

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 9

Statewide Edition

February 26, 1997

this week's news

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Niota pastor, wife among new FMB missionaries

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — Philip G. and Leslie Whitmire Holmes were among 37 people appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 11 during a service at Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Holmes has been pastor of First Church, Niota, since 1994. During that time his wife served the church as minister of music.

The couple will live in Peru. The Evangelical Baptist Convention in Peru is working to increase its church membership and the number of churches by improving its Christian education and teacher training through Sunday School.

Holmes will start and develop churches and together the couple will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

A native of Alabama, Holmes is a graduate of Jacksonville (Ala.) State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological



PHILIP AND LESLIE HOLMES

Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Mrs. Holmes, though born in Atlanta, considers Jacksonville, Ala., her hometown. She also is a graduate of Jacksonville State.

The couple has three children: Philip

Ryan and twins Christian Taylor and Holly Renee. The family will go to the FMB's training center in Rockville, Va., in April for an eight-week orientation before leaving for overseas.

The FMB also appointed five others with Tennessee ties:

Kenneth Boyd, a native of Kentucky and the son of William R. and Jacqueline Boyd of Spring City, will serve in Indonesia along with his wife Donna, who is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Shawn and Gloria Buice were appointed as missionaries to north Brazil. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, while she is a University of Memphis graduate. Buice considers Kirby Wood Church, Memphis, as being influential in his Christian growth.

Cathy Reed Zwink, a graduate of Union University, will serve along with her husband, Lee Zwink, as missionaries in Chile. ■

CLC, seminaries gain from new SBC budget

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — With an emphasis on its "transition" nature, the 1997-98 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget proposal for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June — more than \$148 million — will give substantial increases to the six seminaries and the Christian Life Commission.

And, for its first full year in existence, the new North American Mission Board will receive \$33,771,379, or 22.79 percent of the total budget.

When finally presented to the SBC Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-18, the proposed 1997-98 budget had the word "transition" in large letters across the page. The emphasis, according to officials, means the budget figures, especially the percentages, are not "set in concrete." Concerns were expressed that NAMB, not officially in existence until after the June SBC meeting in Dallas and with no executive leadership in place as yet, would need at least a year to decide what a proper funding level might be. Thus, the NAMB percentage of the budget as well as the other 10 SBC entities' percentages are not to be taken as permanent or a pattern.

The transitory nature of the proposed budget comes as a result of the restructuring of the denomination, called for in the

"Covenant for a New Century" adopted by the SBC in 1995, reducing the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12 effective in June 1997. One of the 12, the Baptist Sunday School Board, does not receive funding from the Cooperative Program.

NAMB will be the result of a merger of three former SBC agencies: Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission. Officials from the three dissolving agencies had urged a budget for the new NAMB of 24.15 percent, the sum of the three agencies' percentages from the previous budget, although considerable savings are expected from the merger.

Of the 1997-98 total proposed — \$148,185,077 — the six seminaries will receive a 1 percent increase over their 20.4 percent of the past two years, to 21.4 percent. That total, \$31,711,606, will be divided according to a complex seminary funding formula driven by seminary enrollments.

All the seminaries, except Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo., will see significant increases because of the added 1 percent of the total budget but also because the 1997-98 budget proposal is more than \$3 million above this year's budget of \$145,053,499. Because the seminary funding formula is based on a rolling three-year average of full-time equivalent enrollments, Midwestern will get

\$1,800 less under the proposal than expected in this year's budget.

Receiving the largest increase — \$709,944 — will be Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will see an increase of \$669,090; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., an increase of \$303,343; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., an increase of \$123,577.

The Christian Life Commission also will get a significant increase in the 1997-98 proposal. The CLC, to become the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission after the June SBC meeting, will see a percentage increase of the total budget from .99 percent to 1.49 percent. That translates into more than a \$770,000 increase, with a total 1997-98 budget of \$2,207,958 compared to \$1,437,455 for this fiscal year.

The Foreign Mission Board, to be renamed the International Mission Board, will receive the same percentage — 50 percent — as in recent years. Because of the \$3 million increase in the proposed total budget over this year's, the FMB will receive \$74,092,539 compared to \$72,527,371. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1-Sept. 30. ■

Association shares TLW with youth

For Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — An associational-wide youth rally Feb. 12 at Lenoir City High School attracted nearly 1,100 youth from the area and surrounding counties, according to Ray Luck, director of missions for Loudon County Association.

The rally centered around True Love Waits, the Baptist Sunday School Board sponsored sexual abstinence until marriage campaign. Guest speaker for the rally was Glenn Watley of the BSSB. Jonathan Pierce, a contemporary Christian vocalist, provided special music.

Approximately 500 teenagers signed commitment cards and placed them on posters to take to their local schools on Feb. 14, when True Love Waits Goes Campus was observed nationwide, Luck said.

It was the first associational-wide youth rally Loudon County Baptists have sponsored in several years, Luck noted.

"We hope this is just the beginning of some good things for our young people," Luck said. ■

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Ambers Wilson, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Clirner, Eugene Cotey, Elmer Crosby, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Ray Newcomb, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Gary Watkins
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- ▶ **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- ▶ **Phone** — (615) 371-2003. **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

Nashville pastor attends national prayer meeting

By Connie Davis
For Baptist and Reflector

WASHINGTON D.C. — The National Prayer Breakfast was unapologetically Christian in its agenda and content, reported Jerry Winfield, pastor, Forest Hills Church, Nashville, who attended the Feb. 6 annual event hosted by President Clinton and the U.S. Congress.

Winfield, who was a guest of Tennessee Congressman Bob Clement, a Southern Baptist, said he was surprised at how blatantly Christian the event was and how non-partisan and non-political it was.

Speakers emphasized "their dependence upon the Lord," said Winfield.

They included President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Speaker of the House Newt Gin-

grich, Majority Whip Richard Gephardt, and several non-politicians.

The President referred to Isaiah 58:12 which he used in his Inaugural address. The verse is a reminder "that we should all be repairers of the breach" by working for the poor and ridding politics of its "toxic atmosphere of cynicism," he said.

Clinton identified three groups — America's poor and troubled people around the world, U.S. politicians, and the media — as people in the "breach" in need of prayer and support, said Winfield.

The President urged the

4,000 in attendance to help repair the breach by providing jobs for as many as four million adults who will lose benefits under welfare-reform legislation enacted last year. He said the United States should also reach out to people around the world who are in trouble.

Clinton said the nation's capital "is gripped with people who are self-righteous, sanctimonious, and hypocritical," admitting he, too, was guilty of those kinds of actions at times.

Clinton asked for prayer for politicians, the media, and other Americans. "He very openly said we have to have prayer in order to repair the breach," said Winfield.

Gore referred to his experience in Fruitland, Tenn., helping rebuild Salem Church, an African American church which

was burned by an arsonist. Gore noted that something good from God had come from the bad experience of that church and that the same thing could happen in the whole country. He referred to Genesis 50:19-20, recalled Winfield.

Baltimore neurosurgeon Ben Carson of Johns Hopkins University was the main speaker. He also referred to God in his message and to his relationship with him, said Winfield.

The event "reinforced again in my mind that the real answer to the problems in our country are spiritual in nature," said Winfield.

"The Bible says to pray for those who are in authority over you. It's easy to complain and criticize, but we are specifically commanded in Scripture to pray for them." ■



WINFIELD

Also to consider possibility of two-day annual meeting

Executive Committee to study SBC budget process

Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A seven-member committee has been appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to study the SBC's budget process.

During the Feb. 17-18 meeting of the Executive Committee in Nashville, members voted to study the possibility of reducing the SBC annual meeting from three days to two, and heard a report that Barry McCarty had once again been obtained as parliamentarian for the annual meeting this summer in Dallas.

A motion brought by Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd of Springdale, Ark., with unanimous approval of the Executive Committee's officers, received unanimous approval in a voice vote.

The budget process determines funding levels for the SBC's various agencies, being reduced from 19 to 12 in the convention-wide restructuring to be in place at the end of the June

SBC annual meeting.

The committee studying the process is to make its report at the Executive Committee's September meeting.

According to Floyd's motion, the study will focus on "the annual budgetary process from the beginning of data collection to presenting a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Patrick Pajak, senior pastor of Tabernacle Church, Decatur, Ill., and chairman of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, will chair the study committee.

During last week's meeting Executive Committee members approved a "transition" budget for 1997-98 (see story on page 1).

Although the 1997-98 proposed budget was approved by the Executive Committee without dissent, its development prior to approval had drawn considerable attention from SBC officials. In principle, the budget had been worked out in a special meeting in Dallas on Jan. 21 hosted by the Executive Com-

mittee officers with the Inter-Agency Council and some members of the Implementation Task Force.

The process, unique but required in a special transition year, officials said, may have prompted the creation of a committee to study the budgeting process.

The possibility of a two-day SBC annual meeting instead of three days will be studied.

The Executive Committee voted to name an "SBC annual meeting study committee" at its September meeting. Additionally, the Executive Committee requested the Committee on Order of Business to "observe the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas for the purpose of evaluating ways to improve convention sessions and submit to the president of the Executive Committee a list of suggestions...."

In another matter concerning the SBC annual meeting, the Executive Committee acted to "receive as information" SBC President Tom Elliff's selection

of Barry McCarty, SBC chief parliamentarian from 1986-94, as chief parliamentarian for this June's meeting.

One Executive Committee member, Blaine Barber, asked whether there had been a "problem" with the decision by past SBC president Jim Henry to turn to another chief parliamentarian the past two years, Lester L. Cooper Jr., a Southern Baptist pastor from Riverdale, Ga. Barber also asked whether a Southern Baptist could have been chosen over McCarty, who is not a Southern Baptist.

Elliff was not present at the meeting to respond, Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman said the responsibility for choosing a parliamentarian rested with the SBC president. He said he understood Cooper had been asked to serve as a parliamentarian this year.

Terms of the contract with McCarty are \$8,000 plus expenses, compared to fees previously paid ranging from \$10,000 to \$16,700. ■

Time close for Youth Reach '97

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Youth-Reach '97, to be held March 7-8, is just a little more than a week away.

Final preparations are being made. There are a few last minute things churches may want to consider as leaders prepare for the event.

In the event of an emergency, the phone number at Opryland is (615) 871-6644. Please use this number only for emergencies.

There will be three crosses

stationed at different locations in the park. Groups attending the conference are asked to take a few minutes during the day, gather around a cross and pray for the lost youth in the park and across the state.

If you have not made reservations for the conference, please call the evangelism office so they can have information ready for you at the park. This will make it easier for your group to get into the park as soon as possible.

For any last minute questions, call (615) 371-2077. ■

Retired Waverly pastor dies of cancer

For Baptist and Reflector

WAVERLY — Maurice D. Coleman, a retired Baptist minister, died of cancer here Feb. 2 at the age of 62.

Coleman served 35 years as pastor of four churches in West and Middle Tennessee: Latham Chapel, Medina; Poplar Springs, Milan; Poplar Grove, Trenton; and First Church, Waverly.

After retiring due to health problems, he later served as chaplain and counselor with the Department of Corrections

at Turney Center, Only, for five years.

He held several positions in local associations, was a trustee of Union University, Jackson, and served two terms on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Coleman was a graduate of Union and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A scholarship fund has been established in his memory at Union.

He is survived by his wife, Lanelle, and a daughter, Denise Stookey, all of Waverly. ■

When the plate is empty — what next?

Annie Armstrong definitely started "something new."

The stalwart home missionary made Southern Baptists believe in missions on the home field.

And now, many years after her death, Southern Baptists emphasize that homeland interest with a special week for prayer, giving, and action. It's called the Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer for Home Missions, and this year it is set for March 2-9.

The theme for the home missions emphasis next month is *Start Something New*, appropriately tagged, because Anne Armstrong was always plowing new ground in home missions, always doing something never done before.

The theme has a strong emphasis this year in church starting. Let's help fill the missions plate.

The national offering goal is \$50 million, equivalent to more than half of the HMB's regular budget of \$88.6 million. The Scripture text Isaiah 43:18-19, talks about forgetting that which is past and boldly starting something new.

For Tennessee Baptists, the state goal is \$3,250,000. Is that goal possible? Are there good reasons for optimism? Will we answer the challenge? Will we carry our portion of the load? Will there be enough witnesses if we don't do our share?

Split among 3,000 Tennessee Baptist churches, it is easy to see why that goal is definitely obtainable.

But before we hand out accolades for the goal to be

achieved, the emphasis on the Week of Prayer must be examined. Tennessee benefits from this emphasis.

So, what's the need for prayer in this effort? Sometimes Southern Baptists (and Tennessee Baptists) may tire of the prayer idea, especially in such mundane things as reaching a missions offering goal.

But the week of prayer thrusts us into the forefront, helps us surrender self, and prods us to give self and resources to home missions.

In Tennessee there are many examples of people, churches, and associations ministering in missions at home. From the Mississippi River to the Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee Baptists are working.

The Home Mission Board gives these facts:

— Three of four adults believe a person can be a good Christian or Jew without attending church or synagogue.

— One child in five in the United States lives in poverty.

— An estimated one-third of Southern Baptist missionaries use the help of volunteers in their work.

— Statistics say that thousands of people are falling under the influence of New Age religious attitudes and practices.

Tennessee Baptists, listen. God has given each of us a mandate to witness to people, but he hasn't given us limitless time to do it. What an impact we can make if we just obey him. He gives the instructions and the power. He provides all we need. B&R



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

If you're in doubt, think of the best possibilities

We expected a flood of calls and letters when Tennessee Baptists learned their Cooperative Program giving in January was the best ever monthly total.

"Big" Januaries are getting to be a habit. Last month's total eclipsed by almost \$200,000 the previous high in January 1996.

Such a record is a reason for celebration, but it is also a reason for expressing thanksgiving in humility.

If you're looking for reasons, it is easy to say that it was a glitch, or that some churches may have bap-

tized a few millionaires.

Wouldn't it be best to simply believe that Tennessee Baptists are growing in the grace of giving, that they share their love for Christ by supporting his "long-range" (eternal) stewardship plan?

Isn't it just possible that Tennessee churches are gaining in the cooperative spirit of giving?

So it is probably true that the attitude of giving is based on a realization that God blesses this working out of his mandate for missions, evangelism, and ministries with giving of money.

Seems that Paul wrote about giving self first. B&R

Just for today

**By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis**

Start with a smile

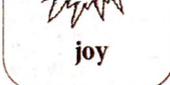
First doctor: "I don't give my patients a chemical anesthetic any longer. I have a new procedure."

Second doctor: "Sounds interesting. What is it?"

First doctor: "I give them an estimate of their bill."

Take this truth

Have you ever noticed how bad something can look to us until we see something worse? A wise man said, "I used to complain because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet."



joy

Memorize this Scripture

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. — Psalm 30:5

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to realize that from the day we are born until we ride in the hearse, there is nothing so bad but that it could have been worse. ■

Frivolous youngster, sulking brother, and loving father

Jesus' masterful parable about the so-called "prodigal son" has many applications in life.

It's good teaching for every age, and for all time. It is suitable for families, friends, churches, conventions, denominations, nations.

Lewis McDonald, our pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Churchville, when I edited the state paper for Maryland and Delaware Baptists, had almost a dozen sermons on the texts in Luke. And he was adding to them when we moved south ten years ago.

Lewis studied that parable exhaustively. He never preached the same "prodigal son" sermon. We knew he would approach it differently each time he chose it.

He preached about the wayward son, the jealous older brother, the loving father. He preached about the faithfulness of the father, and the repentance of the younger son. He preached about the inward sullenness of the older son. But he

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

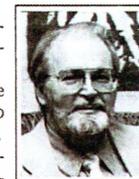
also talked about the steadfastness and reliability of the elder, and the wanton, selfish attitude of the younger.

He questioned whether the father had played favoritism with the younger, and took the older son's dependability for granted.

But he always ended his message with a strong flavor of relationship and obedience.

We never had a doubt about the father — he was God. And the two sons? Well, they could be anybody.

Certainly, most of us have experienced selfishness and jealousy in the family — even among siblings when children and later. And we can see it in church people. We see evidence of the unwanted traits in convention life, and on the political front.



ALLEN

An almost laughable example of Jesus' parable is what happens among us in Southern Baptist life.

I'll let each reader identify the lost son and the older brother. It would confuse things perhaps if we looked at Southern Baptists of forty years ago.

The roles could be different, but the players would be the same. Some of us run away from home. Some stay, work, and grow sullen when there is a threat to our place in the home.

But God is always willing to say to the stay-at-home brother. I think, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

And to the rebel, he said, "Welcome! Come, everyone, let's celebrate."

It's good to remember who owns the home — God, our Father. ■

Christians reacting to false accusations

Question: I have been accused falsely in a serious matter. Should I sue, or what should I do?

Answer: To be accused falsely is extremely painful to a person of character. In most cases there is little lasting damage, but sometimes a victim's reputation and life can be irreparably harmed. Making false accusations was forbidden in God's foundational law, the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:16.

Defamation, the broad legal term, is the making of a false statement which harms a person's good name or reputation and holds them up to contempt or ridicule. Slander is a spoken defamation. Libel is defamation either in writing or otherwise recorded.

There are four points for Christians to

families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

consider in such cases. **First**, usually it is not in the victim's best interest to take legal action. A legal initiative will draw more attention to the accusations and perhaps expose the person to the harsh realities of the legal system.

There is usually much more lost than gained by resorting to legal action. There are exceptions, but they are rare. Christians should be conscious of Biblical teaching about legal action if the other person is a professing Christian (1 Corinthians 6:1,7).

Second, a Christian should first be conscious of his conduct in response. Nev-

er take legal action in retaliation. "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath. for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,'" says the Lord" Romans 12:19. Be aware that legal action could be perceived as worldly and vindictive.

Third, recognize the deep emotional trauma you've suffered, and how your actions may be affected by the way you feel. Deal with the wound by talking with Christian friends or counselor before deciding on legal action.

Fourth, realize that those you know well will not believe the accusations. Those who don't like you will believe them regardless. Others will be persuaded by your conduct. Remember that our faultless Christ himself was falsely accused. ■



opinion

about letters to the editor

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- ▶ 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 February-March

- 26 — Pray for enthusiasm for Michigan Baptist churches as they begin "Start Something New — 497 for 1997."
- 27 — Pray for Abdullah Nour, father of Anar Nour, leader of Arabic Christian Fellowship in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, who is recuperating from hip surgery.
- 28 — Pray for Coach Betty Wiseman and Belmont University's sports/evangelism team who is slated to arrive today in Tarnow, Poland, to share the Gospel through sports and personal testimonies in high schools and churches.
- 1 — Pray for the film crew that is in Poland this week working on a joint project with the FMB, TBC, and Positives Productions Inc.
- 2 — Pray for pastorless churches in Michigan.
- 3 — Praise God for the new pastors to the First Nation people in Canada. They are Dick and Brenda Hulit at Cochin Church and Louis and Margaret Bear at Indian Church, both in Saskatchewan.
- 4 — Praise God for the 50 carpenters for Christ who worked in Costa Rica Feb. 20-March 1 on various churches and a chapel.

Thanks for help

I write to commend you for the excellent missions coverage in the Nov. 27 edition of the *Baptist and Reflector*. You always give a high profile to missions and the work of the Foreign Mission Board, but this issue was outstanding. You went far beyond the usual Lottie Moon Offering material in highlighting what God is doing around the world.

I always enjoy reading the partnership missions newsletter, "The Macedonian Call," as the reports on Tennessee partnerships and projects help me be more aware of what God is doing through volunteers beyond what I am able to keep up with at the FMB. We appreciate you and Terry Sharp and all you are doing in partnership with us for the sake of God's kingdom.

Jerry Rankin, president
Foreign Mission Board, SBC

Youth for Christ

The recent article by Ken Walker on the growth of youth evangelism was a real blessing to me. A little good news is a prize in today's times. I'm glad to hear of the rise of small Christian organizations in the public schools.

I am a Christian high school senior myself and am pleased to report that we have a new Bible club that we call "Students for Jesus" and a strong FCA here in Lebanon. I can share the same joy with my church group where over the past six months we have gained a new zeal from the Lord for witnessing and evangelism on an individual, day-to-day basis.

I also agree there is still a

gigantic need for Christ among young folks. This generation of Christian youth and adults is doing good but there is room for more action. I believe that Christian youth of today are being given a "second chance" of God to take back our country, schools, and government from the wicked and impure.

As Christians we failed about 30 to 40 years ago when we could have stopped all this mess from occurring with a little faith, courage, and action. I thank and encourage Mr. (Richard) Ross of Tulip Grove Church and I challenge all Christian youth of today, myself included, to possess a zeal for bringing friends and strangers to Christ.

Chad W. Blair
Lebanon 37090

Likes changes

With a nation in decline, crime and immorality rapidly rising, with corruption in government at its highest ever, with weak pulpit preachers avoiding speaking on moral issues, with apostasy prevalent in many churches, makes one wonder if the "Prince of the Power of the Air" has been allowed to take residence in a Baptist theological seminary.

Not too much unlike "the moneychangers in the temple," if ever a SBC seminary needed cleansing, it's Southern in Louisville. I have tried to address this in proper perspective for some 15 years. Thank God for Albert Mohler Jr., who is about to complete the cleansing initiated with the conservative leadership in 1979.

Strong criticism of conservative Baptists continues, proba-

bly to weaken and confuse the minds of many innocent mainline conservative SBC saints. Seems the goal is to demean and delude conservative leadership and gain inroads favorable to their liberal agenda. Each year such is released in advance of the SBC meeting.

I've remained aloof from the "women in ministry" issue, however, I believe the Apostle Paul made it abundantly clear who is to be the head, bishop, or pastor of the local church.

Since Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have their own "convention," perhaps it's time SBC considers withdrawing fellowship from all CBF-led churches.

I would feel the pain, but maybe some balm or spiritual pill could prove the cure.

W.T. Barner
Memphis 38111

State of Baptists

I enjoyed the two articles recently in the typical Baptist church. I would rather know why the typical church is like it is and why it is in decline. The articles stated "reasons for decline are difficult to pinpoint" and "there is no definite explanation for this phenomenon." But the reasons are obvious. There is a definitive explanation.

There is a consequence to anyone's thinking process. The year of 1986 was pivotal for SBC churches because Baptists then made some very consequential decisions.

Basically, Baptists are living in a 20th century urban social context with a 17th century rural world view. Their conservatism prevents them from "progressing" from yesterday to today.

So what is the future of the typical Baptist church? Bleak, unless Baptists are willing to make those changes to compete in the religious marketplace. The church is a nice place to retreat from the world, but it does not help much in living in the world.

The human story is a history of transitions. We are in another age of transition. The real question is can the church survive? Yes. Will it survive? That depends on what Baptists do.

Jim Pennington
Johnson City 37604

Reunion planned

Tennessee students who served as summer missionaries through Alabama Baptist Student Unions and Campus Ministries are invited to attend the program's 50th anniversary reunion April 26 at Green Valley Church in Birmingham.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by a reception sponsored by the Birmingham Baptist Association's Woman's Missionary Union.

During the service, past summer missionaries will walk with 1997 appointees in a processional to the front of the auditorium, said event organizer Oxford Smith.

This year's summer missionaries will be recognized by name, school, and place of service.

For more information or to register, call the campus ministries department of the Baptist State Board of Missions toll free within or outside Alabama at 1 (800) 264-1225.

David Reid
Montgomery, Ala. 36111

'Little church' with a big heart

In the past six years, Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet, has been involved in many ministries and has given tens of thousands of dollars through the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings, World Hunger, and the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

Last October we gave \$3,417 to World Hunger, an increase of 350 percent. In December our LMCO for Foreign Missions topped \$12,300, a 121 percent increase over last year.

Our church is a missions-minded church!

We have sent two teams to Chile through the Partnership Missions program, and a team has worked in Michigan. Many teams have done missions work in Tennessee, especially at Camp Linden.

In 1993 we sent eight BYW ladies to Benin in West Africa as the first Enterpriser team sent from Tennessee. In January 1995, the church sent the pastor on a mission trip to Russia.

A team of eight is going to work in Togo and Benin, West Africa, in June and July.

We have supported Woodcock Mission center in Nashville, and gathered a truck-load of winter clothing for Room in the Inn, Nashville.

Our youth group has gathered food, toys, and clothing for four families at Christmas.

We support financially the Wilson County Youth Ranch, the County Help Center, and the United Tennessee League.

Ladies of the church recently collected a truck-load of clothing for the Nashville Rescue Mission.

No, we aren't a large church. We average about 100 in Sunday School, but we are a little church with a big heart. We are grateful for what God is allowing us to do in missions ministry.

Working together, Tennessee Baptists can do great things for the Lord, by his grace.

Jim McAfee, pastor
Mt. Olivet Church
Mt. Juliet 37122

Pastor McAfee shares an example of generosity which exemplifies many Tennessee Baptist churches. — Editor

Conference to help Baptists build, finance construction

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Church Building/Finance Conference will be held March 18 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

The conference will assist churches that are planning to remodel or build, churches that need to redecorate or make better use of their facilities, and churches needing financial assistance to meet their goals.

The cost of the conference is \$10 and includes lunch.

For more information, or to register, contact Archer Thorpe, Church Administration, TBC, at (615) 371-2017. ■

SEEDS

Matthew 13:8

A Newsletter For Church Leaders From Union University

Endowment Campaign Launched, Goal is \$10 Million

More than 300 West Tennessee pastors and church leaders gathered at Union University February 6 to kick off the West Tennessee phase of the Tennessee Baptist Church Endowment Campaign.

The Union effort is part of a state-wide financial campaign authorized by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The TBC encouraged its three higher education institutions – Union, Carson-Newman College and Belmont University – to enter into a church-based campaign during 1997-1999, with a goal of \$10 million in endowment support for each institution.

Union will initiate the Shelby County phase of the campaign with a banquet March 6 at Germantown Baptist Church, where Union alumnus Ken Storey is pastor. Co-chairmen of the campaign are Storey and Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson.

As part of the campaign, the TBC is permitting the schools to directly seek financial support from churches. Normally, institutions may receive direct gifts from churches but may not solicit them.

The major goal of Union's campaign is to expand endowed scholarship funds. For churches which establish or add to such funds, the university will provide matching funds to increase their value at a ratio of 2:1.



Kenny Carr, a Christian studies major at Union and pastor at First Baptist, Gleason, visits with one of his church members. Thanks to the generous support of churches in Tennessee, Carr will soon complete his bachelors degree.

For example, if a church provides \$50,000 to endow a scholarship during the campaign, Union will add an additional \$25,000 to the fund. Such funds primarily benefit students who are members of the churches which establish the endowment funds.

Although direct solicitation of churches will run only through 1999, churches may continue giving to the funds through 2001 and have their gifts matched.

The first such campaign took place in the early 1980s, and a number of churches participated in that effort. Since then, \$1.7 million in scholarships have been generated for Union students from those church endowment funds.

"We are thrilled the Tennessee Baptist Convention has authorized us to tell our story to the churches and encourage their

support." President David S. Dockery explained. "These scholarships help Union but they also help the individual churches and young people from those congregations. We are particularly grateful that they make it financially possible for more of our outstanding Baptist students to attend Union."

For additional information about the church endowment campaign, contact Paul Veazey in the University's Development Office, 901-661-5217 or 1-800-338-6644.

Resurrection Still The Answer To Today's Problems

Poe's Book Brings Insightful Perspective to Easter Celebration

Thousands across Tennessee will celebrate the upcoming Easter holiday – some with egg hunts and parties, others with sunrise services and worship. No matter how it is celebrated, Easter's meaning is clearly a celebration of the life of Christ.

"The crucifixion effectively ended for three days the movement that had surrounded Jesus Christ," Union University's Hal Poe, dean of academic resources and information services, said, "But on the third day, as reports of Christ's resurrection spread, that movement took on an entirely different character."

In his book, *The Gospel and Its Meaning: A Theology for Evangelism and Church Growth*, Poe looks at various accounts in the Gospels and applies them to issues of today.

In one portion of his book, Poe explains how the resurrection appeals to an entirely different set of spiritual concerns: hope, victory, freedom, affirmation of personhood and eternal life.

"Hopelessness has become a pervasive problem of late twentieth-century life," Poe suggests, "in the shanty towns of Mexico City, the slums of South Chicago, the dull block apartments of Moscow, or the exclusive neighborhoods of Orange County." He goes on to say that people without

hope have little reason to live, citing the high death rate among children and youth in inner-city gangs. "The resurrection offers a concrete basis for hope to people who have no reason for hope," Poe says.

Further, he explains the resurrection "powerfully demonstrates Christ's victory over all the adverse forces of the universe, from the prejudice that condemned him to the spiritual powers in opposition to him." Poe said the resurrection "speaks of the victory people may experience in spite of the circumstances of life, a victory that allows them to see the vanity of life from a different perspective."

The resurrection also offers freedom from bondage, Poe says. "For the person bound by physical or psychological addiction, the resurrection offers freedom from the bondage that controls one's life," he adds.

"For the person who longs for personal acceptance and fulfillment, who longs for an experience in eternity characterized by a meaningful relationship rather than an unconscious oblivion, then the resurrection of Jesus Christ offers good news that God has created that kind of present and future," Poe

says.

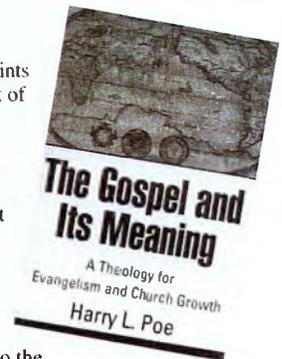
The author also points out that the last week of Jesus' life received "dramatically disproportionate attention in the Gospels." Luke spent one-fifth of his Gospel talking about the final week while Mark and Matthew devoted about one-third of their works to the week. John, however, used nearly half of his Gospel to record the same events.

"This book helps those in any kind of evangelistic ministry to develop a means for connecting the Gospel directly to the world of the hearer while distinguishing it clearly from philosophies of relativism and pluralism," Poe explained.

The Gospel and Its Meaning, published by Zondervan Publishing House and available at most Christian bookstores, provides Christians with a way to begin to think about the extent of the good news of Jesus Christ – from his birth, to his death and, most importantly, to his resurrection – and how this good news touches different levels of human experience.



Hal Poe



Union Faculty Publish Nine Books In 1996



Bookshelves across the country are filling with works by Union University administrators and faculty. In 1996 alone, nine bound works were published by Union-affiliated authors.

"The active involvement of Union's faculty in the community of academic and evangelical scholars is just another demonstration of our commitment as an excellence-driven university," President David S. Dockery said.

Dockery wrote the Southern Baptist Convention's winter Bible study, *Ephesians: One Body in Christ* (Convention Press). The textbook features application statements and interactive learning activities interspersed throughout each chapter. It is accompanied by a video commentary featuring personal interviews with Dockery.

Steve Beverly, instructor of communication arts, joined Ivy Scarborough, a Jackson attorney, to write *Winning Against DUI* (Pineapple Press), a handbook for victims of and advocates against drunk driving.

Ron Boud, professor of music, published two books of organ solos titled *Sunday Morning*, *Sunday*

Evening and Great Postludes (Word Music Company).

Kelvin Moore, assistant professor of Christian studies, wrote *The Psalms of Lamentation and the Enigma of Suffering* (Edwin Mellen Press).

Michael Duduit, executive vice president and assistant professor of communication arts, authored *Communicate with Power: Insights from America's Top Communicators* (Baker Books). The book features interviews with America's leading preachers and teachers including Max Lucado, Bill Hybels, Chuck Swindoll, Warren Wiersebe, Geroge Barna, and others.

David Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies, wrote *Preparing for Christian Ministry: An Evangelical Approach* (Scripture Press Publishers). The book, which will be used at the collegiate and seminary levels, is a collection of 22 articles introducing people to Christian ministry.

Paul Jackson, assistant professor of Christian studies, published *An Investigation of Koimaomai in the New Testament: The Concept of Eschatological Sleep* (Edwin Mellen Press).

Hal Poe, dean of academic resources and information services and associate professor of Christian studies, published *The Gospel and its Meaning: A Theology for Evangelism and Church Growth* (Zondervan).

Many other faculty and staff members have participated in scholarly writing with published articles and convention papers.

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- Christ Centered
- People Focused
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Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Dr. John Adams, Vice President for Campus Ministries and Church Services

April 20-23 Second Baptist, Union City
April 21 Beulah Baptist Pastors Conference

Rev. Steve Babcock, Missionary in Residence

March 9 First Baptist, Henderson
March 9 First Baptist, Jackson
March 15 GA Day Camp, Jackson
March 16 First Baptist, Milan
March 27-28 RA Congress, Belmont University, Nashville
March 27-29 Acteens Summit, Nashville
April 8 Western District WMU, Paris
April 27 First Baptist, Atwood

Rev. Todd Brady, Campus Minister

March 5 Antioch Baptist, Jackson
March 7 Haywood Hills Baptist, Nashville
May 18 Lavinia Baptist, Lavinia

Dr. David S. Dockery, President

March 2 First Baptist, Jackson
March 9 Germantown Baptist
March 16 Antioch Baptist, Brownsville
March 23 Bethel Baptist, Greenfield

Dr. Michael Duduit, Executive Vice President

Feb. 24-25 Shorter College, Rome, Georgia
April 22-25 International Congress on Preaching, London, England

Dr. David P. Gushee, Associate Professor of Christian Studies

March 3-5 CT 50, Orlando
March 18 Dyersburg State Community College
April 4 Regent College, Vancouver,
April 18-20 Evangelicals for SocialAction/Crossroads, Philadelphia

Tour the Holy Land

Including Israel, Athens and Corinth

June 6-14, 1997

Don't miss this opportunity to study the Word of God in the land where it was written. Join Union University President David S. Dockery and Dr. George Guthrie, chair of the Department of Christian Studies, for a nine-day tour of the Holy Land.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- See the Parthenon in Athens
- Visit Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home
- Stroll through Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle
- Enjoy Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity
- Walk down the Mount of Olives where Christ made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at the Garden Tomb

\$2,629 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Includes:

- round-trip air fare via Nashville
- most meals
- guided tours of the Holy Land
- dynamic Bible teachings led by Drs. Dockery and Guthrie
- superior first-class hotel accommodations

Check out <http://www.uu.edu/org/holyland/> for complete details. For more information and to make reservations, call Cindy Meredith in the President's Office at Union University, (901) 661-5202. Reservation deadline is Thursday, March 27, 1997.

Waiting For A Blessing To Happen

I never make future plans, because they are subject to change," Vany Coello, from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, said as she listed things she's learned during the past four years.

She smiled as she sat quietly on the couch in the Hurt Residence Complex at Union University. Looking around, she said "I'm so glad I got to come to Union." Vany is a senior nursing major at Union and will graduate in May.

Vany has a passion for others that began when she was 16. She began volunteering to assist mission teams that came to her home country of Honduras. "I started learning English by working with the teams," Vany explained.

In the fall of 1992, Vany had just graduated from high school and was making plans for her future. Before helping with the mission teams, she planned to study painting or interior design. "Then, I began to see how many people in Honduras really needed help," she said. "I felt like I could do something for my people if I only knew what to do."

Her plans shifted from art to nursing as she prepared to come to the United States to attend Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Then in January 1993, she and her sister, Carla, served as translators for Union's first medical mission trip to the country in Central America. It was a week that changed both their lives. "It was like a big blessing," Vany said with a smile.

Vany remembers the first time that she met Carla Sanderson, dean of Union's School of Nursing and team captain for the first Honduras Mission trip, and former President Hyran Barefoot, now chancellor of the University.

"During the week, I talked to Dr. Sanderson about a career in nursing," Vany said. "And at the

end of the week, Dr. Barefoot invited me to come to Union."

"I was so excited," Vany said with a grin.

As soon as Vany and Carla received Union applications in the mail, they completed and returned them. Then, their waits began. As the weeks and months passed, they received notification that they had been accepted to study at Union -- Vany as a nursing student and Carla as a business administration major.

As residents of Honduras, Vany and Carla had to get visas before coming to the U.S. to study. They waited for the I-20, a form indicating their acceptance at Union and plans to study.

Time was quickly passing. The fall semester was starting in less than a week and they still had not been able to apply for their visas. "Finally," Vany said, "my I-20 arrived on Wednesday. I got my visa Friday and left Honduras Saturday."

Vany's career as a Union student began the next day; Carla's a couple days later.

During the years at Union, Vany's passion for helping people intensified as she pursued her degree in nursing. "Medicine is so expensive in my country," she said. "I knew I could help by studying nursing and returning to my country and teaching people how to do simple things to take care of themselves better."

As a nursing student, Vany was a blessing waiting to happen for the people of Honduras.

Union has continued their annual Honduras mission trips since 1993 and in 1997, Vany was one of 13 students from Union who joined the mission team and returned to her home country this year.

"When I lived there I wanted to help," Vany said. "Now I was going and I knew what to do."

The week-long mission was Vany's first chance to serve her home country as a nursing student. "I was so excited that I could do something to help them," she shared. Vany worked with other nursing students and medical professionals to dress cuts, clean feet and ears, and administer medication through the pharmacy.

"I could relate better with them," Vany said. "I could not only understand their language, but I could understand their feelings ... they were frustrated, tired, and scared at times."

"Being in Honduras in January was different than before," she explained. "This time I wasn't just translating what the doctor said, it was *my* voice and *my* knowledge helping the patients."

Upon graduation in May, Vany hopes to obtain practical experience in nursing while still in the U.S. before returning to Honduras. Until then, each day Vany waits for a blessing to happen as she demonstrates her passion for others.



Vany Coello, right, and her sister, Carla, shop for holiday greeting cards for their family in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

THE SECOND ANNUAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

August 4-6, 1997



BIBLE TEACHER
JOHN PHILLIPS



WORSHIP LEADER
RON DUNN



BANQUET SPEAKER
ESTHER BURROUGHS



PRAYER PARTNERS WITH GOD
BILL AND MARIANNE KLASSEN



CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING
MICHAEL DUDUIT



MUSIC COORDINATOR
JAMES PULLIAM

WALKING WITH GOD

GENESIS 5:24

General Sessions: Pictured above are the six persons who will be leading the general sessions.

Special Interest Conferences: In addition to the general sessions, twelve special interest conferences will be featured. Each participant will have the opportunity to attend three of these conferences. Contact your Senior Adult Coordinator or your church office for more information on registration cost, housing rates, and special interest conferences.

UNION UNIVERSITY

**The Churches On This Page
Made A Dream Come True**



Edie Ward, a Union University senior and member of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, has wanted to be a teacher since the first grade. She loves the excitement of each new school year—the smell of new textbooks, the roar of the school bus, and the thrill of a student succeeding. Her goal is to be a Christian role model for the hundreds of students she will teach throughout her career.

Thanks to the generosity of her home church and other churches throughout Tennessee who provide money for scholarships, Edie's dream of teaching will be a reality next fall. You can make a dream come true, too. For more information on how you or your church can help, send in the coupon below or call Paul Veazey in the Office of Development at 1-800-338-6644 or 901-661-5050.

I'd like to make a student's dream come true at Union University.

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Please charge my gift of \$ _____

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Home Telephone (____) _____

Church _____

Please send me more information on: _____

How my church can set up a scholarship fund for our young people

Including Union in my will

I would like to recommend the following student for admission.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone (____) _____

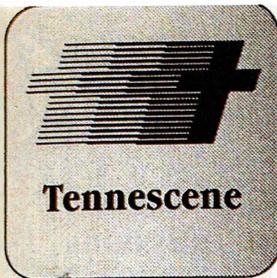
Please mail coupon to: _____

Union University
Development Office
2447 Highway 45 Bypass
Jackson, TN 38305-3697

UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH GIVING REPORT

June 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
BEECH RIVER			HARDEMAN, cont.		
Bear Creek	\$ 50.00	\$.00	Toone	1,237.64	.00
Chapel Hill	150.00	.00	West Memorial	.00	200.00
Lexington, First	1,925.00	500.00	Whiteville, First	.00	425.00
Mt. Ararat	800.00	.00		\$ 3,274.64	\$ 1,080.00
Mt. Gilead	50.00	.00	HAYWOOD		
Sand Ridge	300.00	.00	Allen	\$ 1,000.00	\$.00
Sardis	359.47	.00	Holly Grove	.00	460.00
Union	325.00	.00	Poplar Corner	.00	71.55
Wildersville	.00	107.00	Shaw's Chapel	350.00	.00
	\$ 3,959.47	\$ 607.00	Stanton	200.00	.00
BEULAH			Woodland	1,000.00	.00
Blessed Hope	\$.00	\$ 50.00	Zion	698.45	.00
Martin, First	2,100.00	.00		\$ 3,248.45	\$ 531.55
Mt. Olive	75.00	.00	MADISON-CHESTER		
Ridgely, First	2,050.54	.00	Ararat	\$ 3,383.38	\$ 500.00
South Fulton	1,750.00	.00	Beech Bluff	1,192.76	.00
Tiptonville, First	2,473.87	.00	Bemis, First	.00	50.00
Union City, First	1,950.00	75.00	Calvary	2,400.00	.00
Union City, Second	500.00	500.00	East Union	1,784.01	.00
Woodland Mills, First	350.00	00.00	Englewood	6,666.68	130.00
	\$ 11,249.41	\$ 625.00	Jackson, First	6,000.00	25.00
BIG HATCHIE			Madison	480.00	.00
Charleston	\$ 300.00	\$.00	Malesus	400.00	.00
Covington, First	2,333.35	2,333.35	Meridian	700.00	.00
Faith	291.62	.00	North Jackson	250.00	1,500.00
Grace	180.00	.00	Parkview	200.00	300.00
Henning	292.85	.00	Poplar Heights	1,155.00	20.00
Mason, First	.00	150.00	West Jackson	19,311.22	100.00
Mt. Lebanon	360.20	.00	Woodland	1,750.00	.00
Pleasant Grove	1,096.45	.00		\$ 45,673.05	\$ 2,625.00
Ripley, First	1,339.00	47.44	SHELBY		
Smyrna	750.00	.00	Ardmore	\$ 776.76	\$.00
	\$ 6,943.47	\$ 2,530.79	Audubon Park	700.00	.00
CARROLL-BENTON			Bartlett	.00	696.64
Atwood, First	\$.00	\$ 505.50	Cherokee	100.00	.00
Bruceston, First	100.00	.00	Cherry Road	1,166.69	.00
Camden, First	.00	864.00	Colonial	.00	250.00
Eastview	.00	160.00	Leawood	750.00	.00
Howse	750.00	.00	Macon Road	.00	200.00
Huntingdon, First	500.00	.00	Millington, First	1,000.00	875.00
McKenzie, First	2,625.00	100.00	Raleigh	1,020.00	225.00
Missionary Grove	.00	150.00	Trafalgar Village	319.66	.00
Trezevant, First	1,050.00	.00	Union Avenue	875.00	.00
	\$ 5,025.00	\$ 1,779.50		\$ 6,708.11	\$ 2,246.64
CROCKETT			SHILOH		
Alamo, First	\$ 400.00	\$.00	Adamsville, First	\$ 1,750.00	\$.00
Friendship	174.50	.00	Center Hill	.00	192.00
Gadsden, First	.00	150.00	Counce, First	2,065.65	.00
Maury City, First	1,458.38	.00	Good Hope	350.00	.00
Threeway	100.00	.00	Gravel Hill	875.00	.00
	\$ 2,132.88	\$ 150.00	Mt. Gilead	.00	225.00
DYER			Mt. Zion	70.00	.00
Dyersburg, First	\$.00	\$ 2,916.69	Olive Hill	.00	275.00
Finley	700.00	.00	Selmer, First	3,875.00	2,125.00
Gates	.00	230.00		\$ 8,985.65	\$ 2,817.00
Mt. Tirzah	150.00	.00	WEAKLEY		
Newbern, First	1,216.21	4,864.80	Bethel, Greenfield	\$.00	\$ 500.00
Springhill	.00	142.02	Central, Martin	700.00	163.00
	\$ 2,066.21	\$ 8,123.51	Dresden, First	.00	933.31
FAYETTE			Gleason, First	.00	200.00
Somerville, First	\$ 2,000.00	\$.00	Jolley Springs	150.00	.00
	\$ 2,000.00	\$.00		\$ 850.00	\$ 1,796.31
GIBSON			WESTERN DISTRICT		
Antioch	\$ 500.00	\$.00	Maplewood	\$ 1,493.81	\$ 1,493.80
Bethpage	150.00	.00	Oak Hill	200.00	.00
Bradford, First	1,400.00	.00	Paris, First	1,190.00	2,893.31
Calvary, Humboldt	481.48	.00	Puryear	700.00	.00
Fellowship	225.00	.00		\$ 3,583.81	\$ 4,387.11
Gibson Co. Assoc.	.00	488.13	OTHER ASSOCIATIONS		
Humboldt, First	4,666.69	100.00	Columbia, First (Maury)	\$.00	\$ 116.75
Kenton, First	1,250.00	.00	Forest Hills (Nashville)	.00	590.00
Milan, First	1,350.00	1,350.00	Grace (Bledsoe)	.00	200.00
New Bethlehem	1,184.19	.00	Lawrence Co. Assoc.	.00	100.00
Northside	700.00	.00	Mt. Juliet, First (Wilson Co.)	.00	3,360.00
Oak Grove	258.94	.00	Southside Missionary (Parsons)	.00	83.00
Oakwood	600.00	.00	Waverly (Truett)	.00	304.00
Poplar Grove	800.00	.00		\$.00	\$ 4,753.75
Poplar Springs	250.00	.00	OTHER STATES		
Rutherford, First	500.00	.00	W. Frankfort, Second (IL)	\$.00	\$ 320.87
Smyrna	150.00	.00	Ecu (MS)	.00	1,171.40
Trenton, First	4,308.16	.00	Hillcrest (MS)	.00	95.00
	\$ 18,774.46	\$ 1,938.13		\$.00	\$ 1,587.27
HARDEMAN			UNRESTRICTED TOTAL		
Bolivar, First	\$ 700.00	\$ 280.00		\$ 124,474.61	
Ebenezer	.00	75.00	RESTRICTED TOTAL		
Grand Junction, First	1,162.00	.00		\$ 37,578.56	
Saulsbury	175.00	.00			
Silerton	.00	100.00			



Tennescene

leaders

First Church, Oliver Springs, has called Stephen "Blair" Waddell as associate pastor/minister of music, effective Jan. 5. He was artistic director of Once Darkness Min-

istries based in Black Mountain, N.C. Waddell is a graduate of Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

Russwood Church, Springville, has called John Simmons as music director.

Holly Grove Church, Bells, has called Mark Faughn, a student at Union University, Jackson, as minister of music.

John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Gainesville, for nine years, will retire effective June 30. Formerly he was pastor of West Jackson Church, Jackson. Also Taylor was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, president of the Tennes-

see Baptist Pastors Conference, and a member of the board of Union University, Jackson. He and his wife, Delores, will retire in Gainesville.

Dillard Hagan, 73, pastor, Rogers Creek Church, Athens, earned the doctor of ministry degree from Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Ga.

C. J. Fluharty of Jacksonville, Fla., has been called as minister of education and students of Lyle Lane Church, Nashville.

people

Two members of Holly Grove Church, Bells, Jay Pratt and Mike Hopper, recently served in the Philippines.

associations

McMinn-Meigs Association will hold its annual Evangelism Conference March 10-11. Cluster Prayer Groups will meet March 10 to prepare for the meeting. Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson, will speak at the conference.

Clinton Association is now accepting resumes for director of missions. Resumes may be sent to the personnel committee of association, P.O. Box 266, Clinton, Tenn. 37717.

Nashville Association will hold "Understanding the Opposite Sex Conference" Feb. 28 - March 1, at First Church, Nashville. Dick Purnell will speak. For more information, call (615) 664-6081.

churches

The Romanian congregation of First Church, Donelson, is in need of a piano. Call (615) 259-3034 for more information.

Bethel Church, Henderson, will hold revival March 30 - April 2. The speaker will be Leland Johnson and Bryan Powers will lead the music.

Colonial View Church, Cookeville, will hold revival March 23-26. Tracy Gross will speak.

David Wheeler, evangelism director, Indiana Baptist Convention, will speak during the March 9-12 revival at Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville. Julian Suggs will lead the music.

Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop

March 21-22

Baptist Center, Brentwood

This conference is designed for anyone who is involved in literacy missions. Lee Hudson of Memphis will be leading the workshop. Meals and breaks are provided through the Golden State Missions Offering. The cost of the manual is \$10.

For registration information, contact Beverly Smothers, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, at (615) 371-2031.



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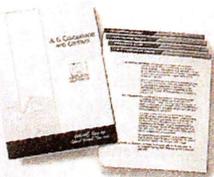
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ministry of phil waldrep evangelistic association

Missions emphasis offers 'something for every church'

By Charles L. Chaney
For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The theme of this year's Season of Home Missions presents a goal every church and missions congregation can accomplish: "Start Something New."

It's a very simple concept: each church and church-type mission will start one new growth structure in the next year. A growth structure is any organization or ministry that seeks to reach those outside the church, leading them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and assimilating them into the fellowship of the church.

In the typical Southern Baptist church, a growth structure would probably be a new Sunday School class. But it could be a new Sunday School department, or a second Sunday School, or a mission Sunday School, or an outreach Bible class.

The new unit also could be an ongoing support group, a new youth choir, a church softball team, or a new Royal Ambassador or Girls in Action organization that would focus on boys or girls outside, as well as those already a part of the church. For some churches, a second or third worship service is a tremendous possibility. The new service might be in a satellite location, such as a multihousing complex or mobile home park.



Start Something New
1997 Season of Home Missions
Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 2-9
Home Missions Day in Sunday School
March 9
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal: \$50 million
Tennessee Goal: \$3,250,000

An Hispanic or Korean church may choose to start an English Bible study class or department, or an English-speaking church may start a deaf ministry or special needs class. An existing church with unused space in its facility might begin a mission congregation for another language or cultural group. A new church-type mission of any sort is a prime example of a Start Something New project.

The possibilities are endless. Every congregation, no matter how large or small, no matter how young or old, no

matter where it might be located, can start at least one new growth unit. When a local church reproduces itself in another community of people, whether it is geographically near or far, it has established a new base for evangelism and ministry that may serve until the Lord returns from heaven.

The Southern Baptist Convention has continued to grow, while other denominations have experienced steep decline, because churches have started new mission congregations.

Even with an enviable

record in church starting, however, Southern Baptists continue to fall behind population growth in every metropolitan county in the South and rapidly growing counties of the North and West. Southern Baptists, though we have more churches overall, have fewer churches per capita in all these places. The SBC needs more than 9,600 newly constituted congregations today to have the same ratio of churches to population that the denomination had in the South in 1970.

Start Something New is a grand and essential concept for the continued life and vigor of the denomination.

The multiplication of new cells causes every living thing to grow. Churches are living things. If new cells are not created, churches plateau and then die. New classes, choirs, departments, softball teams, and worship services are cells that enable churches to grow and maintain growth. Sixty-seven percent of SBC churches are plateaued or declining. A primary reason is that when they reach new people they do not create new cells to keep them and reach others.

Start Something New is an effort to get 46,000 churches and mission congregations to create something new in order to reach and disciple the unsaved and unchurched. ■ —

Chaney is vice president for church extension for the SBC Home Mission Board.



Emphasis focuses on missionaries

For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Through Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptists set aside one week each year to pray for and financially support home missionaries through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 2-9 and the missionaries featured for prayer support are:

- ✓ Day One — Dean and Nadine Blankenship, Thorne Bay, Alaska
- ✓ Day Two — Lora Smith, Cleveland, Ohio
- ✓ Day Three — Ignatius and Nena Meimaris, Boston, Mass.
- ✓ Day Four — Joe and Ermarie Todd, Milwaukee, Wis.
- ✓ Day Five — Steve and Karen Scudder, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ✓ Day Six — Doug Chanco, Savannah, Ga.
- ✓ Day Seven — Fred and Lavada Loper, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- ✓ Day Eight — Wes and Charlean Hughes, Newberg, Ore. ■

Classified

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Grandview Church is seeking permanent, part-time minister of music. Send resume to: Grandview Baptist Church, 2208 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, TN 37803

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Full-time church pastor for Gordonsville Baptist Church, Va. Requirements: M.Div. degree from accredited Baptist seminary, training in counseling, full-time church pastor experience. Call (540) 832-2075 or FAX (540) 832-5597 for application. Deadline is March 7.

Min. of Music & Worship

Full-time Minister of Music and Worship needed for medium-sized church that utilizes a "blend" of music (traditional and praise). Must have heart for God and for people. If interested, send resume to Cross-Point Baptist Church, P.O. Box 80598, Baton Rouge, La. 70898.

Needs Minister

FBC is seeking full-time minister of preschool/children responsible for organizing activities of infants through 6th grade. Requirements include personal and organizational skills, college/seminary or equivalent, relocation required. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attention: Personnel Committee, 1400 W. Jackson St., Ozark, MO 65721 by March 3.

Want members to give more to missions? Send them away

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The best way to get church members to give more money to missions may be to send them away.

Being involved in missions, whether it's across town or across time zones, increases financial support of missions, said church mission leaders.

"People interested in missions are interested in every aspect of missions," said Ed Bowman, minister of education and senior adults at Eastmont Church, Montgomery, Ala. "The more informed they are, the more likely they are to pray, go, and give," he said, referring to three types of missions support.

The church has held three Sunday morning worship services and two Sunday School sessions for nine years due to space limitations. While they could use a new building, church members give generously of themselves and their finances to missions.

Eastmont members are involved in summer mission trips, Carpenters for Christ, Bible schools in nursing homes, resort ministries, special events, and partnership with another church in a lower income area of Montgomery.

In Tyler, Texas, members of Southside

Church take part in mission work stretching from Central America to north Tyler. Pastor Ron Wells said the church is not involved in missions as a fund-raising effort; it just works that way.

"When people work alongside missionaries with a contagious spirit and see the raw human needs, money is not an object. It's a peripheral issue. When we assume the posture of obeying the Great Commission, God blesses," he said.

Mack Riggs, minister of missions at First Church, Woodstock, Ga., agreed. "Because we got involved around the world, God is blessing us here. God blesses churches that have his heart."

Riggs is convinced that missions support is not a financial problem but a spiritual issue. "When people get right with God, they take on his heart, which is for the whole world."

Woodstock church members are involved in everything from adopting unreached people groups to starting churches in Boston. At least 100 people from the church participate in mission trips each summer, raising their own support for the trip.

"When people see they can actually do missions, that it's not just for the seminary trained, then giving just naturally flows," Riggs said. "Keep the involvement

going and the giving just kind of takes care of itself."

In 1995 Woodstock members exceeded their church budget and gave \$780,000 to missions, including the Cooperative Program and special offerings for home, foreign, and state missions.

It's impossible to "over challenge people financially," Riggs said.

His conclusion is supported by a 1992 survey of churches sponsoring Mission Service Corps home missions volunteers. Churches were asked how supporting volunteer missionaries affected the church's giving to Cooperative Program and home and foreign mission offerings. Churches reported that their giving had increased or had not been affected by supporting volunteers. None of the churches said their mission gifts decreased.

Several years ago, Severens Valley Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., was challenged to start a mission church in neighboring Ohio. Some feared, however, that money invested in the new church would decrease the mother church's financial support of missions. In fact, the opposite has been true. "Our receipts increase as our ministry increases," said Tim Clark, minister of education. ■ — Zimmerman is a freelance writer living in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Serve

By Donna Wright

Focal Passage — Matthew 25:31-46

There are some who think that, because we are saved by grace, there is no reason for good deeds. This week's verses tell us something different.

Christ does not expect us to sit back and wait for his second coming. He expects us to have plenty to do until he returns.

In the verses that are used to teach this week's lesson, Christ returns (v. 31) "in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." It goes on to describe the judgment, where he shall separate the sheep from the goats (vv. 32, 33).

On the right hand, will be the sheep, those that are favored (v. 34). He favors them because they served him. They will be shocked to hear this (v. 37). They will actually ask him, "We did not know you were in need, when did we serve you?" (vv. 37-39).

But, he will answer them (v. 40), "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for these brothers of mine, you did for me."

That sounds so good. Unfortunately, the goats are still standing on the left side of the King. Their story is not so good.

The King tells them just the opposite. Verse 41 says, "depart from me." He goes on to tell them that they had the same opportunity to serve, but didn't.

They, too, are shocked. When was this, they ask (v. 44). He answers them (v. 45), "I tell you the truth, when you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me."

The next verse (v. 46) tells that the second group goes into everlasting punishment, the righteous into life eternal.

Let's go back and review the part of those that are told to depart from Christ. What was their crime? Did they have a particular sin, or spiritual deformity?

They were not necessarily murderers, or thieves. They failed to respond to human need. That is the only reason that the King uses to condemn them.

Acts of kindness are not done to find favor with God. Those who do them for the right reason, do them, basically, because they need to be done. They are done for service, not reward.

Therefore, what shall we do? When we see someone hungry, we feed him. When we see someone thirsty, we give him drink. We are inviting to a stranger. We clothe the naked, and minister to those sick and in prison.

We think not of the reward, but of the service. We do them not to be saved, but because we are saved.

We Serve! ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Newport.



Proclaim the Gospel

By Mike Shelton

Focal Passage — I Thessalonians 2:1-13

A new unit begins this week that focuses primarily on Paul's letters to the church in Thessalonica. Perseverance in Christian living is the theme. In chapter two of I Thessalonians our attention is called to the great privilege we have of proclaiming the Word of God throughout our lives.

Effective methods (vv. 1-2, 7-12). The manner in which we share the Gospel is very important. Some people use dubious techniques to manipulate others into decisions that may not be genuine. Paul helped the church in Thessalonica recall that his evangelistic work there had utilized such methods as courageous preaching, gentleness, and hard work. Such methods are still among the most effective even today.

Family Bible Lesson

His work required courage because of the rough treatment he had received in Philippi and Thessalonica itself. Many of us would have been tempted to stop winning people to Christ, yet he continued to be bold because he was convinced his message held out hope for the world. Our age seems to be marked by a growing spiritual darkness in the hearts of people. Christians will need to be increasingly courageous in order to face that darkness. We can have this kind of boldness because we know that our message of salvation in Jesus Christ is still the only hope our world has.

Paul's evangelistic work required gentleness and a self-giving spirit because of the needs of the people he was trying to reach in Thessalonica. They were young and tender in a spiritual sense. Such approaches are still needed today as we seek to win people who have very little understanding of God and his Word.

Celebrate

By Howard Kitter

Focal Passage — Matthew 26:17-29

To publicly make known the observance of a ceremony. That's what celebrate means. What was the last celebration that you took part in? Was it Christmas, a birthday, an anniversary? Which ever it was, you celebrated a special event. That event meant so much to you that you probably took time out of your schedule and put that particular event in. You more than likely had something to say about it on the way home, too. I'm sure your comments were mostly positive.

In this lesson we see the institution of the Lord's Supper, and how it helped the establishment of the kingdom.

The preparation — vv. 17-19

These verses are simple and to the point. The question was posed, "Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?" Jesus' reply was equally short and specific. I sense that verse 19 may hold within it a very important lesson to every believer. "And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them. ..." What a beautiful commentary of an individual. It should be understood that this may not have been an easy task. Remember there were crowds everywhere preparing for the same cele-

Explore the Bible Lesson

bration. None the less, those men obeyed Jesus.

Do you obey Jesus in the same manner as these did, even when it may be difficult?

The prediction — vv. 20-25

Just as the disciples and Jesus were preparing to celebrate this passover, there was a great crowd gathering elsewhere in the city preparing for something quite different. This crowd was preparing to capture Jesus and destroy him. Jesus refers to the fruition of the betrayal in verse 21, while Matthew, the writer, in verse 25 refers to the act already performed in secret some time ago by Judas and the chief priests.

Note the mood of this celebration was sorrowful when the fact of betrayal came to light. When Jesus stated that someone was going to betray him, all eyes began to intently scour their own hearts searching for the remotest possibility of guilt. But Judas needed to look no further than his own pocket, for his very walk echoed his guilt as those 30 pieces of silver clanked together in his money pouch. He knew what Jesus was speaking of. He went so far as to look Jesus right in the eye and lie,

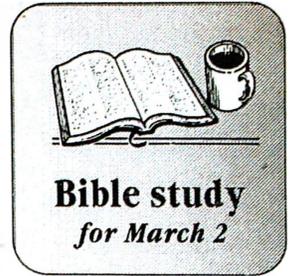
His task also called upon him to employ the technique of hard work. The work of evangelism and missions has never been easy.

That is why Paul used such words as "labour" and "travail" to describe it. Sharing Christ with others takes time and energy. It is when we make this work our primary concern and give it our best that we begin to see visible and lasting results. May the methods of courageous proclamation, gentleness, and hard work characterize our evangelistic efforts.

Proper motives (vv. 3-6). In the *Pastor's Update* of the Foreign Mission Board, Warren Rice, a Southern Baptist missionary in Guyana, told the story of a man he saw regularly on a ferry crossing the Berbice River. The man was a vendor who sold cold drinks. One day he saw the man stand in front of the ferry with a Bible in his hand. He told everyone he was going to preach a sermon on tithing. When the sermon was over, he walked among the crowd to collect tithes and offerings. A few weeks later Rice noticed the man had gone back to selling cold drinks. Rice asked him: "What happened to the preaching?" The man replied, "Preaching don't pay."

People have all kinds of motives for preaching. Some are pure; others are not. In these verses we find Paul reminding the Christians in Thessalonica that he did not preach the Word out of impure motives. He did it so that lost men and women would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

When effective methods are coupled with pure motives, evangelistic work can be greatly blessed by God: sins forgiven, lives changed for the better, the church edified, and the kingdom extended. ■ — Mike Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.



by asking if it was himself. Sin, when it is so deeply entrenched in a heart removes most all fear of God. So much so that one could lie to God and not be bothered by it.

Participation and promise — vv. 26-29

It was after Judas left, that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. The two elements of this supper were simple and easy to obtain.

Please understand that it is not the elements that receive the reverence, but what they represent. Jesus wanted to leave these men with an object lesson. Something that would always remind them of what he was about to do. The bread represented his body, given freely by his own choosing, to be crucified for all of mankind. The wine represented his blood. This is the most important thing to understand. Without the shedding of his blood there would be no redemptive hope for anyone. It was in the spilling of the precious blood of Jesus that atonement of sin was accomplished. God sealed the covenant of grace with the blood of his son, Jesus Christ.

Ask yourself: When I take the Lord's Supper, what does it mean to me? Is it just another thing that you do or does it hold deep and significant means to you? ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.



world news

Atchison to resign SBC post

Baptist Press

FRANKLIN — David W. Atchison, recording secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention for the past seven years, will resign that post following the June SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

Atchison, a layman, is beginning a new ministry, Disciple's Call, which will assist churches in equipping men and women "to discover their unique calling and develop a disciple making lifestyle."

Atchison won election in 1990 by defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville who had held the position for 12 years.

People seeking the nomination may be nominated from the floor during June 17-19 annual meeting. ■

FMB, campus group team up

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — An agreement signed Feb. 14 by Campus Crusade for Christ International and the Foreign Mission Board will speed a witness to people groups that have no access to the Gospel.

The agreement calls on the board to produce — and then make available for others — fully translated versions of Campus Crusade's "Jesus" film and translations of a new audio program, "The Story of Jesus."

Under the pact, missionaries will be able to produce translations as they need them to begin work in new people groups, instead of waiting for translations from Campus Crusade on its own timetable.

Campus Crusade will lease the necessary translation production equipment and train mission workers on the field how to use it.

FMB missionaries all over the world use the "Jesus" film. ■

Summer missions opportunities

on-line from HMB
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Student summer missions opportunities are now available on the World Wide Web. The web site at www.hmb.america.net/student contains 1,000 urgent needs for summer missions volunteers. Students also can request an application on-line.

Each year summer missionaries assist churches and missionaries across the United States and Canada in evangelism, church starting, and ministry projects.

"Summer missionaries are a vital part of many churches' strategy in reaching their area for Christ," said Van Simmons, associate director of the Home Mission Board's student missions department.

Student summer missionaries are college students who have completed their freshmen year. They receive 10-week assignments. The application deadline is March 10. ■

S.C. lay leader Greg Horton dies

Baptist Press

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C. — Greg Horton, a man whose faith stretched from his local church in South Carolina to the reshaping of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Feb. 18 after surgery for cancer of the esophagus. He was 60.

Horton, who started the Ryan's Family Steak House chain, was one of seven study committee members who worked from 1993-95 to recommend a convention-wide restructuring plan, "Covenant for a New Century."

He also was a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Horton is survived by his wife, Bobbie, three children, and three grandchildren. ■

Nevada editor leads state paper group

Baptist Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Michael B. McCullough, editor of the *Nevada Baptist*, is the new president of the Association of State Baptist Papers, following the group's annual meeting here Feb. 11-13.

Marv Knox, associate editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*, was chosen president-elect.

The 37-member state paper organization also passed resolu-

New CP video shows missionaries are 'real people'

By Tim Fields
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "A Mission You Share," a videotape designed to introduce Southern Baptists to individual missionaries supported by Cooperative Program gifts, was premiered before SBC agency and state Baptist convention leaders here Feb. 18.

The 12.5-minute video was produced by the Stewardship Commission's Cooperative Program office in cooperation with the Home and Foreign Mission boards. Convention leaders viewed the new video during the 25th annual Cooperative Program Fellowship Luncheon, sponsored by the Stewardship Commission and held in conjunction with the February meeting of the convention's Executive Committee.

James Powell, Stewardship Commission executive vice president for Cooperative Program promotion, said the video is designed to show Southern Baptists how their CP dollars are used in mission efforts at home and abroad and to motivate them to continue to support this financial lifeline for missions.

"On the video the missionaries speak to Southern Baptists via telephone interviews from their specific mission fields," he explained.

"The Cooperative Program is truly a mission shared by every person who contributes to their local church through the Cooperative Program," Powell said. "We hope this video

will form a human link between individual Southern Baptists who support Cooperative Program ministries with their gifts and the more than 9,000 real people who serve as missionaries on the field."

During the course of the video, viewers are introduced to missionaries who share Christ's love and message of salvation in such places as: Brazil, Boston, the Philippines, Nepal, and Fresno, Calif.

Powell said the production of the video is testimony to the fact that even in the midst of a reorganization of the SBC, convention agencies are working together as partners in Cooperative Program promotion and to provide educational and motivational resources for local churches.

As a part of the convention's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring, the Cooperative Program promotion office will be moved from the Stewardship Commission to the SBC Executive Committee where it has been assigned, effective at the close of the SBC annual meeting this June in Dallas. Powell will serve as director of CP relations and Jim Austin, vice president of CP promotion for the Stewardship Commission, will serve as director of CP promotion.

Copies of videotape in 1/2-inch VHS format can be ordered for \$7 each, plus shipping and handling, from the Cooperative Program Promotion Office, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone orders can be placed by calling 1-800-722-9407. ■



tions of appreciation for Robert J. Hastings, retired editor of the *Illinois Baptist* who died in January, and Gomer Lesch, who served two stints as editor of the *Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist* and resigned recently for health reasons.

The association also passed a resolution urging the Implementation Task Force to open its meetings to the news media. A similar resolution was passed last year. ■

U.S. committee condemns religious persecution

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. State Department advisory committee meeting for the first time condemned religious persecution and pledged to help those seeking to flee such treatment.

The Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad adopted a statement Feb. 13 saying it "condemns all forms of religious persecution, as well as the climate of religious intolerance that has led to armed conflict and even genocide." The 20-member panel also committed to provide data to the federal government about religious persecution and to "develop recommendations to combat religious intolerance and assist those seeking refuge from persecution."

Former SBC President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., was a member of the committee.

He came away with the impression religious persecution has "become an important issue to the administration."

Henry said he "really had an apprehension because of the diversity of the committee. I am much more encouraged than I was when I went up there. It's an aggressive committee. It's not a passive group of people."

He was encouraged to believe the committee will deal with Christian persecution. About two-thirds of those who gave public testimony did so from a Christian perspective, Henry said. ■

WMU joins home shopping craze

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, is joining the home shopping craze to market a variety of native handicrafts from countries such as Pakistan, Thailand, Jordan, Mexico, and Tanzania.

The WorldCrafts marketing approach has been piloted with

12 to 15 home parties, resulting in satisfactory consumer response, according to coordinator Joyce Mitchell, WMU associate executive director. While creating a unique missions learning experience, the new marketing approach has provided a sales outlet for the indigenous crafter who lacks adequate income possibilities, Mitchell reported, noting WMU is working with the crafters, all of whom are women, through Southern Baptist personnel in various countries.

The 1996-97 WorldCrafts catalog features more than 50 handicrafts. To request a catalog, call 1 (800) 968-7301. ■

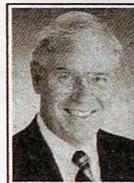
Fruitland head dies at age 42

Baptist Press

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — Randy K. Kilby, president of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute since 1994, died suddenly Feb. 11 of an apparent heart attack. He was 42.

Kilby had spoken during a Bible conference at West Lenoir (N.C.) Church shortly before his death.

Kilby was unanimously elected president of Fruitland by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina general board in May 1994. He had been a vice president at Georgetown (Ky.) College for two years. He is survived by his wife, Dana, and a son. ■



HENRY