

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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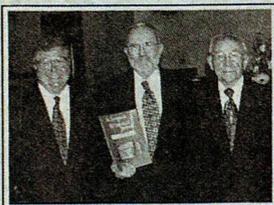
Statewide Edition

July 30, 1997

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

this week's news

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REMEMBERING THE PAST

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

Building strong families requires work: Mitchell

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — "Building a strong family is a deliberate process," says Bill Mitchell, who has devoted his life to building strong families.

"You have to work every day to make it happen. You don't just wish for it," said Mitchell, who was reared by his grandmother after his parents divorced when he was a baby.

"I grew up in a federal housing project, and I know what poverty is all about. I had a terrible inferiority complex, and all I wanted was a happy home life and family," Mitchell told participants in a "Building Strong Families" conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center during Discipleship and Family Leadership Week in early July.

"When I was a young adult I would pray every day for a good marriage, family, and children," Mitchell said. "That was the greatest goal I've ever had in my life."

These days, Mitchell prays for the strength and stability of all families. He travels the nation giving advice and encouragement for strengthening families.

During his 30-year career as a schoolteacher, coach, principal, and superintendent of schools, Mitchell said he has witnessed the disintegration of the family.

"For 30 consecutive years the home has been disintegrating, and I was watching the result in the public school system."

Mitchell told the group of some alarming statistics in-

cluding the fact that every 30 minutes, 29 young people will attempt to take their own life, 28 will run away from home,

752 teenagers experience serious drinking problems, and 2,700 young children become addicted to drugs.

Mitchell said he decided he couldn't watch any longer as the family became a social and cultural casualty.

He decided to apply biblical principles to a motivational program for the family. Mitchell put the strategy into a resource for parenting and based it on Proverbs 22:6: "Train a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not turn from it" (NIV).

"The key lies not in just

teaching our children or providing their basic needs, but in training them. Training about reinforcing behavior until they become automatic habits," he said.

He described the home as the hub of a four-spoked training ground which includes schools, churches, businesses, and communities.

Parents are primarily responsible for training their children, according to Mitchell. The only way the cycle of divorce and abuse will be broken in America is to gradually build strong families, he emphasized.

Mitchell listed five training tools he regularly used in coaching that he said can be used in building strong families. They are:

— See Building, page 3



Retirees 'never too old' for volunteer missions: Burton

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — The current generation of Southern Baptist senior adults represents the largest block of potential volunteers, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board.



BURTON

"You're never too old to volunteer," Burton told participants at a recent Jericho missions conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

"And, most retirees have

more time to give to missions than people still in the work force," he added.

Burton dispelled myths about aging and excuses some retirees use to avoid volunteering. "The majority of older people are not in poor health and are not less productive than younger people," Burton said.

"In fact, less than 5 percent of senior adults in America are in nursing homes, and most older Americans have a stronger work ethic."

He advised retirees to begin with a short-term project before moving on to a longer-term commitment.

Burton said NAMB has opportunities for service ranging from one week to two years. ■



TBCH dedicates central office

Tennessee Baptist Children's Home dedicated its new central administrative office building on its Franklin campus July 25. Helping to cut the ribbon were, from left, TBCH President Gerald Stow, Karrie Cole, Virginia Todd, Nell Underwood, and Matthew Gambrell. Cole and Gambrell are residents, while Todd and Underwood are former employees. See more on page 3.

Nominations sought for top pastors in state convention

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Nominations for Bivocational Pastor of the Year and Small Church Pastor of the Year in Tennessee will be accepted through Sept. 1.

A bivocational pastor must have a full-time job in addition to his ministry to qualify for the award.

The small church pastor must have

served full-time in a church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100. Both must have held their positions within the last calendar year.

Awards will be given to pastors in each major region of the state.

Recipients will be chosen by the selection subcommittee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Church Programs Committee, chaired by Pat Landrum of Brighton.

This is the sixth year the awards have been given. They will be presented during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

Application forms for submitting nominations may be obtained from local Baptist associations in the state. Completed forms should be mailed to: Ministry Coordinator, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ■

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Dumplin Church celebrates 200 years of history

For Baptist and Reflector

NEW MARKET — Members of Dumplin Church here celebrated 200 years of history July 26-27 by "Appreciating the Past ... Anticipating the Future."

The church was organized on July 30, 1797, just a few months after John Adams was sworn in as the second president of the United States.

Dumplin is a "child" of First Church, Dandridge, and is the

second oldest church in Jefferson County.

Several of Dumplin Church's members today are descendants of John Cate Sr., the first charter member of the church.

One of Cate's descendants, Kyle Cate, pastor of Flint Gap Church, Treadway, delivered the Sunday morning sermon.

The church first met in a log cabin near the present site and has had five different buildings either on or near the original

location over the years.

The church has long been missions minded. In 1839 half of the church left because they were opposed to foreign missions, according to a historical fact sheet.

"Eventually the ones who left ceased to exist as a church, but the missionary Baptist group baptized over 500 converts in the space of 20 years and continues to grow today," the fact sheet noted.

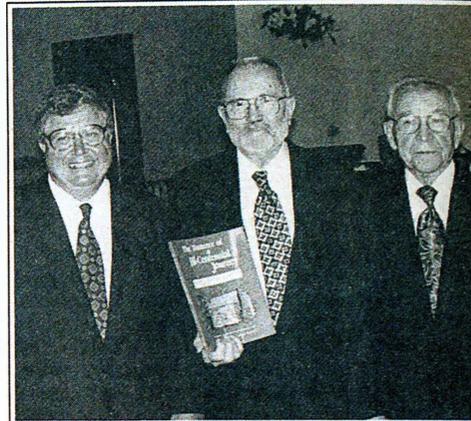
Dumplin has sponsored six

new works, four of which still exist today — Rocky Valley (1833), Piedmont (1891), Deep Springs (1895), and French Broad Valley in Sevier County (1893).

Participating in the Sunday service in addition to Cate and Pastor Ron Jones were Jerry DeZearn, director of missions for Jefferson County Association, and Bill George of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff. ■



CHURCH CLERK Mildred Lindsey, center, of Dumplin Church, New Market, displays the plaque presented on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society by Bill George, second from left, of the TBC Executive Board Ministries staff. Looking on are Pastor Ron Jones, left, deacon chairman Kenneth Cate, second from right, and Jerry DeZearn, director of missions, Jefferson County Association.



PASTOR RON JONES welcomes former pastors Glenn Toomey, center, and Ben Knisley, right, back to Dumplin Church. Toomey holds the history he wrote for Dumplin's 200th anniversary. He also wrote the church's 150-year history. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

NAMB president commits to 'impossible' baptism goal for 2000

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of baptizing half a million people a year by A.D. 2000 is impossible, said Bob Reccord, new president of the North American Mission Board.

"We cannot meet this goal in these final three years of Bold Mission Thrust. We've already shown that it's an impossible task for us," Reccord told NAMB staff and missionaries at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center during North American Missions Week.

"But it is not impossible for God," Reccord said of the Southern Baptist Convention goal adopted in 1976.

"I believe God wants us to set goals that are beyond ourselves and then trust him. Let's focus Southern Baptist resources on this goal, call his people to prayer, and see what God can do," he said.

Convention baptisms declined nearly 4 percent last year to 380,000, Reccord said, noting "we simply must reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The new missions leader also said his goal is to see one million baptisms a year by the year 2005. ■

Christians called to overcome four common 'fears' in witnessing

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — "The hardest door for a Christian to go through in witnessing is their own front door," said Dale Griffith. "The best way to overcome fear in witnessing is to practice witnessing every chance we get."

"Most Christians do not witness because they are afraid," Griffith, a Missions Service Corps volunteer with Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board and founder of Messengers for Christ, Inc., Ashland, Ky., told participants at North American Missions Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center July 12-18.

"The question Christians should be asking themselves is, 'Will I let fear control my life or will I allow Jesus to control my life?'" Griffith said. "If we will put Christ first in everything we do, then our fears will diminish greatly and we will focus on him instead of ourselves."

Griffith cited four basic fears most Christians face that hinder them from being a witness for God — fear of failure, rejection, how to begin a witnessing conversation, and their own ignorance of the Gospel.

"The fear of failure is one of the greatest deterrents in soul-winning," Griffith said. "But we should remember that all we are commanded to do is share the Gospel and

leave the results to God.

Concerning the fear of being resented or rejected, Griffith said, "Christians should keep in mind that we are not responsible for a person's response to the Gospel."

In beginning a witnessing conversation, Griffith noted that some people "are able to talk about family, interests, occupation, etc. with very little difficulty, but when it comes to talking about their faith a problem arises. One of the best ways to overcome this area of fear is to master some good transition statements and questions."

Griffith offered several transitional phrases as tools for overcoming this fear:

- (1) When you attend church, where do you attend?
- (2) Do you ever think about spiritual things?
- (3) There are at least two things we can agree on: "We are all going to die" and "We do not know when we will die." If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?

"Gain their confidence, find out about their spiritual condition and get them to respond as much as possible," Griffith advised. "Most nonbelievers are hurting and searching for what we already have. Most people will respond politely and will show interest if we approach them the way Jesus would. ..." ■

TBCH dedicates new state office headquarters

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes dedicated its new state office headquarters July 25 with a special program and open house.

Program participants included TBCH President Gerald L. Stow; Larry Parrott, chairman of the board of trustees; Anne Dunn, mayor of Brentwood; James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Charles Anderson, chairman, Christian Services Committee, TBC Executive Board; TBC President Herbert Higdon; Richard White, pastor, First Church, Franklin; and Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Association.

The new offices are located on the TBCH's Middle Tennessee campus at 1310 Franklin Road in Brentwood.

For more than 30 years, the state offices of TBCH were lo-

cated in the TBC Executive Board offices in Brentwood.

Growth of both organizations necessitated a move, said Stow, who expressed appreciation to the Executive Board for providing office facilities during those years.

TBCH has provided an alternative environment for children for a long time, Porch observed. "Tennessee Baptists are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this ministry," he noted.

The new office complex took nine months to build. Approximately 70 Tennessee Baptist laymen and pastors helped on various parts of the construction, Stow said. The building contains 14,000 square feet of space and the contract price was \$868,790.

The TBCH serves as the center for 31 homes in 10 locations across the state ministering to hurting children in crisis through residential homes,



PARTICIPATING IN THE dedication of TBCH's new office facility were, from left, Charles Anderson, Christian Services Committee, TBC Executive Board; James Porch, TBC executive director; Herbert Higdon, TBC president; Gerald Stow, TBCH president; Rick White, pastor, First Church, Franklin; and Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Association.

adoption and foster care, a visiting family program, alternative homes for mothers-to-be,

and a boys ranch. TBCH serves more than 400 children each year through its residen-

tial program and more than 900 through counseling and other related ministries. ■

Mormon summit prepares for SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — The Denominational Summit on Mormonism, held in late June, brought together more than 100 Southern Baptist Convention leaders and evangelical experts on the history, beliefs, and missionary strategies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), better known as the Mormon church.

The purpose of the event, sponsored by the International and North American Mission boards was to begin preparing Southern Baptists to effectively share their faith to Mormons, who claim to be Christians but follow a system of beliefs very different from orthodox Christianity.

"Mormonism presents a totally different world view than Christianity in the Bible," stated Phillip Roberts, director of the NAMB's interfaith witness division. "We're not just talking about a few nuances or minor doctrinal differences. We're talking about a different

New resource to aid witness to Mormons

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — The North American Mission Board's interfaith witness division has developed "The Mormon Puzzle: Understanding and Witnessing to Latter-Day Saints," a training package for Southern Baptists.

The package includes a 50-minute video, a training manual for leading a small-group study, a book titled *The Challenge of Mormonism*, and seven reproducible pamphlets on various aspects of Mormonism.

The video uses Southern Baptists, former Mormons, and Mormon officials to explain the LDS church history, their beliefs, and practices. It also explains how to witness to LDS people.

The video package will be particularly useful to Southern Baptists preparing to witness to Mormons during next year's SBC annual meeting, June 9-11, in Salt Lake City, Utah, headquarters of the LDS (Mormon) church.

Further information about the new video package is available by calling the North American Mission Board at 1 (800) 634-2462. ■

god, a different Jesus, a different scripture, and a different plan of salvation."

Roberts said Southern Baptists can expect to be criticized by Mormon officials, liberal Christian churches, and much of society for "speaking the truth

about false teachings. But we must love Mormons and other non-believers enough to share with them the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," he said.

In recent years the LDS church has conducted an aggressive, well-financed

public image campaign designed to depict church doctrine as mainstream Christianity and church members as strongly moral and dedicated to their family and church. The strategy, along with a missionary force of 50,000 well-trained, dedicated young Mormons, is working. Worldwide, there are more than 24,000 local LDS congregations in 161 countries, with nearly 10 million members, about half of whom live in the United States.

"Mormonism is confusing because they use the same terminology as Christianity, but they use a different dictionary," Roberts observed.

"Mormons don't mean the same thing Baptists do when they talk about the Scriptures, the Gospel, virgin birth, or even being born again.

"If you ask a Mormon to bring you the Scriptures, they will most likely bring you four books in one: The King James Version of the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Doctrine and Covenants," he said. ■

Building strong families requires work: Mitchell ...

— Continued from page 1

► Team building. "You have to work at team building" He suggested establishing routines for eating together as a family, worshiping together, completing chores together, and more.

► Climate of home. "This is the second most important factor in a child's learning. The home must have a climate of nurture, care, and love."

► Conditioning. "Place into the human mind repeatedly a thought until it becomes a habit. Tell your child he is spe-

cial and appreciated, and do it repeatedly."

► Modeling. "Every adult that comes into contact with a child is a potential role model. Kids and people emulate you."

► Positive reinforcement. "Catch people doing the right things and praise them for it. That just makes them want to continue the behavior. Punishment might temporarily stop a behavior, but it won't finish it."

Strong families are lasting; they have what it takes to stick together through all kinds of circumstances and

crises, Mitchell said. They have what he calls the five Cs.

× Centered on God: "God must be at the center of the family at all times and in all circumstances."

× Caring. "Being present for your family. That means spending time with them, listening to them, doing things with them, rejoicing when they rejoice, and feeling sad when they are sad."

× Connection. "When a parent cares for a child, a connection or bond is forged."

× Communication. "An abun-

dance of communication is essential for building strong families. It should be shown with spontaneity, lots of questions and answers, careful listening, positive words, and a goal to resolve arguments."

× Commitment. "Strong families don't happen by accident. Parents must choose to keep motivated."

Mitchell said parents can take two important steps in training their child to display the right attitudes, behaviors, and values.

"They first must link experi-

ences and rules to beliefs and values. Explain to a child why you believe certain things or place great importance on certain values and habits."

Second, Mitchell said, parents must be consistent over time. "When Christian parents give their children good habits, they are on their way to building strong families."

"Building Strong Families" resources are produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division. ■ — Terri Lackey



opinion

**about
letters to
the editor**

- > Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length and wording.
- > 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
July-August**

- 30 — Pray for people who will volunteer to participate in Tennessee Baptist partnerships.
- 31 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Executive Board meeting Aug. 22-23.
- 1 — Praise God for Bill and Carolyn Blevins of Carson-Newman College, who recently led a spiritual retreat for missionaries in Costa Rica.
- 2 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Centrifuge to be held Aug. 4-9.
- 3 — Pray for Canadian Christians who will support their church leaders in sharing the Gospel with their neighborhoods and communities. Ask God for the strengthening and impact of the Canadian church on Canadians from coast to coast.
- 4 — Praise God for the 16 Tennessee volunteers from First Church, Clarksville, led by Larry Riley, associate pastor, who traveled to the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw last month to conduct a youth camp for 80 students.
- 5 — Praise God for the Tennessee BSU collegiate missionaries who did creative and beach ministry last month in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Tennesseans help

A recent Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) pilot project was about taking Christ to the streets of inner city Philadelphia in cooperation with four local churches. Forty Southern Baptists from all over the country joined with El Shaddai, Ebenezer, Second Pilgrim, and Grace Community Baptist churches to reach the lost, hopeless, and homeless. The Philadelphia Inner City Event was a "Cutting Edge" evangelism effort that culminated eight months of planning.

During four days of street witnessing, led by Keith Walker, an associate in personal evangelism with the NAMB, 655 individuals received Christ. God blessed as people came to faith in Christ and needs were met. Howard Ramsey, a retiree from the former HMB, led a young man and his girl friend to Christ in a park setting. He asked them if they had any needs for which he could pray. They needed a job and childcare for the woman's two children. Later that day, the young man found a job that provided childcare for its employees.

That night the young man walked to a "block party" to find Ramsey and inform him how God answered his prayer. At that same party, I led Mary to faith in Jesus and gave her a "Here's Hope: Jesus Cares For You" New Testament.

As I discussed with her the significance of her new found faith, Mary shared that a son had died of AIDS and now she had someone who could give her hope.

R.A. Sharp, a layman from Hixson, took his witnessing team into Hunting Park. He encountered a baseball team and asked if he could tell them about Jesus. They agreed and when he finished the whole team prayed to receive Christ.

Three days later Sharp was out witnessing when one of those players ran to him and thanked him for what he did for him.

He and I were witnessing later in the neighborhood and encountered an elderly man who prayed to become a Christian. Everyone who prayed was given a marked New Testament. We saw that old man again and he told us how much God's Word had spoken to him as he read there on the sidewalk.

Sharp said he had never experienced such an openness to the Gospel as he experienced at the "block party" as people came from all over the neighborhood. I agree that the success we experienced in witnessing in Philadelphia was

Church shows love for Downs Syndrome children

Awaiting the arrival of a baby in one's family is an anxious and exciting time, especially for us grandmas! I already had been blessed with a wonderful grandson by my eldest daughter, Lisa, and she was expecting again. We knew it would be a girl. Lisa was at a crucial point in her life as well as her marriage. She had come to realize that major changes had to be made for the safety and well being of herself and children.

Lisa went into premature labor twice, and the last time she was hospitalized. As we were visiting in her hospital room, we resumed our search for a name for our new arrival. Lisa wanted to name her something that would give her strength never to return to that old life again. For those of us who rely on our faith daily, the choice was obvious. The name "Faith" was chosen.

Faith arrived four weeks early. The doctor laid the tiny miracle in my arms. She was nestled there so quiet and still. Later, the doctor came to see my daughter and told us what he suspected: "Your baby has some signs of Downs Syndrome, so we're going to do further testing."

The words seemed to hang in the air and the quietness was deafening. What Lisa was hearing about her baby was unexpected and the responsibility of this tiny life was overwhelming. The doctor said the baby may have heart and digestive problems, retardation, delay in walking and talking. I wondered where our daughter would get the strength to handle it all. She had been through so much to get her life on track.

That was four years ago. Faith is growing and thriving beautifully. She's had some stumbling blocks but she brings sunshine into our lives daily. One cannot have the "blues" around this little darling.

As I reflect on those days surrounding the birth of my granddaughter, I know my Lord was at work here. This is how I know it and praise his Holy Name for it.

Before Faith was born I had been visiting different churches, looking for a church home

close to my home. Two weeks before Faith was born, I visited Parkers Creek Church in Bon Aqua with my good friend, Flo. She asked this little country church to pray for my family. Pastor Joe Estes sent the most beautiful uplifting letter, saying that our family was blessed more than we could ever imagine. He was speaking from first-hand experience since he and his wife, Joan, are raising their daughter, Sonya, who also is a Downs Syndrome child.



FAITH (LEFT) AND SONYA

Our family joined the fellowship of Parkers Creek. Lisa later remarried a kind and gentle man and he became a Christian and joined

the church as well.

The Estes are always so encouraging about Faith's progress. Parkers Creek always nurtures her, especially when she extends her hand for someone to shake it. They make her a part of our church fellowship.

I see the church's love and nurture of the Estes' daughter. I have seen Sonya respond and thrive. I see her sing and shout praises to our Lord. She is full of God's spirit. I've seen the love of our Savior in her eyes and have heard it in her voice when she gives her testimony. She serves as a teacher assistant and I see her rejoice when some of her pupils accept Christ and come forward in public profession.

Sonya is a blessing to me. I don't know what the future holds for my granddaughter, but if Faith can have the love of the Lord in her heart as much as Sonya, our family will truly be blessed. Isn't that what we all want for our children?

*Brenda Collins
Burns 37029*

multiplied because of the involvement of the local churches in helping new believers.

Conference participants who experienced what God is doing in inner city evangelism left with a glow that comes from seeing God bring multitudes of lost people into his family.

*Ernest James, pastor
First Church
Bolivar 38008*

TBC service

Many churches and pastors in Tennessee and other states use the resume service of the Tennessee Baptist Convention which is part of the Church Staff Leadership Group of Executive Board Ministries.

Our principle responsibility is to serve the churches and ministers of Tennessee. In fact, many churches and ministers throughout the country use our services. We will process 8,000-10,000 resumes annually. This service is made possible by the support of our churches to the Cooperative Program, and is offered to any

Southern Baptist church without cost.

In recent days a service named "Southern Baptist Ministers Staffing Service" has emerged. It is a fee-based program, with a mailing address of Nashville. A call to that office was rolled over to a number in Louisiana. It was determined that it has no connection with the TBC, nor is it a program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention.

This is not to be interpreted as any attempt to discredit this service, but only to alert our churches that it is not in any way connected to the TBC church ministers relations office.

Our services remain a part of the ministry you support through your CP gifts.

*Aubrey Hay
Church-Ministers Relations
Specialist
TBC Executive Board
Brentwood 37024*

More apologies?

The year 1995 was a year for mending relationships. The Southern Baptist Convention

apologized to blacks, the Pope apologized to women, and ABC apologized to RJR.

My problems lies with the first two. Both of these religious groups have strong beliefs in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Can I conclude these two have not been listening for 150 years or more — or is it the idea of the Holy Spirit a figment of some's imagination or has God withdrawn him (her or it) from a disobedient church?

Can one also conclude if it took 150 years to move the Southern Baptist Convention, which was founded by a would-be missionary slave owner, will it take another 150 years for them to apologize to homosexuals, women, and Disney?

*Claude Nicks
Nashville 37214*

Don't forget!!

Aug. 17 is *Baptist and Reflector* Day. Use the form on page 12 and order papers for your church today.

Baptist loyalists, ready to sacrifice

Applying ordinary jargon to one of poet Bobby Burns' best-known lines, we come to this: "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

This quote means that sometimes our plans don't work out. The best we have to offer is not sufficient for the situation, or the "climate's not right." Also we might say that no matter how much we care about something, or no matter how hard we try to "fix it," some level of failure is still likely.

During the Korean War of the 1950s many battles were fought to no conclusion. Victory was elusive. Neither side could grasp the final conclusion — and still seek it.

In a fierce struggle on the Imjin River, the British 29 Brigade took horrible pounding. The troops were told to hold the line, and then to fight a delaying tactic so that other soldiers could move back safely.

WHEN THE fight was over, the men said that at that moment they felt they had taken part in a combat disaster, they felt defeated, and even worse they believed they had not helped their comrades.

Not so, wrote Max Hastings in *The Korean War*, not so. "They were a typical, perhaps a little above average, county battalion, who showed for the thousandth time in the history of the British Army what ordinary men, decently led, can achieve in a situation which demands, above all, a willingness for sacrifice."

IT IS UNLIKELY, he wrote, that the battle of 29 Brigade would ever hold a high place in any military manual of instruction, but the brigade "broke one arm

of the Communist spring offensive in those three days on the Imjin River." The Chinese discovered there the price of meeting efficient, determined foot soldiers whose comrades meant everything to them.

Transfer that kind of dogged loyalty, reliability, and integrity to God's remnants who so often have numerous casualties, but nevertheless, stand firm. As in Korea, death and injury are likely.

Look at the Old Testament where there always has been a remnant to meet God's specifications. There always has been a remnant who would stand and fight with fierce loyalty. And God always has nurtured the remnant, and built with them the church which was in process before time.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

THERE ARE CHRISTIANS today who stand firm in the devastation of apparent defeat. There are Baptists whose loyalty and integrity will never wane.

But wait a minute — who are these Baptists, these loyalists?

They are ordinary people who put unflinching loyalty to Christ and the wellbeing of others before their own. They are in the local church. They may or may not hold leadership positions. They feel an imperative to reach out to others — in grace-giving, encouraging, and sacrifice.

SELF IS NOT the ultimate for them. They see some organization as necessary, and they also know that too much can be cumbersome. They see the value in each spoken word, each cup of water, each prayer for forgiveness and renewal.

These, who are spiritual brothers and sisters to the

29 Brigade, are the spiritual foot soldiers whom leaders often refer to as "Southern Baptists," or "Tennessee Baptists." They are caring people who try to live like Jesus Christ — without being honored or recognized for it.

They are loyal. They don't infiltrate as spies — but they stand firm and stay energized for action. They may be reluctant to lead, but they are eager for service in the army of the Lord.

These foot soldiers pay the "bills," not just in tithes and offerings, but in blood, sweat, tears, dirt, and laughter. They are building more than man-made structures — they are building love, character, optimism, and hope in the lives of those they touch.

BAPTIST LEADERS at all levels (we aren't supposed to have a hierarchy), should use caution and concern. The best organizations and plans can never replace the foot soldiers. Foot soldiers may feel weary, tired, neglected, defeated — but they know that Sunday's coming. The caution is for those who run ahead and leave the soldiers. The concern is for the welfare of the soldiers.

They may have battle fatigue — but they know whom they have believed, and they stand firm. Generals can't do much without soldiers loyal to Christ and whose lifestyle is like his. **B&R**



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Pastor to children at story time: "What has a bushy tail, carries acorns in his cheeks, and jumps from tree to tree?"

Johnny: "Is it Jesus?"



WOOD

about something silly like that."

Pastor: "No. It's a squirrel."

Johnny: "I knew that, but I didn't think you would bring us all down here to talk

Take this truth

What do you talk about? Is it idle chatter or something worthwhile?

Insecure people talk about people. Shallow people talk about things. Mature people talk about ideas and values.

Memorize this Scripture

Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account ... in the day of judgment — Matthew 12:36.

Pray this prayer

Lord, please fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff. ■

— Comments may be addressed to Fred Wood at 726 Forest Lake Drive, Memphis.

Real missions can mean learning new 'tricks'

Southern Baptist missionaries through the years have proven themselves adaptable in all kinds of situations.

Those who go into an unfamiliar area of the world have to be adept at getting along under strenuous circumstances. It's not always easy.

In my work, God has blessed me beyond measure, not only by enabling me to see much of his world, but to bless me with close contact with some of his choice people serving in obscure places.

He has prepared Christians to endure and to be happy about it. Not that missionaries are perfect, but seldom have I heard one complain without a smile, or criticize without volunteering to help solve the problem.

James L. Sullivan, still a great Baptist statesman and one of my heroes and friends, is gifted with words. Of certain types of Baptists, he can say with a gleam in his eye, "What they're not up on, they're down on."

Hey, the van probably needed a new transmission

Most people I know simply want to be happy. You probably feel that way about your acquaintances. It seems so little to ask in the great scheme of things. If our desire is so simple, why do so many people, including you and me, fail to achieve the desire?

I can suggest some related issues that occur in the family.

Often we vest in other people, especially family, the power to control our happiness. We don't realize this and might even vehemently deny it.

We say to someone, "You make me so happy!" Or we complain to someone, "You make me sad." In both instances we are giving them the power in our lives to do something that must come from within

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Those people have to have the spotlight. They have to be in charge, give the orders — or else they begin to criticize.

Most missionaries are doers. They can't waste time thinking about it.

Hattie Gardner, for example, when arriving in Africa, had a lot to learn — and a lot to teach. She was less than five feet tall. But after a time at the missionary compound, she discovered a certain kind of lethargy.

She wanted to go out and meet the people, especially tribe leaders.

She asked some of the mission men to help her. They demurred, because of the treachery of slashing through the thick jungle to find the people.

Unabashed, she simply rounded up some Christian African men and asked

them to go with her. She began to get out to the people — because of her audacity.

Sometimes we find every excuse for not doing something specific that God put right there in our path. We get busy, doing busy stuff, displaying our piety. It reminds me of a classic bit of wisdom delivered by Robert Louis Stevenson's Long John Silver character. In a discussion about good and bad people, he said, "Sometimes them what quotes the Bible has less of it in their hearts than them that don't."

Orvil Reid realized quickly that people in his little Mexican village would come to see him — but they weren't much interested in listening to talks about Christianity.

Always in excellent physical condition, Orvil learned some circus skills to attract the people. They came on and on. Hattie, Orvil, thanks. I needed to know you. ■



ALLEN

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

each of us.

Responsibility is often a dirty word. Defense attorneys often attempt to shift responsibility from the client by saying society somehow was at fault for the crime. Too many people want someone else to suffer and pay for their bad choices.

We can list and categorize people, places, and events which make us happy. We may be sad when these experiences don't happen. I remember enduring the week in school to get to the weekend and the party. Adults must move beyond this avoidance, entitlement, and lack of re-

sponsibility.

Sometimes we assume too much responsibility for actions of others, and feel life is unfair because we don't have people to make us happy.

My wife and I took a beach vacation recently. It rained every day. Our van's transmission had to be replaced and we were stranded for three days. The camper next door asked if we were having trouble with the van. He told us about how bad it was to have trouble while on vacation.

I remembered — that our insurance pays for the towing. A van with 127,000 miles really needs a new transmission. And if you have to be stranded anywhere, the beach is the place to be. We chose to be happy, in spite of our circumstances. ■

Dream becomes reality with declaration of independence ...

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

August 1997 marks the centennial of the founding of Zionism, the Jewish homeland idea. Since then Jewish people everywhere have helped make that idea come alive. Recently the editor was one of five journalists invited to follow the track of those early dreamers — in particular Theodor Herzl, and to find meaning in it for Christians. Here is part of that story.

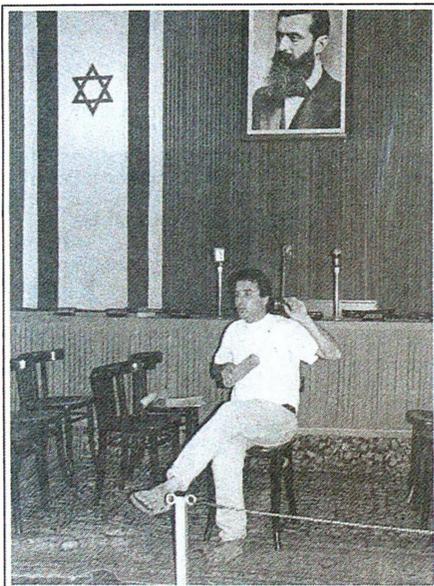
Last week, we began in Basel, Switzerland, where the first conference on Zionism was held.

TEL AVIV, Israel — Though modern Zionism was born in 1897 far from Palestine, Tel Aviv is the appropriate place for the birth of the State of Israel. A decisive step for Israel's freedom was taken here 50 years ago, and that was just 50 years after Theodor Herzl presided over the formal declaration for Zionism, a Jewish homeland, in Basel, Switzerland.

We finished our Swiss leg of the journey tracing Zionism, and then Swissair flew us to Tel Aviv to track the rest of the story.

Tel — ancient ruins, aviv — spring, thus a city springing from the past, says Sophie Wertheimer, our guide.

ITZIK DROR, guide at Israel's Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, tells the lively story of the declaration of freedom by a people's council in 1948 — in this very room. The hall is today an accurate portrayal of the event, even to the chairs and tables. Theodor Herzl looks on from the wall.



THE WESTERN WALL of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is ever a place of remembrance and celebration. Families and tourists, religious leaders, petitioners with prayer requests — all make this a busy place that beckons all.

Others say it means "Hill of Spring." Early on in Zionism, it was a growing community and came to be the birthplace of freedom.

But we will only visit two cities — Jerusalem after Tel Aviv, the gateway. And, though it is 1997 on Western calendars, the Jewish calendar says it is the year 5757. That is a lot of history!

In Basel, we were reminded that Zionism leaders and "delegates" made history with a hammered-out declaration for a homeland, completing their work on Aug. 31, 1897.

The Basel Program stated, "Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine of Jewish farmers, artisans, and manufacturers."

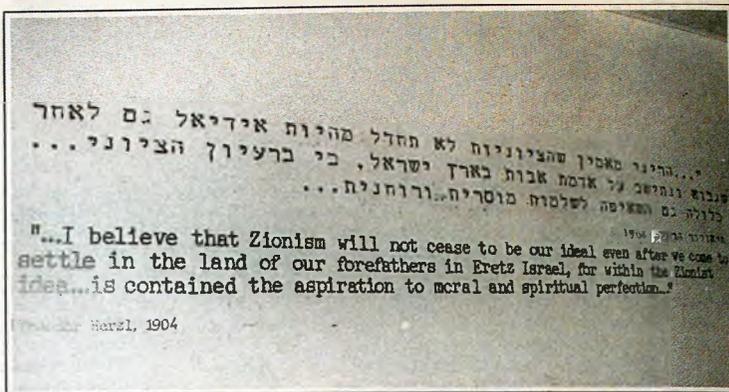
There were four points: promotion of such a settlement by appropriate means, organization and united all Jewry by use of appropriate institutions local and international, according to local laws, strengthening and fostering Jewish national sentiment and consciousness, and preparatory steps for consent of governments where necessary, thus to reach the goal of Zionism.

On a visit to the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem later we discovered just how successful that venture became. An immigration review showed that in 1882-1903, there were 25,000 coming to Palestine (the unofficial homeland).

The numbers grew for each time period, until the 1948-1995 total reached 2,520,000. As independence became reality in 1948, there was a conscious effort by the fledgling nation to assist immigration by air power.

El Al Airline stepped in several times to bring thousands of desperate Jews from oppressive nations. But let's go back to Tel Aviv. The step taken on May 14, 1948, by Jewish leaders, declared freedom for the new State of Israel.

Great Britain, which had been ruling Palestine



DISPLAYED ON a wall of the Diaspora Museum, Tel Aviv, are words of Herzl, reading, "... I believe that Zionism will not cease to be our ideal even after we come to settle in the land of our forefathers in Eretz Israel, for within the Zionist idea...is contained the aspiration to moral and spiritual perfection..."

by world powers' mandate, withdrew the day before and left Jews and Arabs to settle the issue.

David Ben Gurion, brilliant and revered Jewish leader, and a council declared freedom for the new state.

War with Arab nations broke out immediately — but that is a longer, as yet unsettled story.

Here's the history. Fifty years had elapsed since Herzl declared at the First Zionist Congress that "In another 50 years the State of Israel will be established ..." and that "If you will it, it is no idle dream."

His earlier book, *Alteneuland*, (Old-New Land), described a revived Israel.

We visited in Tel Aviv a modest building, which once was a concert hall, but now is Independence Hall. Here is where the council meet in 1948 and made the call for freedom.

Tel Aviv itself is the first Jewish city, and the building where freedom was born was built in 1909. Most incoming Jews did not stay in Jerusalem, many settled near the seacoast.

Arabs controlled Jerusalem and most of Palestine, though there had been a Jewish presence to some degree in Palestine for centuries. That area was buffeted by several nations until after World War I when Britain was given the mandate of control.

Of course Baptists and other Christians have a keen interest in Israel because it is indeed the Land of the Bible. So much of Christian heritage comes from the early church established in the days of Christ's disciples. So many Old and New Testament sites are easily identifiable.

Thousands and thousands of Baptist and other Christian "pilgrims" visit Israel each year. The Zionism movement holds importance in Jewish-Christian relationships, and certainly leads to understanding.

In Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial and cultural center, I was able to refine some of the ideas about Zionism. In Basel, we saw the birthplace, the surroundings in which that small group met and made their statement.

Then, in Tel Aviv, and later in Jerusalem, we were able to "experience" Zionism, as Roby Harly told us in his Jerusalem office.

The Diaspora Museum, which I had visited before, now holds a elegant and informative exhibit on Zionism's Centennial.

The museum is on Tel Aviv University campus, beautifully equipped and apportioned. The larger museum displays accurate reproductions of Jewish life around the world in the Diaspora.

— See next page



AN ENLARGED photograph near the entrance to Independence Hall depicts the people gathered for drawing lots to build on — during the infant days of Tel Aviv almost a century ago. Construction began on the sand dunes outside Jaffa in 1909.

... 'the remnant shall work on, fight on, live on'

— From previous page

We had an early appointment with the museum. By special arrangement, we had a private guide to take us through the special Herzl-Zionism exhibit. Displayed in a smaller wing of the Diaspora Museum, the Herzl exhibit is more than sufficient to give anyone an intensive crash course.

Smaller rooms created within the exhibit area lent themselves to presentations of different aspects of early Zionism. Old posters and many artifacts created an amazing aura of the situation with Jewish people.

On the way to Independence Hall, we stopped at the place where Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin was assassinated Nov. 4, 1995. Flowers covered the slab which marked the spot. A framed photograph of the fallen citizen, soldier, and national leader lay nearby.

It's difficult for "outsiders" to grasp the feelings of most Israelis about the assassination, especially since he was killed by an Israeli citizen. Almost all of Israel's modern elected government have been heroes of the long struggle for independence, and subsequent wars with the Arab nations — while maintaining the homeland which Herzl had dreamed of and Ben Gurion helped

forge from centuries of neglect.

Rabin was no exception. Comparisons are made easily, but are not always accurate, and I could not help but think about American leaders who were assassinated, including President John Kennedy. The emptiness covers the land and seems endless.

The room at Independence Hall has been reconstructed to appear as it did May 14, 1948, when the People's Council dared to face the world with a declaration of independence.

Knowing the British Mandate was being lived, the council had discussed Israeli independence with some world leaders. The Jews were urged to "wait three months." They didn't wait.

Sensing the imminent problems with the Arab nations, the council seized the moment and decided to vote. The declaration was read, and then approved. It was 4 p.m. when David Ben Gurion spoke the words. Musicians (from upstairs) played and the people sang Hatikva, the national anthem. A rabbi prayed. *Herzl, did you see* — it was done!

Arab forces began shelling Israeli positions and fighting broke out — and the young nation, though ill-equipped, was ready to defend that which the leaders had declared.

The People's Council became the National Council, the guide told us. He had taken us step by step through the events in that room of May 14, 1948.

Zionism had taken a giant leap forward. The days ahead would not be easy, Ben Gurion said, but the Jews now had a homeland to

defend. Herzl was not there, but his prophecy was fulfilled and his dream realized.

On the next day we visited Jerusalem's Western Wall, commonly called the Wailing Wall. It was a hot, sunny day and the area was filled with several Bar Mitzvah ceremonies. Crowds laughed and cried as the young men celebrated manhood. Many people were praying at the wall.

We quickly turned to the "underground." Our tour of the Old City included the tunnel beneath the Western Wall — which has been excavated down to the footings of the Temple.

An awesome archeological work has opened this spiritual site to the people. Archeologists, with help of course, have been excavating the tunnel for at least 20 years.

It is one of the most important excavated sites in Jerusalem, and affords the visitor with an unparalleled visit to the past — when Jerusalem's Temple was a marvel to behold in 70 A.D.

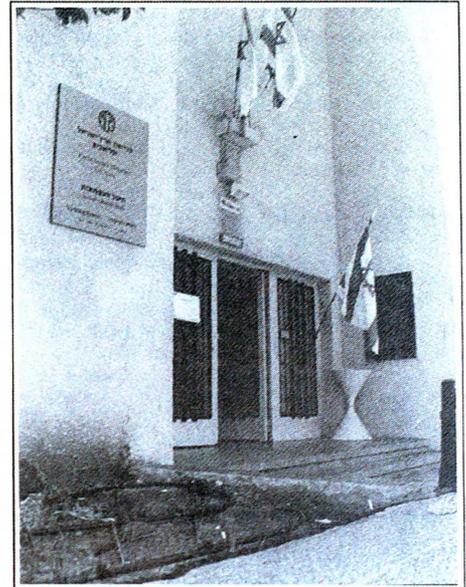
The tunnel is also a marvel, since you can view the underpinnings of the Temple itself. Exquisitely hewn and perfectly placed support stones of 50-100 tons are exposed to sight and touch.

The mammoth task of building the temples is beyond imagination. But here they are, and the tunnel displays other exciting archeological findings. It runs the length of this particular portion of the wall and, since last fall, exits in the Muslim quarter.

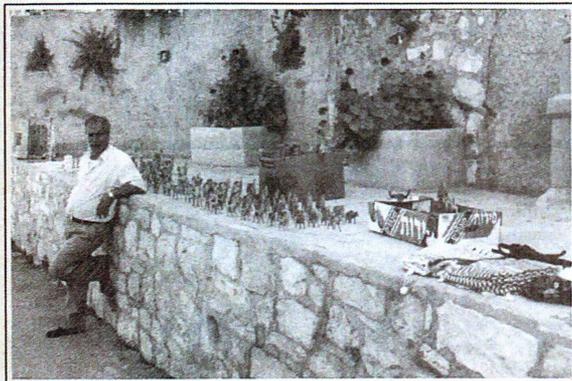
As we walked through the Old City, saw the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the narrow "streets" — the sights, sounds, colors and smells of the marketplace came alive. It seemed to be a very busy day for the shop owners and street vendors selling everything from jewelry of all kinds, tee shirts, vegetables and, fruits of all descriptions, drinks and food, clothing, and Holy Land artifacts.

We visited Mount Herzl where Herzl and other Israeli heroes are buried.

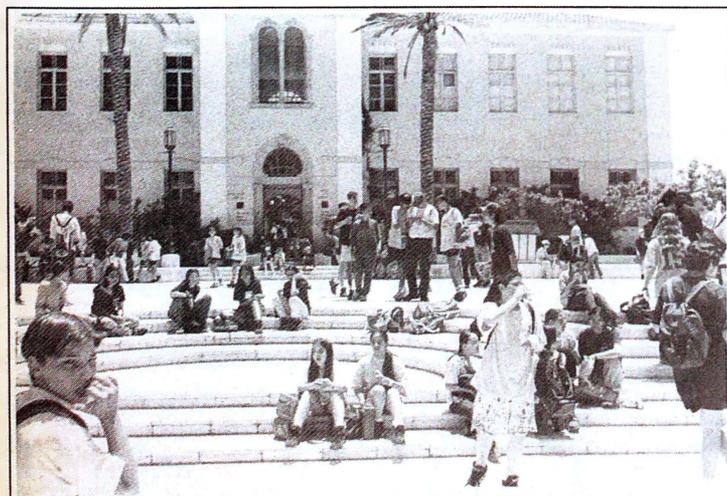
For the first time I walked through the Supreme Court's magnificent building. And despite extreme security mea-



INDEPENDENCE HALL and Eretz Israel Museum are housed in this unimposing but valiant building in Tel Aviv. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



ENTERPRISING ARAB has set up shop just outside the Church of St. Peter of Gallicantu near old Jerusalem. The church marks a probable route Jesus was taken on the way to appear before the authorities.



CHILDREN ARE CHILDREN, and it is recess time for these students at a special school in Tel Aviv.

sures, I visited a session of the national government at the Knesset. Yes, Herzl would have loved it.

Finally, I remember reading a statement of Chaim Weizman at the close of the 21st Zionist Congress in Geneva in 1939. There was no Jewish homeland, and war was at the door. He knew it.

"There is a darkness all around us," he said, "and we cannot see through the clouds ... If, as I hope, we are spared in life and our work continues, who knows, perhaps a new light will shine upon us ... The remnant shall work on, fight on, live on until the dawn of better days. Toward that dawn I greet you. May we meet again in peace."

There is a homeland now. But peace is hesitant. All of us are involved in securing the "peace of Jerusalem." Scripture tells us to pray for that peace. Jews, Christians, and certainly Baptists, are beneficiaries of Herzl's dream and Ben Gurion's declaration. **B&R**



GUIDE tells the Zionism story while explaining the special Herzl-Zionism Exhibit in the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

Regional leadership training conferences begin in August

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Christian Growth and Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries will again provide training for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Media Library, and Collegiate Ministry leaders.

Sixteen regional meetings are planned this year.

The meetings have been redesigned this year. Age-graded conferences will continue and these have been designed to meet the different skills and experience base of participants.

Each location will feature conferences for those who are beginning a leadership role in Sunday School or Discipleship Training. Other conferences

have been designed for those wishing to add new skills to their current experience. Another level of conference time will be devoted to those who are identifying ways to be innovative based on previous experience.

Dates, times, and location of the regional conferences follow:

Aug. 25-26 — Leewood Church, Memphis, 6:45-9 p.m.

Aug. 25 — First Church, Lexington, 6:45-9 p.m.; First Church, Dyersburg, 6:45-9 p.m.

Aug. 26 — First Church, Paris, 6:45-9 p.m.; First Church, Jackson, 6:45-9 p.m.

Sept. 8 — First Church, Tullahoma, 7-9 p.m.; Hildale Church, Clarksville, 7-9:15 p.m.

Sept. 9 — First Church, Goodlettsville, 7-9:15 p.m.;



DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS have helped plan the 1997 Regional Leadership Conferences to be held across the state. Helping to plan those in the Middle Tennessee area were, from left, Mike Pennington, Bledsoe; Wesley Pitts, Cumberland; William Gray, Stewart County/Truett; and Dennis Pulley, Robertson County.

First Church, Franklin, 7-9:15 p.m.; First Church, Hohen-

wald, 7-9 p.m. Sept. 22-23 — First Church,



Cookeville, 6:45-9 p.m.; Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Sept. 29 — Central Church, Hixson, 6:30-9:15 p.m.; First Church, Kingsport, 6:45-9 p.m.

Sept. 30 — First Church, Cleveland, 6:30-9:15 p.m.; First Church, Morristown, 6:45-9 p.m.

For more information about the regional conferences, contact your local director of missions or the TBC Christian Growth and Development Group at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2083. ■

Carson-Newman College administrators visit counterparts in Korea



C-N DEANS Ann Harley, left, and Kitty Coffey, right, visit with Sook-Ja Lee, president of Ansan College during a recent tour of Korea.

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College deans Kitty Coffey, family and consumer sciences, and Ann Harley, nursing, have returned from a week of reviewing syllabi, visiting classes, labs, and hospitals, and speaking at a college chapel service.

But it wasn't a typical week of classes. The two professors

were at Ansan Junior College in Seoul, Korea, where they also ate kimchee with chopsticks, toured an emperor's palace, and compared notes with their Korean colleagues.

Coffey and Harley voyaged to Seoul as part of C-N's new cooperative agreement with Ansan. Besides the exchange of informa-

tion and faculty, the agreement will allow students in nursing, dietetics, and early childhood education from the junior college to complete their bachelor's or master's degrees at Carson-Newman.

Such steps by Carson-Newman to build international partnerships will benefit all concerned, according to Coffey.

"The peoples of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent in an international economy and through technology," Coffey said.

"Our increased understanding of cultures on a people-to-people basis will enhance our efforts for world peace and mutual understanding," she said. ■

Classified

MINISTER OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: Please send resumes for full-time minister of childhood education position to: Staff Search Committee, FBC, 102 Ridley, Smyrna, TN 37167.

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Needed to assist in developing strong, Christ-centered youth and children's ministry. Send resume to Natchez Trace Baptist Church, Search Committee, P.O. Box 128, Camden, TN 38320.

Going to Opryland?

Are you, your family, your youth group, singles department, or church planning a trip to Opryland Theme Park in Nashville this summer? If so, we have a deal for you. Individual tickets are \$18 and group tickets (10 or more) are \$15 each.

Contact the Youth Evangelism office, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, at (615) 371-7917. Quantity is limited.

Executive Board Position Openings

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is still accepting applications for the following Ministry Assistant positions:

Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group — administrative secretary

Missions Awareness & Involvement Group — administrative secretary

Christian Growth Development Group — secretary
Communications Services Group — Design Coordinator and Administrative Secretary

Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position.

Houseparents

Florida Baptist Children's Home seeks a live-in couple as Child Care Workers to care for 10 children in Miami. Compensation based on salary range of \$14,635 to \$22,123 each, based on education & experience. Excellent benefits, including paid vacation. Call Brian Hawkins (305) 271-4121. EOE/DFW.

We Need A Christian Copywriter

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If this sounds like something you are qualified for, please mail or fax your resume to Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 9th Avenue North, MSN 121, Nashville, TN 37234, or fax to (615) 251-5017.

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Aug. 10 — Homecoming Day

Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

Lunch, 12 p.m.; Afternoon Service to follow

Come and celebrate with us!!

people

■ **Mary Lou Stewart**, administrative assistant, Nashville Association, was honored July 21 on her retirement after serving the association 10 years.

■ Tennessee native **Joy Jordan-Lake** has written a book, *Grit & Grace, Portraits of a Woman's Life*, published by Harold Shaw Publishers, Wheaton, Ill. She is the daughter of Monty Jordan, retired pastor, First Church, Jefferson City, and Diane Jordan. Jordan-Lake and her husband, Todd, are on the staff of Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.

leaders

■ **Joel Bayluangrath**, pastor, Laotian Mission, Nashville, did missions work in Thailand and Laos during June. He joined a Global Mission Fellowship Team serving there. The mission is supported by Woodbine Church, Nashville.

■ **Willo McCoy**, minister of education, Inglewood Church, Nashville, will retire Nov. 15 after serving 32 years.

■ **Jim Wilson**, campus minister, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was elected vice president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers, which met June 13-15 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. The group celebrated the 75th anniversary of Southern Baptist student ministry. **Ircel Harrison** of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries led a seminar at the meeting. Also participating were the following collegiate ministry specialists from Tennessee: **Adam Hall**, University of Tennessee at Martin; **Charles Nored**, Middle Tennessee State University.

■ **Oaklawn Church**, Crossville, has called **Jason Reagan** and **Sam P. Stubbs** to serve on its church staff, effective July 13. Reagan will be associate pastor/youth minister and Stubbs will serve as music minister. Stubbs was minister of music/youth, Lantana Road Church, Crossville, and is employed at the Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville. Reagan was a member of Pine Eden Church, Crossville, and is editor of the *Fairfield Glade Sun* newspaper.

■ **Pierce Dodson**, a minister in Lebanon, returned from his third trip to Romania. He worked with the Romanian-American Mission, which was formed with support from the Baptist Union of Romania.

■ **John Laida**, retired pastor, First Church, Clarksville, is serving as regular supply preacher for First Church, Nashville.

■ **Boiling Springs Church**, near Cookeville, has called **Tracy Gross** as pastor, effective Aug. 3.

■ **Mount Olive Church**, Knoxville, has called **David Carey Head** as senior pastor, effective Aug. 24. Head has been pastor, Graefenburg Church, Graefenburg, Ky., for six years. William L. Palmer, retired president, Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, was interim pastor. He will be honored Aug. 17.

■ **First Church**, Riceville, has called **Mike Roach** as pastor.

■ **Calvin Metcalf**, pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, was honored July 27 on his retirement after 22 years of service. Metcalf, who will retire July 31, was named pastor emeritus.

■ **Orlinda Church**, Orlinda, has called **Gregory Love** as pastor, effective July 13.

■ **Archie Fendley**, minister of recreation, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, will celebrate his 20 year an-

niversary Aug. 3.

■ **Mike Farmer** has been called as pastor of First Church, Niota, effective July 13.

■ **Bill Walker** has been called as pastor of Short Creek Church, Athens.

■ **Hickory Grove Church**, Trenton, has called **Mike Hammonds** as pastor.

■ **Jim Loines** has been called as pastor of West Side Church, Trenton.

■ **Sileron Church**, Sileron, has ordained its new pastor, **Clay Adams**.

■ **Rockview Church**, Athens, has called **Sam Boone** as pastor.

■ **Ken Keaton** has been called as pastor of New Hopewell Church, Athens.

■ **Hickory Grove Church**, Trenton, has called **Michael Hammonds** as pastor, effective July 6. Formerly, he was pastor of East Huntsville Church, Huntsville, Ala. Hammonds also has served churches in Louisiana and Alabama. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

churches

■ A group of youth and adults of **First Church**, Dyersburg, served in Attica, Ind., in June.

■ **Charleston Church**, Stanton, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 3. The theme is "Cherishing our Past — Charting our Future." Activities will extend throughout the day.

■ **Westview Church**, Chattanooga, recently sent a 12-member team to work in Los Mochis, Mexico. Serving with members of Templo Bautista Emmanuel, they visited door-to-door and led evangelistic meetings. More than 60 people

made professions of faith. The Tennesseans are considering returning next year to do a construction project.

■ **Bellevue Church**, Nashville, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Nov. 2.

■ **Mount Pelia Church**, Martin, will hold revival Sept. 7-12. Brady Weldon will speak.

■ **Indian Creek Memorial Church**, Smithville, will hold homecoming Aug. 3. Guest speaker is Earl Adcock, former pastor. Guest singers are the Webb Sisters.

■ **First Church**, Donelson, celebrated its 85th anniversary July 20.

■ **First Church**, Union City, will hold its third annual Free Flea Market Aug. 2. For more information, call (901) 885-9481.

■ **First Church**, Pocatontas, will hold revival July 27 - Aug. 1. Tony Monk of Mississippi will speak.

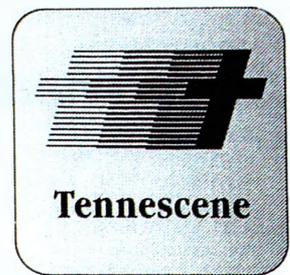
■ Seventeen members of **First Church**, Clarksville, have served recently in Poland to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership.

associations

■ **Chilhowee Association** will hold a Sunday School Training Clinic Aug. 25-26 at Broadway Church, Maryville. Ron Stewart, pastor, Grace Church, Knoxville, will speak. For more information, call (423) 982-0499.

■ **Teams from Sequatchie Valley and Cumberland Plateau associations** worked in Michigan July 12-19 to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. They helped build an educational/fellowship building for Oakland Woods Church, Clarkston, Mich.

■ **Concord Association** churches have started a Backyard Bible Club in the Byrwood Mobile Home park. It is



being led by members of Wards Grove Church, Milton; Immanuel Church, Murfreesboro; and First Church, Walter Hill and directed by Ellen Chapman, the association's coordinator of multihousing ministry.

■ **Hardeman Association** is holding a Crusade Revival with "The Power Team" July 30 - Aug. 3 at Bolivar Junior High School. For more information, call (901) 658-9378.

the schools

■ **Four Carson-Newman College** faculty members recently received fellowships and grants totalling more than \$56,000 funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Recipients were Ray Dalton, instructor of sociology; Mark Husung, instructor of music; Clark Measels, dean, division of fine arts; and Stephen Wright, assistant professor of biology. The research funded ranges from analyzing and targeting anticancer agents to a study of megachurches.

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, is developing an exchange program in Azerbaijan, the former Soviet Republic.

■ **Belmont University**, Nashville, has joined with Dollar General Corporation to form the Turner Scholars Program to help keep leadership education opportunities accessible to outstanding students with financial needs. The five-year program will create 20 scholarships worth \$7,500 annually.



Tennessee samplers

The relentless weed

By Tom Suiter, pastor
Indian Springs Church, Kingsport

Every gardener knows that weeds

are a constant threat to the productivity of the garden — whether it is flowers or vegetables. For some reason, weeds seem to thrive in all kinds of weather and conditions. If we are to have a good harvest, then the weeds have to be pulled. If we pull them when they are small, they will not destroy the plants we desire. However, if we allow the weeds to grow strong, then it is a threat to the good plants to pull up the weed.

How true this is in our personal lives. Moral and spiritual weeds grow in the soil of our lives. If we pull them while they are small, then there is little disturbance to the life. However, if

we allow the weeds to become large and take deep root, then the pulling process can be very disturbing. Ultimately the weeds will take over and the life will be destroyed. How tragic to see lives destroyed by the weeds of wickedness.

Now is the time to do some weeding. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. He will point out the things that need to go, and he will provide the strength to pull them out, but you have to be the one to put your hand on the weed and remove it.

I hope that your garden stays free of weeds. They always threaten, but those who keep them out

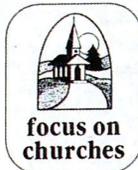
will have a good harvest.
Get to the root of it! ■

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

Conflict needn't cripple churches, Billingsley says

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Conflict created by controlling and critical attitudes of power-hungry people can keep churches from growing, a children's choir specialist told fellow musicians during a week-long conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.



Tea Billingsley, children's choir specialist from Eagleville, said the people who say, "I want it my way or I'll withdraw my money," make an even larger statement to

outsiders that the church does not have oneness of spirit. People considering a decision for Christ or church membership can be repulsed by such attitudes.

As an example, she said, a couple recently canceled their plans to join a church after visiting during a business meeting. Every negative person in the church was present and spoke their minds. The couple left, saying they did not want to be involved with that kind of atmosphere.

"As long as there are two people, there are two different

opinions," Billingsley said. "Everyone has a right to an opinion. It may be totally wrong, but it is theirs."

But Billingsley maintained people don't have to take on all the guilt resulting from a conflict.

"We are growing up people with no conflict management skills. That is why teenagers resort to fighting and guns when conflict develops," she said.

Billingsley advised musicians not to react to conflict immediately: Collect your wits and try to see the situation objectively, asking yourself, "What would satisfy my inter-

est?" Consider the best alternative to a negotiated agreement:

> What can I do to pursue my interest in this situation? If entering the conflict serves no purpose for you, walk away from it.

> What can I do to lead the other person to respect my interest?

She said a form of strike may work when too many tasks are added to a project. "Just don't do the additional tasks."

> Decide if you should go to arbitration involving another person. Failing those attempts, she advised, go for negotiation. ■

Church histories needn't be 'dry as dust,' says Tennessean

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — History can be "dry as dust," Pat Brown admitted, but for a church wanting its history to come alive, the stories of people can make the difference.

Brown, media and church history consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board and member of Covenant Church, Nashville, told participants in the National Conference for Church History at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center they can help create a sense of history among their church family.

"History is not just facts; it is stories," Brown said. "And compiling stories is a good way to start a history."

While the style, size, and cost of a printed church history can vary greatly, Brown encourages all churches to reaffirm their roots and tell the story of who they are as a family of faith, if only in duplicated and stapled form.

And she urges churches to publish a history that is "user-friendly, not a scholarly document. Far better to have a collection of stories with a timetable in the back than to have something so detailed that no one wants to read it."

Church history education, recently assigned to the BSSB as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring, is closely re-

lated to the work of media library directors in churches, she said.

Writing a history, she said, can be a formidable task for the writer, taking as much as a year for research and six months to write. Editing and printing time can make the entire project a two-year effort.

And Brown said a true history "is the story of all the history, including times of struggle. The Bible does not record only the stories of people who did things right."

She said while a writer from outside the congregation may bring objectivity, a writer from the church may bring a greater sense of the church's passion for its mission. "Someone who is not necessarily highly educated, but who loves history and stories, may be able to write a good history," she said.

Stories worth remembering include how the land for the church was acquired, how preachers were paid in the early days, an explanation of stained-glass windows, church life during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the beginnings of traditions, establishment and care of the church cemetery, and recovering from disasters such as fires, storms, or floods.

Brown said a history should always in-

clude the circumstances surrounding a church's beginning — the cultural, economic, and social setting. Events surrounding the formation can tell the reader not only when, where, and how, but by whom and why. To give a history life, include material on the attitudes toward social issues, missions, ecumenical relationships, discipline, ordinances, and the histories of significant church organizations or activities.

Researching the history, she said, can be done locally through minutes of business meetings, trustees and deacons meeting minutes, church bulletins and budgets, and the microfilmed copies of the local newspaper. The local association office also may house historic records.

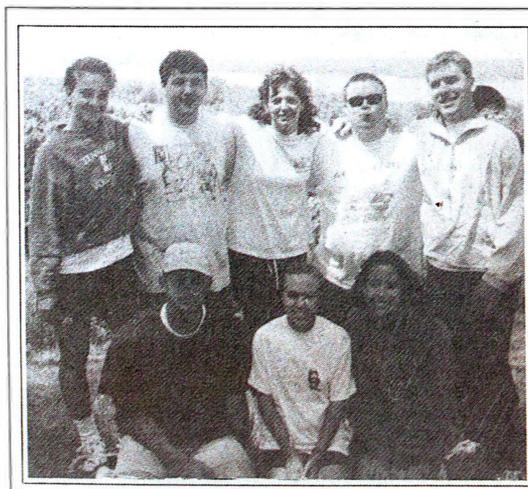
A "history search" among members can surface photographs and other artifacts. While not all photographs can be published, others may be copied for archival collections and other uses, Brown said.

State archival collections exist on college and seminary campuses, she noted. Nationally, the Southern Baptist Convention Library and Archives at the SBC Building in Nashville has extensive collections including microfilmed local church documents, Brown suggested.

"A history without interpretation is only a listing of facts," Brown said. "Be objective, but bring meaning and relevance into the story." ■



BROWN



BSU cyclists

Baptist Student Union members at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg participated in a quad-state Bike-A-Thon to raise money to purchase audio-visual equipment for the BSU center. The trip began in Blytheville, Ark. The cyclists traveled through Portageville, Mo., and Columbus, Ky., before ending up in Fulton, Ky., where the student-led drama group B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters In Christ) held a ministry service. From left, front row, are Stephen Pledge, Ande Newman, Nicole Hubbard; back row, Becky Frye, Sean Jones, Kelly Murphy, Joe Byars, and Matty Willard. BSU director Alex Kennedy also rode.

WMU leadership training planned

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Leadership training for church Woman's Missionary Union leaders will be offered at eight different churches:

Aug. 2 — First, Humboldt; East Athens

Aug. 9 — First, Cookeville; First, Somerville

Aug. 16 — First, Kingsport; First, Lawrenceburg

Aug. 23 — First, Donelson; First, Morristown

Times are 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m., local time. Registration fee is \$5. For more information, call (615) 371-2038. ■



MasterLife set for August

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Three MasterLife conferences will be offered across the state this summer.

MasterLife is a sequential developmental small group discipling process that enables believers to make Christ master, and to master life by developing personal, lifelong, obedient relationships with him.

Conferences will be held:

Aug. 12 — Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Ed Theile, leader

Aug. 19 — Madison-Chester Association office, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., David Carter, leader

Aug. 20 — Baptist Center, Brentwood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., David Carter, leader

The cost per person is \$40 which includes materials and lunch.

For more information, contact Jerry Chapman, TBC Discipleship Coordinator, at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 7932. ■

New book stores open in Tennessee

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A new, full-service Baptist Book Store is now open in Johnson City and a Memphis store has relocated, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Retail Group.

The Johnson City store opened June 30 at 3211 Peoples Street. The Memphis store, located at 8025 Giacosa Place, also opened in June.

Both stores feature a gift area, large children's department with play area, music and video department with a listening center and built-in video monitors, church resources, and more.

"As we expand our business and ministry throughout the country, we look for markets like Johnson City and viable retail areas like this one in Memphis that provide the best opportunity to service both churches and individuals with products to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Scott said.

The Johnson City store will be managed by Gordon Christian while Bob Fuller will manage the Memphis store. ■

Old age

By Aubrey Hay

Focal: I Timothy 5:1-10, 16; Titus 2:1-5

A doctor of geriatrics once told a group of seminary students, "Young men, you need to start getting ready for old age, the minute you are born." To young men in their twenties and thirties, this statement seemed hardly to register. In my own case, I can now see the wisdom of this overstatement.

To say that we live in youth-oriented culture is a statement of the obvious. In cultures of the east, old age is revered and old people are honored. That practice is changing as these cultures become more western in attitude. Still, we are taught by Scripture to respect the aged.

It is interesting how Paul used the family model as an analogy of how we are to relate to each other. In our day with the assault on traditional family values, it is no wonder that general respect for others has diminished, and specific respect for the elderly likewise suffers.

Relating to older people — I Timothy 5:1-2

These verses are instruction of how to relate to old and young people. Essentially their treatment is the same, and that being one of respect. "... treat the elders as a father, the younger men as brethren, the elder women as mothers ... the younger as sisters" The word for elder is understood to mean older men, not as church leaders. They are not to be rebuked, meaning they are not to be treated harshly. Likewise the older women are to be treated as one would their mother. An older pastor once told a group of younger men, "Please give us respect, and please, please, don't finish our sentences for us."

Helping older people — vv. 3-10, 16

One important way to relate to older people is to help them. The proverbial picture of the Boy Scout helping the elderly lady across the street addresses this attitude. It is hard for younger people to understand how terrifying a simple task like crossing a busy street can be. In Paul's example he singles out the widows, i.e. women whose husbands had died, and who had no support from their children. These were especially vulnerable in Paul's day.

Those with families are to be cared for by their families. Failure to do so makes them worse than unbelievers. Those who have no support should be cared for by the church. In Timothy's time there was no government support for husbandless women. The church was instructed to minister to their needs.

Older people helping others — Titus 2:1-5

One avenue of respect for older people is to refuse to "put them on a shelf." There is no justification for the attitude by some in the church that the old people have fulfilled their day of usefulness. It is likewise true that older folk should not shirk their responsibility on the basis of their age alone. Titus says that they are responsible too. Many older people want to minister, some push aside all responsibility on the basis of their age. The church should not neglect the elderly.

The elderly should not expect to be exempt from spiritual responsibilities, just because they are of advanced age. In fact, there is a wealth of knowledge to be passed along to the younger generation by the older generation. Older people should be wise and patient teachers; younger people should be attentive learners. The combination is sound. It seemed to Paul that is the way God meant it to be. These are lessons our society, and often our churches, desperately needs to learn. ■ — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Board.

Move on to maturity

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Focal: Hebrews 5:11-6:10

Being mature is more than getting taller or stronger physically. And it is more than gaining more intellectual knowledge. Seeing a newborn baby makes us aware of the need to grow, but we should see that baby as one who also needs to grow spiritually.

Children have a different view of *growing* to maturity. Most can respond quickly when asked what they want to be as an adult, but they cannot grasp the steps that have to be taken in order to fulfill that dream.

The central Bible truth in this lesson is that Christians are to grow in maturity and faithfulness to Christ.

As a youngster I made pretty good grades in school and was never worried about taking a report home for my parents to read and sign. But my father would look it over, see that I had almost perfect grades, wink at me and say, "You could have done better." He was pushing me gently toward maturity. He didn't want me to be satisfied with less than my best.

Family Bible Lesson

Shame — ch. 5:11-14. Ignorance of spiritual principles may be disastrous and shameful as well. Paul chided these Christians about brushing over what Jesus taught. He accused them of being dull of hearing, lazy. They just did not study the Scripture because they had "lazy ears" and lazy hearts. When we hear and obey, we are able to understand the difficult teachings.

They should have matured sufficiently to teach others, giving them the basics of God's truth. Instead, they seemed to be losing ground spiritually.

God handed to the people the "word of righteousness," expecting them to learn and then teach about the right way to live. The biblical goal is to mature enough to be able to discern good and evil. Sounds easy, doesn't it? But spiritual maturity is required in

the growth process.

Grow up — ch. 6:1-3. Paul says to keep studying, to continue learning. Move past the first principles toward full growth and maturity.

Repentance and faith are a beginning faith for a living relationship with Christ. It is a fundamental requirement for those who come to him in faith.

All believers are to follow Christ in baptism. So the writer tells them to learn all about the baptisms, and even the cleansing rituals of Jewish heritage.

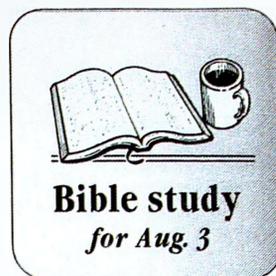
He also encouraged them to observe in others and themselves those responsibilities given to them from God. Laying on of hands indicated a recognition of that task or ministry. It did not empower the person.

Two other doctrines the writer mentions as basic — resurrection and judgment. Christ was proved to be God's son by his resurrection. It was a foundation of belief. The writer was confident these Christians would continue growing.

Warning — vv. 4-8. Here the writer is trying to spur on the Christians. Don't slip back, but keep growing! Press on! Believers had tasted the good word of God. They should hunger and thirst for more. They were not to fall back into their old ways of worship.

Move on — vv. 9-10. The writer says he is confident of the reality of the Christians' salvation. He expects them to move forward. He feels a deep love for these brothers and sisters. Though the admonitions had been stern, they were meant for the good of the people. He is aware of their acts of devotion in ministering to other believers, in the past and now at present.

Maturity in the Christian life is a goal toward which we should all strain. We can achieve a steady growth in Bible knowledge and its application to life when we are sincere in our studies and prayers. We are open to the Spirit as we live day by day. ■ — Allen is editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.



Using spiritual gifts effectively

By Jerry Chapman

Explore the Bible Lesson

Focal: I Corinthians 14:12-25

This is the third time Paul addresses spiritual gifts. Why should we use our gifts? Believers should use their spiritual gifts to build up the church and to communicate the Gospel to unbelievers. The purpose of any spiritual gift is to build up the body of Christ and not to edify any single believer. Every believer is gifted by the Holy Spirit. When it comes to the ability of prophecy those so gifted should exercise this gift more than the gift of speaking in tongues.

Use your gifts to build up the body of Christ — vv. 12-19. The Corinthians were "zealous" for spiritual gifts, especially the gift of speaking in unintelligible ecstatic speech. During a worship time, the Corinthians were abusing their gift which caused considerable confusion.

Paul corrected them by indicating that people need to understand what is being communicated in a public worship service. Even if it was a "prayer" spoken in unintelligible speech there should be an in-

terpreter present to inform the group what is being said. No matter what one believes about the presence of this gift today if people are left in a confused state in worship it is not right.

Intelligible speech or prophecy was preferred (v. 19). Love should bathe any gift. There should be order in worship (vv. 26-33, 38-40). This includes using our "mind" or rational thinking part of our being. If an unbeliever is present then the grave possibility is that they will not hear the message clearly and understandably enough to respond to Christ. Even though Paul evidently spoke in tongues himself he believed it caused confusion and doesn't allow the Gospel message to be understood by unbelievers. The bottom line is: Do what is done to edify the body of Christ.

The world is in such a confused state today that deliberate confusion should be avoided, especially as it relates to presenting the Gospel. It must be presented as clearly and as unhindered as possible.

Use your gifts to communicate the Gospel — vv. 20-25. Notice the reference to winning unbelievers to faith

in Christ. Paul wants whatever is done in worship and proclamation to be clear and unhindered. A person is more "mature" when he uses the gift of prophecy. If we are bent on using unintelligible speech then people will not only not hear the message clearly but will refuse to listen and be forever bound to their lost state.

Unbelievers see people who speak in tongues as "mad" or crazy. Thus, unintelligible speech is more for the unbeliever and prophecy is more for the believer. Prophecy convicts and calls people "to account" or to be responsible before God. Proclaiming the Gospel has its intended effect: helping people enter into a right relationship with God.

It is important that we don't get so involved with what is self gratifying that we forget the real reason for doing God's work. We are to use our gifts for the building up of the church and proclaiming the Gospel to a lost world in need of Christ Jesus. ■ — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.

Woman's Missionary Union

Auxiliary to Tennessee Baptist Convention



"...labourers together with God" (1 Cor. 3:9a KJV)

Carol Richardson, President
Executive Director-Treasurer
Vickie Anderson, Associate
Amanda Day, Associate
Carrol Kelly, Associate

July 30, 1997

Dear Church WMU Directors and Brotherhood Directors:

"Seeking ... Loving ... Sharing" is the theme for the Season of Prayer for State Missions. September is the time to promote state missions as well as the Golden State Missions Offering. Church WMU directors have already received the promotion packet containing posters, tabloid with mission stories and information, a sermon outline to share with your pastor, as well as other promotion helps. This year we are excited to offer a new opportunity for promoting state missions.

The Aug. 13 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will include a special insert. This insert is the season of prayer tabloid, "We've A Story To Tell." All subscribers of our state paper will receive this missions information. In addition, because Aug. 17 is *Baptist and Reflector* Day, churches that normally do not subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* can order copies of this issue for their members.

This is an excellent opportunity to share state missions information with your church members as well as introducing them to the *Baptist and Reflector*. Our state paper is a friend of missions, weekly sharing mission stories from Tennessee, the United States, and around the world.

Contact the WMU Office in Brentwood at (615) 371-2038 for promotion materials such as posters, clip art, video (\$10), or a State Missions Banner (\$20) that is 2' x 5'.

Contact the *Baptist and Reflector* office in Brentwood at (615) 371-2003 by Aug. 7 to order copies of the Aug. 13 issue or clip and return the coupon below to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. You will not only be observing *Baptist and Reflector* Day, but you will be introducing your members to the wonderful world of missions in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Carrol Kelly
Interim Executive Director

Observe Sunday, Aug. 17, as *Baptist and Reflector* Day in your church!

Please send _____ copies of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Church _____

Address _____

Your Name _____

Title _____ Phone Number _____