

this week's news

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At SBC annual meeting in June

Porter predicts 15,000 messengers

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southern Baptists return to Dallas for their annual national convention but only about one-third the number are expected compared to the last time the convention met in Dallas. According to SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter, the June 17-19 meeting should register about 15,000 messengers.

In 1985 the SBC annual meeting was held in Dallas and 45,519 messengers registered — the SBC's all-time high registration total. Porter said registration at the annual meeting has been declining since 1990, a year usually identified as the last year moderate Baptists challenged the conservative leadership of the convention. Last year in New Orleans 13,706 messengers were registered. Porter said there are also between 4,000 to 5,000 visitors/guests attending a convention meeting.

Interestingly, when 14,277 messengers register at the Dallas meeting it will mean

one million messengers have attended annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention since its beginning in 1845. The 1997 Dallas meeting, at the Convention Center downtown, will be the 140th session in the convention's 152-year history.



The Dallas meeting will be only the fifth time the convention has been held in Dallas; also in 1985, 1974, 1965 and 1894. The first meeting in Dallas in 1994 drew 772 messengers.

Porter, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board official living in Lawrenceville, Ga., has been predicting convention registration totals since his election as registration secretary in 1978.

Porter said registration would open in Lower Lobby "C" of the Dallas Convention Center, one of the main entrances at street level, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Thursday. It will close about 9:30 each night.

According to SBC Bylaw 8, Porter said the familiar messenger card, "the best creden-

tial," must be signed by the church's clerk or moderator. The messenger card may be obtained from state convention offices, or in some states, the local association office. A messenger is similar to a delegate in his/her election by a local church but traditionally has not been instructed by the church.

If a messenger comes to the meeting without a properly filled-out card, Porter said the person must go before the convention's Credentials Committee which could take 30 minutes or more.

Who can register as a messenger is dictated by Article III of the SBC constitution. Messengers of the convention are "members of missionary Baptist church cooperating with the Convention."

Churches are allotted one additional messenger for "every 250 members or \$250 paid to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting," but no church can have more than 10 messengers.

A messenger also "shall be a member of the church by which he or she is appointed," according to the constitution. ■

Disaster relief efforts continue for flood victims

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — As of March 24, the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief feeding unit has served 29,318 hot meals to flood victims in Madisonville, Ky., since beginning operations March 7, according to state disaster relief director Tim Bearden.

Over 120 Tennessee Baptist men and women have worked the feeding operation unit at First Church, Madisonville.

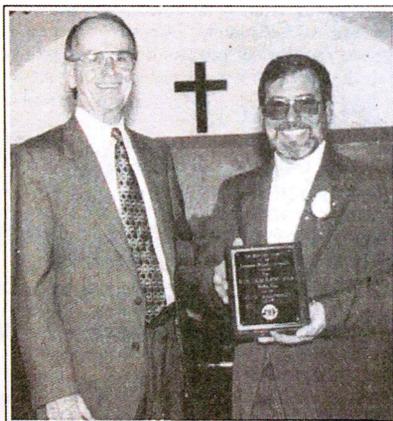
Disaster relief feeding operations ended March 21 at First Church, Dyersburg, which was the base for West Tennessee efforts. Volunteers, a total of 116, served 8,079 meals over a period of 11 days.

Clean-up operations are continuing in West Tennessee and Kentucky. Bearden said.

Monetary donations for the Disaster Relief Fund may be made to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 278, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ■

Chapel Hill church celebrates centennial

For Baptist and Reflector



PASTOR LARRY CHAPMAN, right, of Holt's Corner Church, Chapel Hill, accepts a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society presented by Harold Smith, director of missions, New Duck River Association.

CHAPEL HILL — Holt's Corner Church here recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The church was organized on the third Sunday in February by 10 people who desired to see their children raised in the Baptist doctrine.

Two families of charter members — the Johns and the Trouts — attended the celebration. Both families have members still active in the church. Several former pastors joined in the festivities: Robert Carter, Forrest Creekmore, Frank Edwards, William York, and Paul Hall.

Also present was Jim Hall of Louisville, Ky., who in 1996 directed the church members in constructing their new Sunday School rooms and fellowship hall.

New Duck River Association Director of Missions Harold Smith presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. ■

Newsjournal staff welcomes new family members

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Baptist and Reflector welcomes two churches to the family of subscribers.

First Church, Wartburg, and Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet, members are the newest additions.

Tom Mooty is pastor at First, Wartburg, and Jim McAfee is pastor at Mt. Olivet.

First Church, Nashville, joined the B&R family in January, and is using the Church Page Plan for its members.

Churches interested in reading Tennessee Baptist news weekly at an economical cost are urged to call the Baptist and Reflector office for more information, (615) 371-2003. ■

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All NAMB positions listed for 350-employee structure

By Dale Welch
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — All 350 positions in the new North American Mission Board have been identified, including an administrative group of 16 people led by the president, in a release March 20 by the Implementation Task Force.

No names are attached to the slots as yet, as the ITF said the process is continuing of terminating some employees and recommending others from the three merged agencies — Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission. The ITF is a 10-member committee appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee to assist SBC agencies affected by the denominational restructuring.

"This process which began some weeks ago will accelerate as the June 19 merger date approaches," said David Hankins, vice president for convention policy for the SBC Executive Committee and chairman

of the NAMB Transition Communications Committee. "There had been some concern that people were being let go at the RTVC and Brotherhood Commission but not at the Home Mission Board. However, ITF has approved the process which allows current management to give notice of terminations to various employees who will not have a job in NAMB."

Hankins said all employees who are terminated will be given a minimum 30-day notice and will receive a severance as outlined in previous ITF news releases. About 150 employees from the three affected agencies will be severed, retire, or seek employment elsewhere in order to accommodate the 350-total employment positions when NAMB begins at its Alpharetta, Ga., offices.

NAMB is the new missions agency created by the merger of the three agencies, with June 19 the effective date of operation immediately following the annual meeting of the SBC in Dallas June 17-19.

NAMB is a key part of the SBC restructuring, called "Covenant for a New Century," which reduces the number of convention entities from 19 to 12.

NAMB will be led by a 16-person administrative group with Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, 45, former ITF chairman and pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., as the expected nominee for president.

Technically, no positions are available at NAMB until June 19 when the trustees elected by the convention convene and approve a charter and other legal items. The trustees then will vote to elect a president, and upon his recommendations, other officers, such as the five group vice presidents and 21 division directors.

Included in the administrative group are: president and executive assistant, executive vice president and administrative assistant, a special assistant to the president and an administrative assistant, and five vice presidents and their five administrative assistants.

A breakdown of the new or-

ganization with groups, divisions and number of employees follows:

Evangelization Group — four divisions: Direct Evangelism, 20; Campus Evangelism, 3; Church Evangelism, 15; Ministry Evangelism, 18

Church Planting Group — three divisions: Leadership Enlistment and Training, 5; Strategy and Resource Development, 5; New Congregation Implementation, 16

Media and Missions Education Group — five divisions: Public Relations, 6; Publishing, 16; Mission Education, 25; Media Strategy, 5; Media Technology, 70

Strategic Planning and Mobilization Group — four divisions: Strategic Planning Coordination and Research, 14; Associational Strategy, 6.5; Strategic Focus Cities, 5.5; Volunteer Mobilization, 18

Business Services Group — five divisions: Finance and Accounting, 30; Human Resources, 16; Information Services, 19; Church Loans, 17; Marketing Services, 4. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

March-April

26 — Praise God for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Pastor/Staff Retreat that was held in February.

27 — Pray for Jerry and Brenda Wortman who are cultivating the Canadian field in the West Flats of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, for a new church start called Miwacimowin Church for the First Nations. The Wortmans plan to have three established group homes by April 1.

28 — Pray for volunteers to respond to the call to street evangelism in Wroclaw, Poland, in May. This is a rare opportunity to witness to thousands who will be in Wroclaw to attend the World Catholic Conference.

29 — Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of the people of Poland and in the lives of Tennessee volunteers. Ask God to use the "Here's Hope — Christ" crusade to bring Poland to him.

30 — Pray for Tahquamenon Church in Newberry, Mich. Ask the Lord for financial help to grow this church: a member of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

31 — Pray for Terry Sharp and the staff of the Partnership and Volunteer Missions Team.

1 — Pray for the staff of the *Baptist and Reflector* as they report on partnership news.

Foreign Mission Board reports

International missions outreach is healthy

For Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Eight-foot-tall grass closes around Fred Allen as he turns his four-wheel-drive vehicle off a rocky road in Zambia's Western Province, one tire following a footpath.

It's another day of church developer's work for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary, who closed out a career in music ministry three years ago in Lusaka to bring truth to the Gospel-hungry Lozi people.

In three years, Allen has seen 15 Lozi Baptist churches and 10 fellowships started. Invitations to start new groups keep coming from other villages. People are responding in such numbers Allen and his wife, Joy, have to buy baptism certificates by the ream. And they haven't had time yet to complete a survey for the missionaries who will replace them after they retire later this year.

"People thought I was crazy to start a new work three years from my retirement," Allen recalled. "They asked: 'Do you feel you can do the job of a church developer?' I'm not a theologian or a preacher."

But the Allens, like Foreign Mission Board missionaries in other responsive areas, found yielding their spirits to God produced better results than relying on technical preparation.

Responsive pockets of people like the Lozi account for continuing growth of the Foreign Mission Board enterprise. Last year missionaries

and local Baptists with whom they worked started 2,367 new churches and baptized 283,674 new Christians. Total membership, fueled by response on key mission fields, was reported at about 4.1 million. The number of churches increased by 2 percent to 39,876.

These figures and others, just released by the Foreign Mission Board in its annual statistical report for 1996, indicate another healthy year for missionary efforts, though not a record-breaking one.

The report also indicates a quickly expanding ministry in areas the board considers "harvest fields" and "The Last Frontier" — a world region with little access to the Gospel because of political or cultural resistance.

But the figures — which show that the most productive 25 mission fields accounted for 80 percent of the growth worldwide — portend changes designed to help missionaries on less productive fields reach new people. Though not a new trend, 66 fields showed no new church starts at all last year.

At a February meeting of the agency's trustees, board President Jerry Rankin proposed a sweeping reorganization of overseas work. The restructuring would attempt to capitalize on new growth and determine how to cooperate with God to invigorate work in slower areas, said an official. Trustees plan to act on that proposal during their next two meetings. ■

Lynn Porch to receive new treatment

For *Baptist and Reflector*

Tests performed on Lynn Porch, wife of executive director-treasurer, James Porch, on March 19 at Baptist Hospital, Nashville, revealed malignant tumors had not re-

sponded to chemotherapy.

She has begun receiving another type of chemotherapy. The family, Lynn, James, Scott, and Terri, express their continued thanks for the prayers and support of Tennessee Baptists. *B&R*

Proposed law poses threat to Bible, witness in Israel

Baptist Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Christian witnessing could become a crime punishable by a year in jail if a bill now being considered by the Israeli government becomes law.

Christians in Israel are alarmed by the law's vague wording, which they say could even be used to ban Bibles. And they say it could stifle the growth of Messianic Jews, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

They held a day of prayer and solidarity against the proposed law and asked for widespread opposition to it on Palm Sunday, March 23.

The bill, S757-1996, would alter Israel's penal code to prohibit "inducement for religious conversion" and sets a one-year jail term for "whoever possesses contrary to the law or prints or imports tracts or publishes things in which there is an inducement for religious conversion."

Further, the law would authorize the government to confiscate "any tract or advertisement in which there is inducement to religious conversion."

An explanation accompanying the law states "The state of Israel, in the framework of the existing laws, is opposed to any missionary seduction to convert religion, and is even more severe regarding the seduction of minors to convert religion."

"Missionary" means any individual who tries to persuade others to change their religious viewpoint, a translator said. The bill expands an "anti-bribery law" already on the books which makes it illegal to offer material gain to induce a person to change religions.

Messianic Jewish leaders in Israel say the law proposal has come in response to mass mailings of evangelistic booklets called "The Peace" to a million households in Israel by U.S. television evangelist Morris Cerullo late in 1996.

The mass mailings were roundly criticized in Israel and some copies were burned in front of the Knesset, or parliament building. "This is not the first time that (Cerullo) has advertised the Messiah in this way, and as usual, those who clean up after him are the Messianic Jews living here,"

said one believer in Jerusalem.

"He produced a big backlash. He did not consult with anyone in Israel as far as I know," said David Groseclose, a Southern Baptist worker based in Haifa who oversees Southern Baptist work in Israel.

Response to the Cerullo mailings was so negative, a believer said, that Orthodox Jewish leaders issued a new religious law warning postal workers not to distribute his booklets or face dismissal from their jobs. "The new Knesset bill now in committee is only the next logical response of a Jewish state under siege by maverick missionaries operating with 'loose cannon' theology," the believer said.

The proposed law, however, could be readily applied to personal evangelism, and not just mass mailings, one observer said.

Messianic Jewish members now are said to number up to 6,000, meeting in some three dozen congregations across Israel. The new bill was approved in its first reading by a vote of 21 to 7 with one abstention and now must be approved in two more readings in

Israel's Knesset to become law. A poll of lawmakers indicated 78 of 120 will support the bill.

But opposition is mounting.

A delegation from the United Christian Council in Israel, representing most evangelical Christian groups in the country, met March 17 for an hour with Knesset member Nissim Zvili, secretary of the Labor Party, who co-sponsored the bill with Moshe Gafni of the Torah Judaism Party.

Zvili agreed the bill is poorly written and needs work. He told the delegation the law was not intended to outlaw the Bible or Christians, but agreed the law could be interpreted that way. But Zvili said he is definitely against mass efforts to convert people.

Zvili is considered a leading politician headed for higher offices in government, so his support of such a bill is considered disheartening for Christians in Israel, one worker said. Despite assurances the bill is not a broadside against Christians in Israel, many Messianic believers are concerned it could be just that once passed.

"If made law, such legisla-

tion would make illegal almost every evangelical activity in Israel, and in essence, seriously affect the continued vitality and effectiveness of believers in Israel," Yossi Ovadia and Garry Delinger, two Messianic Jewish leaders, warned in a letter to congregations and home groups across Israel.

Messianic leader Baruch Maoz called on Southern Baptists and other church groups in America to protest the proposed Israeli law in hopes of swaying Knesset members to vote against the bill.

"It is extremely important that as many telephone calls and letters of protest as possible are received at Israeli embassies and the office of the Israeli prime minister, and that these are received as soon as possible," Maoz said.

"The Messianic Jews are speaking as citizens and friends who deeply love and support Israel," said Groseclose. They consider themselves good Jews and citizens of the state. Others of us who oppose this unjust bill also consider ourselves friends who seek the great good of Israel as a light to the nations. ■

Summer jobs open at state Baptist camps

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Are you a youth or young adult looking for a great summer opportunity?

Applications are now being accepted for the following summer staff positions at Camp Carson, Newport, and Camp Linden: cooks, lifeguards, lawn & ground maintenance, kitchen helpers, dining room servers, canteen/gift shop operators, and office staff.

Contact the Human Resources Office, Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position. ■

Looting in Albania claims 'Jesus' film equipment

Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania — A key evangelical thrust in Albania has suffered a setback as chaos and anarchy continues to engulf the country.

Equipment and materials used in the yearly Albania Evangelical Rural Outreach (AERO) effort in Albanian villages for showing the "Jesus" film have been looted from a storage facility in Tirana, the nation's capital, according to a March 21 report by European Baptist Press Service.

Stolen were 16 sets of projectors, screens, and generators for showing the film, 300 beds, kitchen equipment, and other items used to establish base camps in Albanian villages for teams of volunteers who have worked in the project each summer since 1994.

Plans were under way for 300 volunteers to come in a few months for this year's effort, but they are on hold until the stability in Albania can be determined, according to Larry Cox, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board field administrator in charge of Albanian work.

More than 830 villages in Albania's rugged countryside have been the focus of AERO, a cooperative venture involving the FMB, Campus Crusade for Christ, Helimission, and Albanian believers.

Hundreds of AERO workers have shown the "Jesus" film to more than 67,000 Albanians since 1994, resulting in hundreds of Albanians committing their lives to Christ and churches organizing rapidly.

Albania's turmoil has prompted all

18 personnel affiliated with the FMB, along with all British Missionary Society, Canadian Baptist Mission, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship workers, to leave the country, EBPS reported.

Eighteen FMB workers had been stationed in Albania. All the missions groups are having debriefing sessions and counseling for their Albanian personnel, EBPS reported.

Young believers helped missionaries — the only pastors and Christian mentors they have known — gather what they could and get out of the country. Albanian Christians encouraged foreign colleagues to leave when they were ready; there was no spirit of blame or disappointment, according to one missionary. "They told us ... 'Do what you have to do,'" she said. ■

Volunteers needed for pre-SBC evangelist effort

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Volunteers for Crossover Dallas should sign up by May 1, said organizers of the evangelism thrust to precede this year's Southern Baptist Convention.

"We're trying to recruit as many volunteers from as many places as will come," said Don Smith of the Home Mission Board evangelism staff. People who do not meet the May 1 deadline can participate, but early registration gives leaders time to match volunteers' in-

terests with local church needs, Smith said.

Dallas Association estimates more than one million people who do not know Christ live in the Dallas metroplex. To target the residents, Crossover Dallas will include block parties, door-to-door witnessing teams, and street evangelism venues. Each activity is designed to present the Gospel and discover prospects for local churches.

Crossover began in 1989 as a pre-convention evangelism thrust. Crossover New Orleans

in 1996 resulted in 2,476 professions of faith in Christ and one new church start.

Currently, there are 230 churches committed to host an evangelistic event: 120 with block parties; 80 sponsoring door-to-door witnessing teams; and 30 hosting street evangelism venues.

Southern Baptists can participate as individuals, a group from one church or a group from several churches, Smith said. To register, call the Dallas Baptist Association at (214) 324-2803. ■

Starlight Crusade successful at Grace

For Baptist and Reflector

TULLAHOMA — A March 16-19 Starlight Crusade at Grace Church here resulted in 122 decisions for Christ, and 58 professions of faith, according to Mike Gass, pastor.

Gass said the church had 60 days of prayer and fasting prior to the crusade, and "God certainly answered our prayers."

Almost 4,000 people attended the four-day crusade,

with more than 1,000 packing the church gymnasium on Sunday morning. Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., was the crusade evangelist.

All services were held in the gym, with contemporary music and leisure attire.

Gass said 550 is the church's average worship attendance on Sunday morning, and each crusade service attendance exceeded that mark. ■

BCE summit addresses family-related issues

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — American families are living on borrowed "social capital" which threatens to bankrupt society, speakers said during a "Family Summit" March 17-18.

The faith community will be called upon more than any other group to help America rebuild its social foundation, said Don Eberly, director of the Civil Society Project and author of the book *Restoring the Good Society*.

Eberly was one of three keynote speakers addressing the Family Summit, sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics. The conference was held at Immanuel Church here.

Speakers called on the Christian community to help end America's "divorce culture," help fathers reconnect with their families, help families redefine the relationship between work and family time, and teach families a biblical understanding of money.

The social capital of American society is more important than traditional economic forms of capital, such as money and machinery, Eberly said. "Public well-being flows from the well of private virtue."

America's democratic form of government "is not just about politics and parties," Eberly said. "It's about the forms into which we pour our character and virtues."

An "unbreakable link" exists between the functioning of the family unit and the functioning of democratic government, said Eberly, whose writings have been cited by politicians as diverse as President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

While much evidence may be cited to indicate the future of the American family is bleak, Eberly said he is encouraged because more influ-



ROBERT PARHAM, right, director of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics, welcomed several Tennessee Baptists to the center's Family Summit held last week at Immanuel Church. Among them are from left, host pastor David George, June McEwen, First Church, Chattanooga; David Hull, First Church, Knoxville; and Ron Murray, Central Church, Johnson City.

ential people are realizing something must be changed.

One key starting point in creating change is to address America's "divorce culture," said Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, a social scientist who has written a new book on the impact of divorce in America.

The problem is not just that so many marriages now end in divorce but that divorce has become "a normal and accepted event of family life," she said.

This "culture of divorce" causes Americans to burn much of their social capital on the fallout of divorce — social capital that otherwise could be spent on helping the elderly and the young, she said.

Whitehead, who has been married 30 years herself but has experienced the divorces of four siblings and one child, said she does not want to outlaw divorce. But she does want to make divorce an option of last resort, she said.

Despite the portrayal in popular culture of divorce as a positive and liberating experience, few people who actually get a divorce describe it that way, she noted. "Many say it is

the most devastating experience of their lives."

Whitehead cited a number of negative effects on society brought about by a culture of divorce, including the impact on children. The divorce culture, she said, is like the welfare culture America has developed in which patterns of behavior are passed on from one generation to the next.

She cited the experience of one adult child of divorced parents who recently wrote to her: "The ghosts of divorce never die. It is a stone thrown into the water of a child's life that creates ripples for years."

Working for "better" divorce is not the answer to America's problem, Whitehead said. Rather, the answer is to help create more healthy marriages. In the church, this might include placing a greater emphasis on traditional wedding vows, she suggested. Wedding vows are important because they signify the contract being made, she said.

Whitehead said she is troubled by the trend in recent decades of couples writing their own marriage vows that may not always lay a good

foundation for a healthy marriage. For example, she said, some couples have exchanged the traditional line "as long as we both shall live" for "as long as we both shall love."

Eberly followed Whitehead's presentation on divorce with an appeal for restoring value to the role of fatherhood. "Fatherhood has to be reinforced as a cultural value," he said.

"Not only are fathers important to children; children are important to fathers," he said, citing research that shows men who are involved fathers behave better and become better citizens.

Although the role of fathers has been "devalued" in American society, the presence of a father in the home carries enormous impact on a child, Eberly said.

An increasing number of American companies are discovering that investing in the social capital of families pays off in business capital, said Marguerite Sallee, president of Corporate Family Solutions, a company that helps businesses create family friendly environments.

"The workplace in many ways is becoming the new American neighborhood," she said.

While the American family has undergone radical change in recent years, so has the American workplace, Sallee explained. Demands are placed on workers to do more with less, and advances in technology make it increasingly harder to get away from one's job, she added.

"There is no such thing as going home from work anymore," Sallee said, explaining that many working mothers and fathers go home from work to do more work via electronic connections or laptop computers.

The economics of family life create yet another strain on the social capital of America, said David Crocker, pastor of Snyder Memorial Church in Fayetteville, N.C., a former Tennessee pastor in Johnson City. Crocker delivered the opening theme interpretation for the conference.

"Show me the money," a line made famous by the current movie "Jerry Maguire," has become the symbolic watchword for many Americans' perspective on life, Crocker said.

In a culture dominated by materialism, families struggle with knowing where to draw the line on acquiring things, he said.

And few people connect their spending habits with their faith, he added. ■



for your
family

Spend gift of time wisely, Hull says

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Time is a gift from God and should be used wisely, said Knoxville pastor David Hull.

While not claiming to be an expert on time management, Hull told participants the Baptist Center for Ethics' Family Summit that he was addressing them as one who struggles with the issue.

Hull noted there are shelves of books on time management and that a search on the Internet came up with 342,000 plus sites on time management.

Yet, with all the resources and suggestions available on the topic, "are we doing a very good job at spending time?" he asked.

Hull suggested "we get back to the basics."

The best role model for time management, he said, is Jesus Christ. "In three short years of ministry Jesus accomplished so much," Hull said, noting Jesus made decisions about how he would spend his gift of time.

Hull observed that in life a person must "learn to live within limits, and so it is with time."

"In a world that tries to cram more and more activities into the time we have, it's as if we're trying to defy the limits of time," Hull said.

He suggested families begin having honest discussions about the limits of time. It won't be an easy discussion, he warned, "but it may help us realize there are limits to our time. ...

"We must realize we can't play on every ball team, work every night, or serve on every committee at church," he said.

The Knoxville pastor encouraged participants to focus on "what is most important for our families."

He noted "we bounce along like a pinball in a machine ... trying to fit so much into life, but forgetting the reason and purpose for being."

Hull encouraged participants to do as Jesus did and "lay down temptations" and move on spending wisely "that wonderful gift God has given us." ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Parents, teach children to pray, author says

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It's never too early to start teaching your children to pray, according to the author of a new book on the subject.

Betty Cloyd, a lay minister in the Methodist church and wife of a retired Methodist minister, is author of *Children and Prayer: A Shared Pilgrimage*.

She talked about the book during the Baptist Center for Ethics' Family Summit.

She encouraged parents to pray for their children while they are in the womb.

After birth parents should pray for their children before the children are able to pray for themselves, she said.

"Begin praying with them so that prayer becomes a second language for the child, a natural language," Cloyd suggested.

Cloyd offered several suggestions for parents:

(1) Remember to call out your child's name in prayer. "It's important for children to hear their parents pray for them specifically by name, she said.

(2) Establish a pattern of prayer at specific times every day.

(3) Remember that children learn by imitation. "They learn best by seeing our lives of prayer. Children learn far more from what they see us do than from what we say."

(4) Teach them to pray in their own words. ■

Hail Messiah, on Resurrection Day

Resurrection Day. It does not matter which day or which year on the calendar it happened. But it does matter that it happened.

God's best plan, worked out in the fullness of his time, brought the earthly ministry of his son, Jesus the Christ, to a conclusion — and set the infinite stage for a new beginning. Resurrection Day!

Hail Messiah! Marching down the corridors of time, with legions of witnesses praising and shouting hosannas, Jesus played the role of an ordinary itinerant evangelist, patrolling the byways and small places of the earth which he himself had created.

He liked the feel of the soil, the noise of the sails snapping in the sea breeze and the shouts of happy children at play.

He liked the smell of fish baking on the seashore or on the hot stones in the home of a well-traveled carpenter.

He rejoiced in the close fellowship of people who really wanted to serve — and left everything to follow him. It pleased him to see the sower planting seeds, and the harvesters gathering the harvest.

He was excited that Lazarus, Martha, and Mary accepted him in their meager home as a brother, and that the sisters would call on him when Brother Lazarus died.

His heart was touched by Zacheus realizing in his heart that the presence of the Messiah made him

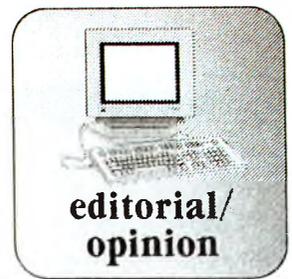
want to right every wrong he had committed. The generous widow made his heart sing when she lovingly gave her very last penny to charity.

Yes, and the first disciples filled places in his life, and even now followers know his mercy and love.

This is Resurrection Day, Sunday of the Risen Lord, celebration! How much better to rejoice for the good, glad news, than to worry along with the naysayers and slumberers. Rejoice, this is a time for renewal, recommitment, resurgence of tired souls,

weep tears of joy. And let us recognize the risen Lord among us. He has made the world, given us real love. His Word is pure, he has put hope in wounded hearts.

Praise Christ the Risen Lord with hallelujahs! *B&R*



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Baptists can mind this 'home front'

Southern Baptists do not need Barry McCarty on the platform to direct procedural traffic. We don't need his expertise, and we do need the money he will be paid.

Though McCarty is not a Baptist, Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff has picked him again to be the top parliamentarian at the annual convention in Dallas.

Jim Henry, SBC president for 1995 and 1996 trusted Southern Baptists parliamentarians to guide convention procedures. His move was appreciated by many messengers, and there weren't any noticeable problems. Evidently Henry's choice to stay within the family displeased the wrong folks. Anyway, he selected a non-Baptist professional.

We hope the president won't have to depend on McCarty for any major decisions. Southern Baptists got along well for many years until it was felt that Charles Stanley needed "unbiased" help for his second time as president in 1986. It's different now.

Even so, Southern Baptists have had to endure the hired parliamentary style of McCarty until 1995.

Henry's sacking of McCarty was met with approval by many Baptists — not all — who thought the Church of Christ minister out of place at an SBC meeting. There are many excellent Southern Baptist parliamentarians. A qualified "family member" seems much more acceptable.

McCarty may be a skilled parliamentarian. We just don't need him. It's not too late to thank McCarty and use our own people. And unless President Elliff feels it absolutely necessary, and the contract is binding, let's switch.

The Southern Baptist family must begin picking up the pieces of a fragmented body — and apply the glue of trust. It's a family affair.

Enough is enough. A paid, non-Baptist parliamentarian is not part of that solution. Southern Baptists are at a critical juncture in our history. We need Southern Baptists on the platform. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Marvin: "Good news! I see the government says the economy is on the right track."

Tom: "Yeah. But there's only one problem. The train isn't moving."

Take this truth

Robert Browning called progress "man's distinctive mark." He said also that "It is not God's nor the beast's. He is, they are. Man partly is, and wholly hopes to be."

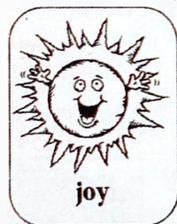
Memorize this Scripture

Forgetting those things that are past ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. — Philip- pians 3: 13, 14

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to so live that each tomorrow finds me further along than today. ■

— Comments may be addressed to Fred Wood at 726 Forest Lake Drive, Memphis, or (901) 685-6849.



Becoming like little children — or even grandchildren

I suppose all seven of our grandchildren have told me more than once that I wasn't reading everything on the page.

You know how it is. When you're tired and sleepy and the children ought to be tired and sleepy — but aren't — you may innocently agree to the request to read them a book. They are tired and sleepy, you say to yourself, so I will just speed up the process.

I'll simply hit the highlights and point to the picture, flip the pages, and tuck them in for the night. After all, they are tired and sleepy.

It was that way with our four daughters too. They may have been more gullible than the grandchildren. One or two books would usually do the trick.

The other day I ate lunch with the youngest daughter who lives near the office, and who has the youngest of our grandchildren.

We finished the pizza, I played with her

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

a while, and then it was time to go back to the office.

She picked up the book we had looked at earlier. A fascinating book, it had great child-type art and a simple story line.

It's a tale about the Mouse family. On each two-page spread there is a different number of mice, until you get to the last page, and there is the entire family of ten.

Well, Michaela quickly read the book to me while I was walking to the door, holding her and the book. As she carefully, gently turned each page, she said with confidence and with great authority, "Mice, mice, mice, mice..." And then she was finished.

As we neared the door, she said, "Now you read the book, Poppa."



ALLEN

I followed her example. With the same assuring tone that indicated I knew what I was reading, I read, "Mice, mice, mice, mice..."

She was way ahead of me, two-and-a-half year old style. "No, Poppa," she almost laughed, "you're not reading all the words."

I recalled that Wes, Jessie, Daniel, Ezra, Graham, and Matthew probably had caught me the same way.

As generations come, I am sure that, while they may not know more than I did at that certain age — they learn it faster.

The lesson I learned: We can all learn from each other, and we must always be ready to learn more when Christ reveals it to us.

Yes, as he said, we must be more like little children. And we must learn to read all of the words on each page of life. Think of the difference that would make for all people. ■

Elderly parents sometimes need legal help

families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

consuming process than simply having a power of attorney drafted.

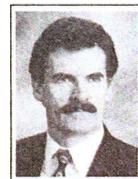
A general power of attorney can be written to give complete control of all the principal's personal care and financial affairs to the agent. If this is not needed or desired a special power of attorney may be drawn up which narrowly defines or restricts the role of the agent.

A power of attorney loses its legal validity if the principal becomes incompetent. A power of attorney can be worded to give continuing authority to the agent even if the principal becomes incompetent. This is

known as a durable power of attorney because it ends only when the principal dies or revokes it. By signing this form of power of attorney a principal can make certain the person of his choice will have control over his affairs if he becomes incompetent.

The principal can revoke his power of attorney by writing the word "revoked" across it, tearing it up, or by signing another document revoking it.

Your willingness to help your father is a commendable indicator of a true Christian " ... these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their family and repaying their parents and grandparents for this is pleasing to God." — 1 Timothy 5:4 ■



SCARBOROUGH

Clines brings expertise to Holston's language ministries

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — The world is coming to Holston Association and churches are taking steps to be ready.

Last fall the association approved funding for a part-time language ministries coordinator.

They found the person they were looking for in David Clines, a Michigan native with Tennessee ties. His parents now live in Columbia.

In addition, Clines was led to the Lord by Marion Sherell, a church planter from Loudon who planted several churches in Michigan even before the Tennessee/Michigan partnership began in the early 1980s.

"I'm a fruit of his ministry and now I'm coming to his home state to continue planting seeds," Clines said.

Clines' route to Johnson City was by no means direct.

After graduating from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Clines moved to Honduras and taught in a bilingual Christian school there.

He met his wife, Nancy, a native of Guatemala at a Central America Baptist youth conference. The two were married and after she graduated

from medical school in Honduras, moved to Winston-Salem, N.C., where she worked on her residency program.

While in North Carolina, Clines worked with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a Hispanic church planter. Funding for his position ended about the time his wife's residency was over.

His wife was offered a position in Kingsport and he began exploring opportunities available for himself in addition to being a stay-at-home dad with his 19-month-old daughter, Gina Marie. He talked with Tal Thompson, director of missions for Holston Association, about working in language missions with the association.

"Our main concern was helping our churches develop an awareness of the need to minister to different ethnic groups," Thompson said. He noted once Holston churches are made aware of a need they are willing to get involved in ministry. "This has been proven over and over throughout the years," he said.

There are approximately seven to eight different language groups in the association, Clines noted. They include the deaf, Hispanics, Asian Indian, Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, among others.

Current work is being done with the deaf and Chinese populations in the association.

Clines hopes to change that. Among the things he is now doing is looking for churches who may be willing to sponsor an ethnic work.

He also is looking for ethnics in the community with hopes of funneling them into an Anglo congregation where they would feel comfortable or developing a language congregation for them.

Clines also plans to work with every church in the association interested in being open to ministry with ethnics at home or abroad. He can lead training for church members preparing to take overseas mission trips to help them know what to expect in a different culture.

Clines noted Hispanics are a primary target group. He hopes to begin a Hispanic Sunday School class within the next couple of months in Erwin where some work with Hispanics already is being done. The

association has provided ministry to children of migrant workers at First Church, Erwin, for several years. Also, the association has had ministry to migrant adults off and on for several years.

Clines' goal is to train ethnic leaders in the association so they can begin new works and disciple believers.

He also hopes to make Anglo congregations more aware of the ethnic presence in their communities. "We have a lot to offer to people moving to our country," Clines said.

He noted that Americans often are "critical of people who move here because they do not do things our way and are different from us." The problem is that Americans "seldom make a personal effort to help them adapt," Clines observed.

Ethnics taking English classes is not enough. They need Anglo friends and companions to help them become acclimated to the culture, Clines affirmed.

He is excited about the possibilities for language ministries in Holston Association.

"Leaders I've met with (here) are very open to ethnic ministry and have invited me to speak in their churches," Clines said. ■



CLINES



Tennessee features

Dramatic Arts Festival set for April 4-5

For Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — The Dramatic Arts Festival will be held April 4-5 at First Church, Hendersonville.

The theme of the festival is "Going to the Real World."

Festival highlights include more than 100 conferences, guest artist performances, creative worship, participant performances, pre-festival adult symposium, pre-festival youth mini camp, multiple exhibits, free resources, People's Choice Awards, and more.

Mime artist Doug Berky plus many other Christian artists from across the country will perform.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4, with the pre-festival events beginning at 2 p.m. The exhibit area opens at 4:30 p.m. A special "First-Timers Orientation" is scheduled for 6 p.m., followed by the opening session at 7 p.m.

Saturday activities begin at 8 a.m. and close with an awards ceremony at 3:20 p.m.

Pre-registration is preferred, but not required. Registration fee from now to the event is \$35. Registration for the adult symposium and youth minicamp is \$6 and \$4, respectively.

For more information, call Ev Robertson in the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 7909. ■

Tennessee missionary, former prisoner of war, dies in Nashville

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ruth Ford, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary nurse known in part for her selfless service during the Japanese invasion of China and later in World War II, died March 14 in Nashville of heart failure. She was 90.

Ford, of Memphis, had been living in a Nashville nursing home. She was appointed as an FMB missionary to China in 1935. When Japanese warplanes bombed Kweilin in 1938, she and an American doctor, also an FMB missionary, carried 60 patients to safety in the basement of the Baptist hospital.

Three years later — the day Pearl Harbor was bombed — Japanese forces captured a ship she was on in Hong Kong, and she became a prisoner of war. In 1941 and 1942 the Japanese assigned her to work in various hospitals as a nurse, until she was traded for a Japanese diplomat in Mozambique. For the rest of the war she taught nursing at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

Asked later about her life as a missionary, Ford was quoted in a local newspaper as saying she'd do it all over again, but she's "want some things to be different. When they bombed our hospital in 1938 we didn't even have good aspirin. And one

thing you sure need in a war is aspirin," she said.

In 1946 Ford returned to China for four more years until the Communist Chinese forced her out. Moving to Indonesia, she helped start a clinic in Kediri that later became a hospital. From 1954 until she retired in 1972 Ford directed nursing services and supervised the kitchen and clinic.

She returned to Memphis after retirement and for many years worked with internationals through Temple Church. She later joined First Church, Memphis.

Ford's brother, also deceased, W. Morris Ford, was a former pastor of First Church, Jackson, before moving to Texas. ■

Conference focuses on ministry to Alzheimer's families

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptist pastors and senior adult ministers are invited to attend a "Clergy Conference on Alzheimer's Disease" April 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baptist Hospital here.

Statistics indicate four million Americans are afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease and approximately 25,000 live in Middle Tennessee and that one-third of a given congregation knows someone with Alzheimer's Disease.

Statistics also show that 70 percent of Alzheimer's pa-

tients are cared for at home and can live up to 20 years after onset of symptoms. Also, within 25 years, it is estimated 25 million Americans alive today will have developed the disease.

The effects upon family are devastating financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

The conference, designed not only for clergy, but also for senior adult ministers and workers, will explore ways that churches can develop ministries for Alzheimer's families.

Two keynote speakers will address medical and ethical is-

ssues. Joseph Francis Jr., will present a medical update of Alzheimer's Disease and Robert H. Crumby, clinical ethicist, will discuss how families are impacted and how the church can minister to these families.

Other speakers will present personal experiences and suggestions for handling problems that arise in the family.

Included in the conference will be a luncheon, displays, and group discussions.

The cost is \$15 and registration is required. For details, call Gene Nabi (615) 254-0673. ■



Breaking Ground in Hendersonville

First Church, Hendersonville, recently broke ground for a new 40,000-square-foot education building. Participating in the ground-breaking were, from left, Joe Fuqua, architect; Phil Jones, minister of administration; Hall Hardaway Jr., builder; and Pastor Glenn Weekley. The project will be completed by year's end.

93-year-old teaches, leads in Fayetteville church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — Each Wednesday E. H. Brooks starts preparing to teach his Sunday School class of men at West End Church here. By Saturday night he has his notes typed and ready for copying and distribution to other teachers at the church. His notes have become a resource they rely upon.

Brooks, 93, who has taught Sunday School for about 50 years, cracks several commentaries to prepare. He uses *Uniform Lesson Higley Commentary*, *Halley Bible Handbook*, *Erdman's Handbook to the Bible*, and *Who's Who in the Bible* to prepare to teach the Family Life Series (formerly Convention Uniform Series). He draws a class of men who expect in-depth Bible study, explained Mike Johnson, his pastor.

This in-depth approach helps the class, Brooks explained. "We (class leaders) have to do a lot of things to keep them interested. It's hard enough to keep them in the class," he said. He's glad the class hasn't evolved into a "society," Brooks added.

The retired pharmacist said he doesn't do the research because he feels the Sunday School literature is lacking. The Baptist Sunday



PAUSING in front of his kitchen table, which is set for lunch for his son, is E.H. Brooks, left, and his pastor, Mike Johnson, West End Church, Fayetteville. Also on the table is a thank you sign for the Meals on Wheels volunteers who deliver a meal to Brooks.

School Board wouldn't have room to include his research in the materials, he noted. However, he praised recent changes in literature by the Baptist Sunday School Board, saying he felt the material had improved in recent years. He does his part by distributing his research, which helps some of the church's teachers who are "fresh," he said.

An active member of West End Church, Brooks helped begin the church in 1958 while he was a member of First Church, Fayetteville, becoming one of its charter members and a deacon.

"I've seen it since its infancy. We have a beautiful little church. I've always felt that," he said.

His affection for the church extends to its mission. Brooks and his late wife, Jennie Ellison, worked to help West End Church grow. She was the church organist, a music worker, and teacher. And he was a teacher and deacon. The couple regularly visited people in their homes to share their faith and information about West End.

Brooks also led the church

to buy an automobile service station which was located near the church's property to protect the church from other kinds of businesses which might locate there.

Born in 1904, Brooks wasn't a Baptist until he met his wife. In fact, he gives much of the credit for his faith to her. He especially likes to talk about the couple's visit to Israel although it was made about 20 years ago. That experience may reflect his two affections, God and his wife.

Brooks explained he didn't ever imagine he would live as long as he has. "I thought I'd be gone." In fact, he planned to resign from his class when he was 90, only changing his mind after encouragement from Johnson.

"I'm just glad I've got a good mind," he said.

Brooks is active in home life also. Though he lives alone, almost every day he cooks and serves lunch to one of his sons who lives in Fayetteville and works as a pharmacist. Brooks is humble when praised for his many efforts. He just stands silent with a slight grin.

But his pastor is quick to praise him. West End Church "would not be what it is today if it weren't for Mr. Brooks," said Johnson. *B&R*



Rice Foundation says 'thank you'

NASHVILLE — Though the campaign for a rehabilitation center has just begun, the Roger Rice Foundation thinks it's time to express appreciation to those who are helping.

A golf tournament April 7 is scheduled for that purpose.

Rice is a young adult Nashvillian who was born without arms and with other birth defects. He is an active member of Westwood Church, Nashville.

With some help from supporters, the Rice Foundation was established. Now Rice is heading a fundraising effort to build a rehab center and housing for people with similar physical problems.

The foundation is sponsoring the Jim Foster Invitational Golf Tournament at Legends Golf Course in Franklin on April 7.

Information about the tournament can be obtained by calling (615) 386-3829. ■

Tennessee Baptist volunteers continue ministry efforts in Chile

By Clara Brincefield Huff
For Baptist and Reflector

TEMUCO, Chile — Though Tennessee Baptists' partnership with Chile is over, ministry there continues.

Under the leadership of Jerry Heflin of First Church, Goodlettsville, 49 volunteers from that congregation and Judson Church, Nashville, recently worked on a building project for the

Baptist Children's Home in Temuco. Missionary Richard Hawkins worked with the volunteers who formed several teams to build, teach Vacation Bible School, and can fruits and vegetables for the children.

One of the volunteers was Cherie Haseltin of Judson Church who did not let a language barrier stand in her way. She communicated with the children at a Vacation Bible School in Padre Las

Casas. She worked alongside Chilean young people who were in charge of the VBS.

Phyllis Bates, another volunteer from Judson, also worked in Vacation Bible School. Along with Marta Rebolledo, a Chilean pastor's wife, the two led nine 11-year-olds to Christ, using the salvation bracelet to help the young people understand the plan of salvation in their lives.

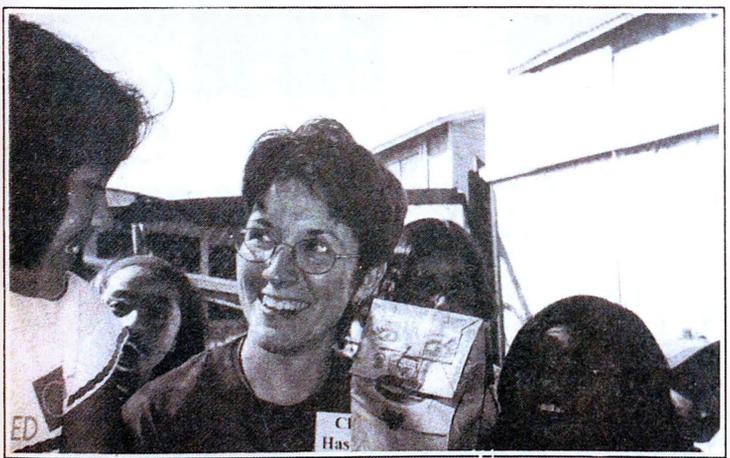
The volunteers included a 6- and a 9-year-old. Aaron Foust, 6, of First Church, Goodlettsville, accompanied his grandparents, Jerry and Geraldine Heflin, while 9-year-old Michael Bates went with his parents, Lyndon and Phyllis Bates. Both boys participated in



PHYLLIS BATES, a member of Judson Church, Nashville, worked with Marta Rebolledo, right, in VBS. They used salvation bracelets to share the Gospel with children.

VBS and made friends with the Chilean children. Saying "hello" and meeting new friends who speak another language was exciting for them. Michael dressed as a clown one day to help entertain the children.

The children's home in Temuco is sponsored by the Chilean Baptist Convention of Churches and has been taking care of needy children in a "homeboarding" situation for 41 years. ■ — Huff is a former missionary to Chile who now lives in Murfreesboro.



CHERIE HASELTIN of Judson Church, Nashville communicates with Chilean children with the aid of a paper bag puppet.

Japanese believer finds support, love at The King's Academy in Seymour

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — Reiko Ota knows a person can be a minority in one's own country or abroad.

The Japanese teenager is indeed a minority at The King's Academy (Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy) here. But she also was a minority in her native town of Kamifukuoka, Japan.

Ota comes from a Christian family — all Baptist. She attended a private school in Japan, but it was not religiously-affiliated. She noted there were 300 students in her junior high school and she was the only one from a Christian family.

She readily admits, however, that "when I came to this country two years ago, I wasn't much of a Christian."

She came to the United States two years ago to study English. She stayed with an American family in Kentucky and attended church every Sunday. "I decided I wanted to be a good Christian and know more about God. I was attending a large public school (in Kentucky) and was unhappy because people made fun of me and my country.

"I wanted to go back to Japan but my mother suggested I attend a Christian school and I chose The King's Academy."

Upon transferring to the Tennessee Baptist Convention-related school in Seymour, Ota learned more about Jesus. "I

feel Jesus is real."

Ota, now a senior, is happy about her decision to transfer to The King's Academy.

"It was a good choice, though I sometimes wish Seymour was a big city.

"What I needed was God in my life. Before I came here I was just an empty box.

Ota plans to study psychology at the University of Hawaii after graduation this year.

Whatever her future holds, she plans to include God. "I was not happy without God. I want to live the rest of my life as a Christian," she affirmed. ■



OTA

Western District completes first project of 1997

For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — Western District Association has completed its first mission project for 1997.

Churches in the association gathered a truck load of items for Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville.

The items included about 850 pairs of denim jeans and men's pants, a large variety of canned goods and staples, all types of detergents, a large amount of paper products, and cloth diapers and other baby products.

The goods were delivered on March 6. The items were requested by Richard Lewelling, director of the center. Montgomery Village is a ministry of Knox County Association.

The association is now working on collecting special items for flood relief in Dyer County, according to Bill Smith, director of missions for Western District. ■

Classified

PASTOR SEARCH: Hillhurst Church, Nashville, is accepting resumes for a new pastor. Mail to Willard Dawson, 3257 Knobview Drive, Nashville, TN 37214. ****

SEEKS PASTOR: Highland Heights Church is accepting resumes for pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Highland Heights Baptist Church, 675 National Ave., Memphis, TN 38122. ****

WANTED: Organist, First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Salary plus travel. Call (615) 893-2514. ****

FOR SALE: 1973 Silver Eagle bus, 46-passenger, restroom, reclining seats, large storage compartments. Contact Ron Springate @ Central Baptist Church, Johnson City (423) 926-7121. ****

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Southwest Baptist University

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION

The education department at Southwest Baptist University invites applications for the position of Director of Graduate Studies in Education. Candidates should possess an earned doctorate, academic teaching experience at the graduate level and academic administration and supervision ability. Experience in supervising masters projects, reports, theses and/or dissertations in teacher education is required. Candidates should be a Southern Baptist with a deep commitment to quality Christian graduate education, and have a desire and ability to provide leadership in off-campus distance graduate course delivery. Send application letter, resume, statement of Christian educational philosophy and three letters of recommendation by April 21, 1997, to Dr. Eric Moore, Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. EOE.

WMU annual meeting; Missions Get-Together set for Gatlinburg

For Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — The annual Missions Get-Together, sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, will be held April 11-13 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center.

The Missions Get-Together will feature missionary testimonies and conferences, special interest conferences, and more. C. Anne Davis of Louisville, Ky., will lead Bible study.

In conjunction with the

Missions Get-Together, the annual meeting of Tennessee WMU will be held on Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. That session will feature election of officers, consideration of bylaws changes, and a message from national WMU President Wanda Lee.

Registration fee is \$15 before March 31; \$20 afterwards. Fee is non-refundable. Registration fees will be accepted at the door.

For more information, call Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038. ■

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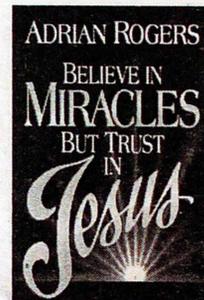
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A M A T T E R



O F T R U S T

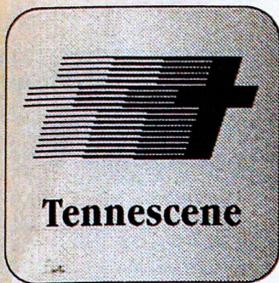
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■ **Miracle Church, Lavergne**, will present an Easter drama and musical March 29-30 at 7 p.m.

■ **Cedar Fork Church, Philadelphia**, will hold revival March 30 - April 5. Frank Hicks will speak.

■ **Edgemoor Church, Clinton**, will hold a revival April 13-16. Benny Jackson will speak.

■ **James McCluskey**, retired pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, will lead an April 20-23 revival at **Meridian Church, Knoxville**.

■ **Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville**, will celebrate its 88th anniversary April 13.

■ On April 12-13 **Edgefield Church, Nashville**, will celebrate its 130th anniversary. On Saturday the Woman's Missionary Union will host a reception from 3-5 p.m. honoring former pastors, staff, and members. On Sunday, activities include a luncheon following the morning worship service and an afternoon praise service will begin at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (615) 255-0468.

■ **First Church, Pocatontas**, will hold revival April

7-11. Speakers include Sam Howard, Ricky Watkins, Joe Spencer, Smilley Mills and Danny Geary.

■ **Silver Springs Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold revival March 30 - April 3. Morris Ander, pastor, First Church, Pigeon Forge, will speak and John McClurkan, minister of music, Alta Loma Church, Mt. Juliet, will lead the music. Special emphases include Sunday School Night, Childrens Night, and Youth Night. For more information, call (615) 758-7853.

■ **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival April 6-9 and 13. Bill Stafford will speak and lead a retreat for church members and friends April 11-12. For more details, call the church at (423) 523-9419.

■ **Squire Parsons**, recording artist, will perform April 6 at **Oak Grove Church, Gray**, at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 477-3141.

■ **First Church, Lenoir City**, recently held a revival crusade led by Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, and Pat Roper, music evangelist of Greenville, S.C. Doug Alexander, pastor, reported that 181 people made decisions for salvation or baptism, 175 rededicated their lives, three for full-time Christian service, and two for church membership by letter. An overflow crowd on the final night resulted in 300 people watching the service by closed circuit television in the church gymnasium.

■ **Union Missionary Church, Cleveland**, will hold a Youth-Led Revival April 6-9.

DeWayne Howard of Athens will speak and, along with his wife, Natalie, lead the music.

■ **Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville**, is holding its second annual Women's Conference April 19. The theme is "The Many Hats Women Wear." Speakers include Debbie Alan, former co-host of "Talk of the Town," a TV talk show produced in Nashville. Also speaking is Gracie



Rosenberger, a musician who will speak about her struggle to overcome a near-fatal accident. For more information, contact the church at (615) 297-5303.

■ **New Salem Church, Soddy Daisy**, held a youth revival March 9-11 at the request of two youth leaders. Christy Price and Susan Coln, who lead a puppetry and drama group, asked their pastor, Ted Painter, to pray about the need for a youth revival. Soon the event was planned. Andy Wood of First Church, Hixson, spoke. The theme was "Where Are You?" Many youth and adults made spiritual decisions, including several who made initial commitments to God.

associations

■ A Tri-State Crusade will be held April 13-17 in cooperation with **Cumberland Gap Association**. Lincoln Memorial University Tex Turner Arena in Harrogate is the site. Leaders include John Hagee, evangelist of Houston, Texas, and Steve Russo an author of materials for youth. The inter-

denominational event targets three counties in three states, including Claiborne County in Tennessee.

the schools

■ The Bible Training Center of **Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, presented certificates of completion to three graduates of a four-year course of study Feb. 22. Austin Moore, associate pastor, Valley Grove Church, Ball Camp, Knoxville; W.C. "Andy" Davis of Seville, and Tim Eddleman of Knoxville, earned the certificates. For more information on the training center and its next session of classes which begin March 2, call (423) 573-8321.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, has begun its first international program through a relationship with the first private, church-related college in Spain. Located near Valencia on the Mediterranean coast, the Spanish school is a Baptist-related college. Most instruction is in English. The program will include the exchange of students and instruction by Union instructors at the Spanish school.

leaders

■ **White Station Church, Memphis**, honored **Joe D. Littlefield** March 22 for his 34 years of service as its pastor. He will retire March 30.

■ **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, has called **Mike Wilson** as minister to students, effective Feb. 3. Formerly he was

youth pastor, Buffat Heights Church, Knoxville.

■ **George Hollander** has been called as pastor of Immanuel Church, Knoxville, effective March 9. Formerly he was interim pastor, First Church, Lobelville. He also has served as minister of education, West Jackson Church, Jackson, and as a bivocational pastor in three churches in West Tennessee.

■ **First Church, Lafayette**, has called **Wayne Jamison** as pastor, effective March 30.

■ **First Church, Obion**, will hold revival April 6-9. Jack Price, pastor, Fairhaven Church, Olive Branch, Miss., will speak and Barry Keathley, Second Church, Union City, will lead worship. For more information, call the church at (901) 536-5911.

■ **Beverly Hills Church, Memphis**, honored Garry S. **Burkacki**, pastor, for 20 years of ministry March 23. The church also has called **Joe Barnett** as minister of senior adults. He will be ordained by the church on May 4.

■ **Paul Lasley**, interim pastor, Bridgewater Church, Bridgewater, N.J., has been called as chaplain of the U.S. Army, effective in March at Fort Polk, La. He has been endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The native of Soddy Daisy is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.; Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois; and Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. His military service includes serving in the Sinai, in Desert Shield, and in Desert Storm.



Tennessee samplers

'Larry Flynt is the man'

By Tommy Vinson, pastor Leawood Church, Memphis

The "Family Issues Alert" published by Focus on the Family recently asked the question: "How do you turn a man described as 'evil,' 'obnoxious,' 'tasteless,' and 'repulsive' into an American hero?"

The answer is simple: Let Hollywood make a movie about his life. Larry Flynt is the man. "The People vs. Larry Flynt" is the movie.

In my estimation, our culture is stooping to an all time low when someone like Larry Flynt becomes a hero in any arena of public life. Since when does the denigration and abuse of women and the distorted lampooning of human sexuality qualify one for hero status?

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised that critics are enamored with the theme of free speech, but show utter disregard of the other social implications of such a movie. What I don't understand is why there is not a greater outcry from women who resent being made sexual objects at the expense of one man's insistence on free speech. This is truly an example of a "your freedom to swing your fist ends where my nose begins" issue.

In the words of Larry Flynt's own daughter: "The movie legitimizes pornography, and it says to our society and to our culture that everything he's done is OK." She confirms that the movie contains lies about her father. Her summary statement is...

"This man is no hero!"

In a culture dying for want of heroes, I had rather have none than some of those we are presently choosing.

My hero is one who relinquished his right of free speech, went to a cross and died for me, when in reality he could have opened his mouth and proclaimed me guilty and worthy of hell. Now that's the stuff real heroes are made of! ■

Beyond Monday cares

By Cal Cooper, associate, pastoral care Grassland Heights Church, Franklin

A speaker recently said, "The average man is not worried about whether or not he is going to heaven or going to hell. What he is worried about is what is going to happen when Monday morning comes."

We can make a lot of noise about what we should be worried about and what we should be doing with our life,

but the truth is that we are compelled to spend most of our time and efforts just "keeping up." All we can usually do is to break even on time, money, relationships, and God.

Maybe we can improve on this situation. Maybe we can work it out to give more time to the Lord, and to spend more time in prayer. If we are going to do this, however, we have to put our mind to it. We must make a plan, and then we must carry this plan out through hard discipline. We don't just "float" closer to God!

If we will just look for them, there are many things within our reach that can help us deepen our spiritual lives and walk closer to our God. For example, we can join a Sunday School class, start a daily Bible study, restart our daily prayer efforts, or find someone in need and help them.

Be aware, however, that the cares of Monday morning always will be around to distract us. Then decide to get with Jesus as often as you can. You won't be disappointed. Life will be better. ■

Ministers' wives haunted by high expectations

By Ken Camp
For Associated Baptist Press

CEDAR HILL, Texas — A "phantom of the perfect minister's wife" haunts women who are married to pastors and other ministers, said Nancy Ford, new president of the Texas Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship.

"She has unlimited time and energy. She can do everything for her family and her church. She can cook all the meals for the sick. She can see every need and meet every need," said Ford, whose husband is minister of education at First Church, Corsicana, Texas.

The group's secretary, Lila Guerra, described expectations of a minister's wife: "Be holy. Be proper. Be perfect. Be able to do everything. And don't talk too much."

The minister's wife must be friendly to everyone, "and make sure she smiles at everyone on Sunday morning," added Julia Brock, second vice

president for the fellowship. But she dare not be so close to anyone within the congregation that she seems to be excluding others.

About 300 women attended an annual retreat for ministers' wives sponsored recently by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Texas Woman's Missionary Union.

One panel described the challenge faced by a minister's wife of "plugging in" to church life without "burning out."

One conference participant described her role as "unpaid associate pastor." Another said that she went to a church where she was "expected to do everything," including acting as wedding director for every marriage ceremony at the church, to another congregation that was so protective of her family time that she felt unable to use her spiritual gifts.

Churches can help ministers strengthen their families, said Dick Maples, coordinator of minister and church rela-

tions for the state convention. He offered several suggestions:

(1) Honor the minister's day off. Limit phone calls to emergencies.

(2) Give the minister a weekend off every quarter. Once every three months, give the minister a Thursday through Saturday respite in recognition of the many Saturdays that he conducts weddings and funerals and handles emergencies.

"This shouldn't be counted as vacation. It's just rest and family time," he said. "The minister and his family give up so much of their family time in order to minister to the congregation. The church can give back some of that time."

(3) Let the minister's children be children. "Don't expect the minister's children to be paragons of virtue," Maples said. "Children are children. The minister's children are no

different from the rest of the children in the congregation."

(4) Affirm the minister's children. "The children will get enough flack at school over being the preacher's kids. The church should be different. They don't need to encounter that kind of critical, negative attitude there," Maples said.

(5) Be sure the minister's salary is adequate. "Be realistic about what is really salary and what are legitimate business expenses," Maples said. Auto and book allowances should be considered separately from salary, he said. "Some churches are very unrealistic about what they count as part of the minister's salary. It is unethical and unfair for churches to do that." ■

Special education retreats planned

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Camp Carson and Camp Linden will be the sites for the annual spring retreats for persons with mental retardation, their parents and caregivers, church special education workers, and church staff. Dates are April 11-13 for Linden and May 30-June 1 for Carson.

A chaperone is required for every four or fewer persons. The cost is \$48 and registration is needed by March 28.

For more information, call the TBC Christian Growth and Development Group, sponsor of the weekends, at (615) 371-2054. ■

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Celebration

By Donna Wright

Focal Passage — Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

This week we look at the single most important event in history, and the foundation of the Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Have you ever had to make burial arrangements for someone you loved? My precious mother, with whom I shared all my joys and tribulations died suddenly last year. I went to the funeral home and helped my dad pick out flowers and a casket. My heart was broken and it was truly the very saddest day of my life. It didn't seem real, until I viewed her body for the first time.

It was a moment I had dreaded all of my adult life.

Matthew 28:1-20 tells the story of how the women who were going to the tomb discovered that Christ was risen. That Sunday morning, as they walked, they were probably talking about this very thing. They were grieving their friend, just like we would. Maybe tears were streaming down their cheeks as they knew that they would come face to face with his death as they prepared his body for eternal rest.

We must keep in mind that all of the people who first found out that Jesus was alive, thought that he would never have let it come to his death. They knew, after seeing his many miracles, including the raising of three others from the dead, that he could have stopped this tragedy.

Imagine what it must have been like for them to be told by the angel that Jesus was alive!

Matthew 28:5-7 says: "The angel said to the women, 'do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: he has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.'"

I wonder how I would react if an angel came to me to tell me my mother was alive, or appeared to you to tell you a loved one that you had lost, was alive. I can only dream of that and imagine the joy.

That is how the women felt. Joy, awe, fear. They knew all of this was supernatural, beyond human understanding.

And, as they ran to tell the others, as they had been ordered by the angel, they ran into the Lord, himself.

Now, they could see for sure that he was living.

There is more to the story of the resurrected Christ. There is our part of the resurrection.

Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And, surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We are to tell others about Christ. This is our part.

Let us tell all who will listen what Jesus did for us.

Let us rejoice, not only this Sunday, but everyday, that Christ is risen. Celebrate. ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Newport.

The resurrection hope

By Mike Shelton

Focal Passage — Matthew 28:1-10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

"Jesus has risen from the dead." That marvelous message was first proclaimed on the Sunday morning following Christ's crucifixion. The truth of that message rocked the circle of disciples who were gathered in fear inside the city of Jerusalem. Within just a few years, it had rocked the entire Roman empire. It still has the same life-changing power today. The Scriptures for this week lay the foundation for our faith in the Lord who conquered death and in the hope we have for eternal life.

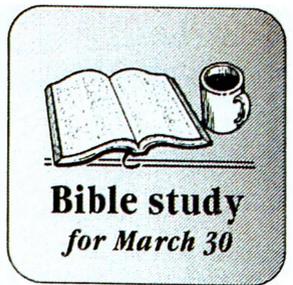
Christ's resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10). This is the basis for everything we believe and do as Christians. All of the Gospel writers depict it as happening in miraculous fashion. The angel of the Lord came upon the scene and rolled away the large stone from the door. The first witnesses to the great event, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, were addressed by the angel and told to tell the disciples the good news. As they made their way back to the city, Jesus himself appeared to them. They had seen him die just a few hours

they knew he had truly risen from the grave. Have you met the risen Lord for yourself and experienced his love and grace? Ask him to become real to you and he will. And once he has, you will never want to let go of him.

The resurrection of believers (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). Paul emphasized the return of Christ in his preaching to the Thessalonians. In this passage he speaks in some detail about Christ's coming and what it means for believers. He mentions the fact all believers will experience resurrection at the return of Jesus. Since many people in the ancient world had very little hope for life beyond death, these words must have proved to be very comforting and helpful. The message seems to be that, since Jesus has risen from the dead, those who believe in him will be blessed in similar fashion.

It is said that a man once asked three different people what Easter meant to them. One of them was a small child who said it meant the Easter bunny would bring him a large basket full of candy. The second person was a teenager who said, "It means Christ rose from the dead." The third person was a man in his sixties. He thought about Easter for a moment and then said, "It means that I've only begun to live."

Amen. Death is not the end for the Christian. Because of Christ's resurrection, we have the very sure hope of life beyond the grave. The Lord who conquered sin and death will return for each of his children. No believer will be left behind. All Christians will know the thrill of having conquered death through Christ. "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." ■ — Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.



Family Bible Lesson

before. Now they were seeing him fully alive and in his glorified state. He truly was Master of life and death. They grabbed his feet and did not want to let go.

The certainty of a risen and living Lord is what gives our Christian faith the vitality and strength it has. Yet, while the empty tomb is proof of Christ's resurrection, the fact that we have met the risen Lord for ourselves is just as great a piece of evidence. The women saw the empty tomb, but it was when they actually met Jesus

Be involved

By Howard Kitter

Focal Passage — Matthew 28:1-7, 16-20

At least once in everyone's life as a Christian God sends someone along that requests your personal involvement in a specific ministry. You will weigh all options best you can, and make a choice of whether or not to involve yourself. Some will feel that what is placed before them is worthy of their time and involvement. While others will feel that it is a worthy cause but they simply can't give their time. Almost inevitably, when great things begin to happen from the hand of God, instead of great joy and excitement, there is always a small voice in your mind saying, "I wish I would have involved myself in that ministry." That is probably the saddest thing that a believer goes through in their life — missing a great opportunity to enter into a ministry with the Lord.

This lesson should help all of us to get involved at God's invitation to join him in ministry.

Ministry motive and call — (vv. 1-7)

Kingdom ministry is birthed from only one seed bed, and that

Explore the Bible Lesson

seed bed is obedience out of love for the King. While preparation and planning are all used of God, these things fall hamstrung if they are not acts of obedience from a personal love relationship with the King. I fear that many believers today have an incorrect view of their value to the King and his kingdom work. We sometimes sense that because we lack great degrees or maybe we don't know other great men and women of God we cannot be used in a great way in the kingdom. I want you to know that the only degree that is absolutely necessary for kingdom work is a B.A. degree, that's Born Again. While it is very true that God calls some to pursue a higher education and he uses them in ways that are great, his army is made up of those carrying the B.A. degree. I want you to see that the very ones that God used to herald the resurrection of Jesus was none other than two faithful women who simply loved Jesus. This is the basis and heartbeat of every great ministry, people who love Jesus. It is also important to know that greatness is in the obe-

dience to the call, not the amount ministered to in the call. Love for the King is not only the motivation for ministry, it is also the

key that helps us to become involved in ministry of the King.

Actual call to kingdom work — (vv. 16-20)

The whole of the Cooperative Program is hinged on obedience to these very verses. This call is for every kingdom citizen to obey. God has called every Christian to be involved in kingdom work. Methods may vary, but the message is still the same. The call is both general and specific at the same time. Everyone is to go. Generally speaking whoever you are and where you are, go.

Specifically speaking, teach, baptize, and disciple. There is not a greater call to mankind than this call from the heart and mouth of Jesus.

Ask Yourself: How have I personally responded to the great call to kingdom work in my own life. Do I actually involve myself in kingdom work, or do I simply give so others can accomplish kingdom work? What does Jesus say about that?

Be involved! ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.

