnie Geary spoke.

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, is offering its fifth DivorceCare Support Group beginning Feb. 2. Over 125 people have participated. The 13-week seminar will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

■ **Bayside Church, Harrison, and Robert C. Stitts, pastor**, will celebrate their 25th anniversary of service as a congregation and pastor of that congregation on Jan. 26. Activities will include a reception for Stitts after the evening worship.

■ **Youth of First Church, Pulaski**, will produce a drama "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames." It will be offered Feb. 9-11.

■ **Youth of First Church, Sparta**, will attend the Dawson McAlister Student/Family Conference Feb. 7-8 in Birmingham, Ala.

associations

■ **Sevier County Association** is seeking a director of missions. The association's personnel committee will receive resumes and recommendations until noon March 1. Please send to the committee, Sevier County Association of Baptists, P.O. Box 4056, Sevierville, TN 37864.

■ **Acteens of Knox County Association** will hold a Foreign Food Festival Jan. 25 at Sharon Church, Knoxville, from noon to 3 p.m. Activities will include games, music, food-tasting, and viewing people wearing the dress of other countries. For more information, call Mary Rhodes at (423) 687-6155.

■ **Hamilton County Association** will hold a Royal Ambassador Banquet Jan. 27 at First Church, Chattanooga. A Christian illusionist, Fred Boone, will perform. For more information, call (423) 267-3794.

■ **Beech River Association** will hold an Evangelism Conference Feb. 2 at Calvary Church, Parsons. Jerry Drace of Humboldt will speak in the service, which will begin at 7 p.m.

the schools

■ The **Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy Bible Training Center** based at **Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, has changed the dates of its third session. Classes will begin on Feb. 1 instead of in March as indicated earlier. The eight-week courses will include The Book of Romans, Developing Personal Evangelism, and Origins of the Bible. For more information, call the academy at (423) 573-8321.

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, will offer the course, "Chinese Culture for Business and Language for Travel," beginning Feb. 19. The class will run for six weeks. For more information, call (615) 460-5466.

■ A 48-member team from **Union University, Jackson, and West Tennessee** will work in Honduras Jan. 18-25. The group is made up of 13 students and 30 health care work-

ers from West Tennessee. Also, five people from Weakley County Association will do construction. The health care volunteers will lead clinics offering medical, dental, and veterinary help. The construction project is to build a clinic building in Choloteca.

leaders

■ **Doug Hinshaw** has been called as pastor of Butler Church, Butler.

■ **Bethel Church, Mountain City**, has called **Billy Harrell** as pastor, effective Dec. 11.

■ **Little Mountain Church, Roan Mountain**, has called **Steve Coonse Jr.**, as pastor.

■ **Terry Wilkerson**, evangelist of Lebanon, has been called as interim pastor. Rome Church, Lebanon.

■ **Dottie Young**, administrative assistant, Calvary Church, Knoxville, for 40 years will retire Jan. 31. She will be honored Feb. 2 in a reception held following the evening worship service.

■ **First Church, Bolivar**, has called **Brian Isbell** as minister of education and youth.



missions



Tennessee samplers

Finding spiritual health

By Don Davidson, pastor
National Avenue Church, Memphis

I have discovered a law of changing weather that applies specifically to me and others like me; when the weather changes from cold to hot to cold (as it has already this winter), I will get sick. There is no occasion when extremes in weather have not made me sick.

I can call the doctor, tell him how I feel, and he can call my prescription in without my having to see him. He knows my bouts better than any other doctor — therefore, he knows almost automatically what to prescribe for my condition.

Likewise, Christians become ill from vacillating between the two choices of obedience and disobedience to the Lord. We cannot change spiritual climates back and forth between commitment and selfishness because our spirits will become ill and feverish with sin-sickness and inconsistency.

Just as we are weakened and immo-

bilized by illness, our spirits can be weakened and immobilized. We may become ineffective Christians if we give into the cold darkness of temptation.

When we give into temptation, we attack and defeat our spiritual immune system — the Holy Spirit. Because of his presence in our hearts, we are immune to sin. But if we choose to embrace sin, then we tear down God's blessed barrier, and we allow the sin to destroy a part of us.

In the midst of the unstable, ever-changing climate of the world, God allows us to experience (through the Holy Spirit's power) a protected, consistent climate of spiritual health. Our part is to remain committed to him no matter what the cost. Then we will be assured of a positive, safe spiritual environment in which to grow.

Remain within the consistently strong, spiritual weather patterns of the Holy Spirit's leadership. Then you will be assured of solid, happy spiritual health. ■

Planning vs. doing

By Tom Suiter, pastor
Indian Springs Church, Kingsport

As we begin a new year, I am reminded that "time wasted is time lost." The old year is history and we are looking forward to the new year.

Most of us are planners. We are always looking to the coming events.

It is good to plan, but we should live each day as if it were the only one

that we had. We get so caught up in the future, that we fail to live in the present. We waste a lot of time thinking and planning for future events and fail to take full advantage of the now.

At the close of 1996 I found myself "thinking and planning" for the new year and had to stop and realize that the last two to three days of that year were just as important as any other. I hope that each of us will pledge to live this year one day at a time and make the most of each one. ■

What's new?

By Bill Irvin, pastor
Lucy Church, Millington

In this new year it might be good to look at the newness that God offers. It is better than the old. Remember what he said, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" II Corinthians 5:7.

So what is new that is better than the old? Lots of things.

We have a new relationship with God. In Christ we are forgiven and accepted as a child.

We have a new relationship with others. We can love them out of the love we've received. We don't need to be competing and clashing.

We can have a new attitude toward the world. Instead of wondering if we have a place in it or if we are important, we can know we are God's gift to the world and are here to give out his

love and healing.

Now you know. That's what's new! ■

A fresh start

By Charles Wm. Brown, pastor
First Church, Maryville

The poet, Louisa Fletcher, has expressed the yearning of every human heart in a poem entitled "The Land of Beginning Again." In part she writes:

I wish that there were some wonderful place

Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches

And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat
at the door

And never be put on again.

While New Year's resolutions have been greatly exaggerated (as though mere passage into a new year radically transforms one), they also have been underestimated (entry into the new is simply another year to work and pay bills). The truth is that we need to believe that periodically we can form closure on certain experiences and move forward in our life. We do not need to remain stuck in constant emotional pain; endless frustration and failure; and acquiescence to a treadmill existence. Life can be better.

The main ingredient that we bring to the table in 1997 is our personal attitude. We must believe that life can be better; church can be better; and the world can be better. ■

Interfaith Witness Training To Be Held in Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Interfaith Witness Associate Training in the area of Mormonism will be held Feb. 7-8 at Union University in Jackson.

James Newman, a missionary serving as regional director for Interfaith Witness through the Home Mission Board, will be the instructor.

The intensive 16-hour training is offered through the Language Church Extension of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The training will help provide some of the basics as to what Mormons believe so Christians can more effectively witness to them when the SBC meets in Utah in 1998.

The registration fee is \$15 and deadline for registration is Jan. 24. The conference begins at 2 p.m. on Feb. 7 and concludes Feb. 8 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call Tim Hill or Gail Parrish, TBC Language Missions, at (615) 371-7916. ■

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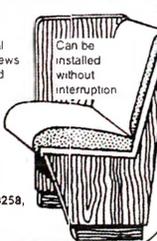
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Odds improving in fight against gaming industry

By Lee Weeks
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Bernie Horn is not a betting man. As political director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, he says wagering is more than a game.

Since November's election, however, Horn admits the odds are improving for the Washington-based lobbying group's fight against the gaming industry.

Over the last two years, efforts to legalize gambling have failed in nearly two dozen states through actions taken by legislatures and voter disapproval expressed through defeated referendums.

In November, bids to legalize gambling were turned back in Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Ohio, Washington state, Iowa, Virginia, and Guam as well as 33 parishes (counties) in Louisiana.

Anti-gambling groups were not as successful in states and

cities such as Alabama, New Orleans, Michigan, and West Virginia.

Still, Horn is not complaining. "I doubt there is any interest group in America that can claim a better record," he said.

"In Ohio we were outspent 15 to 1 and there we had the governor on our side raising money," Horn said. "In Arkansas we were probably out-fundraised 20 to 1, but in both those states we clobbered them."

Horn said one of the advantages anti-gambling groups have is they don't have to match spending with the gaming industry's multi-million dollar ad campaigns.

Larry Page, director of the Christian Civic Action Committee in Little Rock, Ark., was the point man for the con-

servative anti-gambling coordinators working in virtually every Arkansas county.

Page equipped pastors with anti-gambling literature which in turn was reproduced and disseminated among congregants. He led a state-wide drive for new voters which netted a "substantial increase," according to state polling officials.

"I had some doubts about keeping our lead," Page told the *New York Times*.

"They were running their ads unopposed. It was saturation advertising."

Horn said efforts like those of Page are essential to turning back legalized gambling

pursuits. "If we can just get our message to the voter it doesn't matter how much the other side spends," he said. "If we fail to get our message out, then they kill us."

Horn said the most disappointing advance by the gambling industry occurred in Detroit, where voters approved the legalization of three casinos by a 52-48 percent margin.

Horn said that despite the good showing by gambling opponents over the last two years, gambling proponents are not through waging their battle.

"We're going to have this battle over and over again for the next few years until there is a clear trend," Horn observed. ■



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director — Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools

The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools seeks an Executive Director who serves as the chief staff person for the Association. The Association is a 501(c)(3) organization chartered pursuant to the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the Association's office is presently located in Nashville, Tennessee. The Association exists to promote and encourage the efforts of its 68 member institutions in the task of offering quality Christian education within the context of historic Baptist perspectives and to provide encouragement and assistance involving member institutions in global missions and international education endeavors. The Association also exists to create opportunities for ongoing research and professional development that will enhance and strengthen the work of the member institutions.

The members of the Association have worked together for many years as Southern Baptist institutions. The Association recently re-established itself as an independent association following the dissolution of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Education Commission in 1996. Though an association independent of the SBC or state Baptist conventions, the Association desires and expects an Executive Director to assist the Association in maintaining strong ties to Southern Baptists through our interaction with Convention agencies and boards at the national and state levels. The position provides an excellent opportunity for a creative and energetic individual to lead and cultivate an association toward becoming a mature and significant force within Christian higher education.

The Executive Director answers to the Chairman of the Board of the Association and its 15 member Board of Directors elected in staggered terms by the members of the Association. Qualifications and attributes of the Executive Director should include:

- (1) An earned doctorate from an accredited institution and teaching and/or administrative experience in one of the institutions holding membership in the Association are preferable;
- (2) The energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to quality that is necessary to organize, maintain, and advance a successful Association; an entrepreneurial spirit would be an asset.
- (3) Demonstrable oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills with a wide range of constituents and personalities;
- (4) Demonstrable analytical, organizational, and leadership skills to work within a budget with minimal staffing; to manage competing priorities across the Association's constituent groups; and to propose and execute a plan of work for the Association as an organization beneficial to its member institutions, supportive of the Association's mission, and consistent with the essential functions of the Association as outlined in its charter and bylaws;
- (5) Active membership in a Southern Baptist church and an appreciation of the Great Commission interests of member institutions.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest plus a current resume together with the names and phone numbers of five references. Nominations are also encouraged. Every effort shall be made to ensure the confidentiality of inquiries, nominations, and applications.

Initial salary range is in the mid-to-upper \$50's, plus benefits commensurate with those provided employees of the Association's institutions. Some travel is expected, including international travel to developing and third-world countries. The salary range can rise commensurate with the Executive Director's effectiveness in developing sources of revenue in addition to the budget based on annual dues paid by the membership.

The successful candidate should be prepared to assume the duties of the position no later than July 1, 1997. The position remains open until filled, but interested candidates are encouraged to submit appropriate materials no later than mid-March 1997 when initial screening will begin. Please address inquiries, nominations, and applications to:

President Howell W. Todd
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Mississippi College

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POSITION VACANCY: Southside Baptist Church, Martin, seeks a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resume and names and addresses of three references to: Frank Vincent, Search Committee Chair, Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 121, Martin, TN 38237.

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Executive Board Position Openings

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces that applications are being accepted for the following positions: (1) Administrative Assistant in the Administrative Services Group, Executive Board, Brentwood; (2) Secretary/Receptionist, Camp Linden, Rt. 4, Linden, TN 37096; and (3) Secretary/Receptionist, Camp Carson, 1130 Carson Way, Newport, TN 37821. 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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Compassionate Lord

By Donna Wright

Focal Passage — Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-37

There have been many times in my life that I have found my gifts to be of little value to carry out my faith. I have prayed, "Lord, why can't I cook wonderful casseroles for our church dinners? Where is my gift of hospitality?"

Guess what? I don't have that gift! It is a proven fact. Not only is it proven in my spirit, it is proven in the times I have had to go out to the local store to buy a cake or a couple of pounds of macaroni salad for a church dinner.

This week is a study of Jesus' compassion for those who follow him. He calls us to that same compassion. He also gives us gifts to extend that compassion into action.

Both times the New Testament records that Jesus fed the multitudes, the disciples are in a panic. They are to be commended for being concerned about the people who were following Jesus, but their answer was for him to send them away. In each instance, they thought they did not have the resources to feed so many.

Just like me, I always think I don't have what it takes to do something for others, or for the Lord. Do you ever feel that way?

Matthew 14:18 states: "He said, 'Bring them hither to me.'"

At this point, he is talking about the loaves and fish. The ones that the disciples knew were not enough.

He took a boy's small meal and made a banquet out of it for five thousand, according to Matthew 14:21. But, remember that they only counted the men, not the women and children. That number could easily have been double.

So, let me see if I have all this straight. The Lord can take my petty gifts, that I have never found to be worth much, and he can use his spirit, add my gifts, and do what?

Make a banquet out of hamburger and noodles?

Matthew 14:20 says that all of them ate, were filled, and then the disciples took up 12 baskets full of "fragments." I would think that we could think of those as "leftovers."

This past year I have discovered gifts that I did not realize that I had. Then, I said to myself, "These are not gifts with which I can do something really big for God."

So, I began to do just what he called me to do, not what I thought I should be doing. He said to me, "Bring your gifts, no matter how small, hither to me." I did.

And, even though I am not a world renown speaker, or teacher, or writer, I am a soldier. I am working for God, in my own way, his own way.

Don't let the fact that everyone else seems to do a much better job than you, stop you from doing what you can.

In his hands, a meager amount of food fed five thousand, with leftovers.

In his hands, our gifts, given by him and used with his compassion and spirit, are also that.

More than enough. ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Newport.

Observe
Baptist Men's Day
Sunday, Jan. 26

Judas Iscariot

By Mike Shelton

Focal Passage — Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25, 47-50; 27:1-5

The very name makes us cringe. Judas Iscariot will always be remembered as the one who betrayed Jesus to the religious and political authorities in Jerusalem. While many of us would like to think that we could never do what Judas did, the truth is that we could be just as treacherous to Christ and his cause as Judas was. Perhaps a closer examination of Judas will help us avoid his mistakes.

The possible motivation of the betrayer — ch. 26:14-16

This passage shows us that money played a role in the decision of Judas to deliver Jesus into the hands of his enemies. On another occasion, in John 12:1-8, Judas exhibited greed for money when he complained about the anointing of Jesus' feet by Mary with the expensive perfume called spikenard. Judas claimed that the perfume could have been sold for a large sum of money and given to the poor. John, though, called Judas a thief who regularly stole money from the disciple's treasury, which he controlled. We are to as-

Family Bible Lesson

sume that this was simply another ploy to get some more money in the treasury so he could use it for his own pursuits. Jesus rebuked Judas in that instance. Thus we see that the inordinate love for money always seemed to play a dominate role in Judas's life. It is one reason why he ultimately betrayed Jesus. The lesson to be learned here is that when the disciple is controlled by the love of money more than by the love of Jesus, the disciple will ultimately hurt his Lord. We

should never let greed control our actions and decisions. Jesus alone should have that kind of authority in the believer's life.

The hypocrisy of the betrayer — vv. 47-50

Hypocrites sometimes make the biggest show of public devotion. When Judas led the soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane in order to have Jesus arrested, he referred to Jesus as "Master" and gave him a kiss, which was usually seen as a sign of reverence and love. Yet we know that Judas did not really look upon Jesus as his master. We also know that the respect usually intended in the kind of kiss he gave Jesus was missing completely from Judas' heart. We must always make sure that the public signs of devotion that we give to Jesus are genuine. They should not be given in the attempt to mask a heart that, in reality, is sinful and rebellious. Deceit has no place in our relationship with Christ. He knows the truth.

The demise of the betrayer — ch. 27:1-5

Judas gained 30 pieces of silver for his treachery, but he paid a far greater price. In a pang of conscience he returned the money to the chief priests and elders, declaring that he had betrayed an innocent man, and then took his own life. His experience shows us that betrayal of our Lord can lead to brokenness. Every moment of life lived outside of Christ's will and inside the realm of hypocrisy is a moment of life that has been wasted. For each of us, however, Christ holds open the promise of forgiveness. Ask him today to forgive you of any acts of betrayal you may have committed. He longs to wipe away the stain of that sin from your soul. ■ — Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.

Kingdom greatness

By Howard Kitter

Focal Passage — Matthew 20:17-28

Kingdom values and world values are as different as Jesus' teachings on greatness are vastly different from world views. "Greatness" the world bellows out. "Only if you are superior, well-known, often used in public, or extraordinary in power." This lesson should help us all understand what true kingdom greatness is.

The reward or the rewarder?

This parable teaches about service rather than salvation, not about rewards for service. If it were about rewards, then God is not fair, because all received the same. Jesus has called us all to a life of service for him. Our reason for service may seem to come out of a worldly sense, similar to those who came early for work in the field. They came early and worked hard, but was their motive love and loyalty?

I think it was only for the reward. Some of those we see work so hard and long with the wrong motive will be last at the final reckoning before Christ. Each of us should ask ourselves, "What is my personal motive? Am I motivated out of a real and personal love relationship with Christ? Or is my motivation simply what I may receive for my performance?"

Explore the Bible Lesson

Our motive for service ought to be out of love and loyalty to the Rewarder and not for the reward. Serving out of the right motive is the beginning of true kingdom greatness.

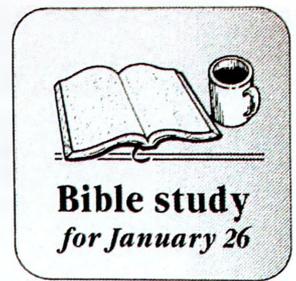
True kingdom greatness foretold. There are several probable reasons why Jesus foretold of his death and resurrection on the way to Jerusalem. He wanted to prepare the disciples for the coming events so they would receive comfort and draw strength at this awful time. The most prominent example of kingdom greatness was about to be broadcast to the world by what he was about to undergo. Just prior to this conversation, Jesus spoke about true service out of love. Now Jesus is sharing that he is going to exemplify this kingdom greatness by serving in the forthcoming events. This is a perfect example of kingdom greatness. The only reason Jesus submitted himself to the cross and all that went with it is his love and loyalty to the Father and love for man.

Exhortation to kingdom greatness. The disciples were in a power struggle over who would be greatest in Jesus' kingdom. The struggle was so great that two called on their own mother to talk to Jesus for them. Je-

sus' response to these men was short and precise "You do not know what you ask ..." These men did not understand kingdom greatness and its cost. They thought they could bear what Jesus was to bear. We may find ourselves in a moment of raptured love to the Father saying "Whatever comes my way I'll stand," or "Whatever you ask, I'll do." Later we realize we had no idea what we were saying.

Kingdom greatness does not come by verbal commitment. It is only by a heartfelt love to the King. That love is exemplified by our obedience to him. Jesus' response to them is the same to us today. While the disciples were bickering among one another about what James and John did, Jesus interrupted. He took them back to that wonderful window of insight to the kingdom again. He showed them position, power, or prestige are not the same as greatness in his kingdom. He clearly stated serving others is the sure sign of greatness in his kingdom.

This is a good time for each one of us to personally check our hearts to see if our motive for service is correct. Do you serve for the reward or because of your love for the rewarder? Your answers will reveal more about yourself than you may want to know. ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.



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PASTORGRAPH

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Ephesians: One Body in Christ

Education Ministry
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Recap

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From Your Administrators...

With the closing of the 1996-97 fiscal year, we have a mixed record to share. We have a mixed record to share. We have a mixed record to share.

Single Adult Ministry Robert Bowman

Worship - Singers 2 & 3
Jan. 31 - Feb. 7
The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door".

Stewardship Report Jan. 12

Church Budget
The church budget for 1997 is \$1,174,000. The church budget for 1997 is \$1,174,000. The church budget for 1997 is \$1,174,000.

The Open Door

Worship - Singers 2 & 3
Jan. 31 - Feb. 7
The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door".

Jim's Best ... from the Cluttered Desk

Notes of Thanks
This is a collection of letters and notes from members of the church. This is a collection of letters and notes from members of the church. This is a collection of letters and notes from members of the church.

WILEY'S WISDOM

Worship - Singers 2 & 3
Jan. 31 - Feb. 7
The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door".

Special Gifts

Notes of Thanks
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TENNESSEE BAPTIST & Evangelist Edition

Financial Report 1996

The following financial reports are reported as of 12/31/96. The following financial reports are reported as of 12/31/96. The following financial reports are reported as of 12/31/96.

Revenue	\$1,174,000
Expenses	\$1,174,000
Surplus	\$0

Radnor Baptist Church

3112 Nolensville Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37211
Phone: 615-224-2004

HOWS OUR GIN

Worship - Singers 2 & 3
Jan. 31 - Feb. 7
The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door".

Radnor Baptist Academy Staff

"A Church Seeking to Serve"

Worship - Singers 2 & 3
Jan. 31 - Feb. 7
The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door". The theme for this year is "The Open Door".

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Instant Replay '97

Jan. 26
1:50 in Sunday School
Let's do it again!

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