

REFLECTOR

this week's news

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As new president

Annuity Board trustees elect O.S. Hawkins

Baptist Press

DALLAS — O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas, has been elected the seventh president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hawkins, 50, will begin his work with the Annuity Board Oct. 1, 1997, and Paul W. Powell, current president, will become a consultant to the board until his 65th birthday in December 1998.

Hawkins was elected in a unanimous vote during a brief, called meeting of the board of trustees Sept. 12 at the Hyatt DFW Hotel at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Hawkins, pastor of First Church since August 1993, was born in Fort Worth, Texas,

and received degrees from two Texas schools.

"This was the most difficult decision in my life," Hawkins told a news conference after the board meeting. "I sensed a call of God to this expanded ministry."

The prominent Dallas pastor was offered the nomination by an eight-member presidential search committee named in November 1996. Chaired by J. Ray Taylor, a retired Fort Worth insurance executive, the committee brought a list of 12 "qualities, traits and/or characteristics" for approval by the full board of trustees in Febru-

ary 1997 before beginning a nationwide search that ended in early September when Hawkins agreed to allow his name to be presented.

Timothy E. Head, chairman of the trustees, when asked at a news conference what Hawkins' salary would be, said it was in the mid-point of a salary range, but would not disclose the range. Head said the salary was "a trustee matter."

Taylor told the trustees the committee was unanimous in its recommendation and Hawkins "met all 12 of our desirable traits."

Powell, Annuity Board president since March 1990, said, "I commend the presidential search committee, their chosen nominee, and the full board of trustees. Dr. O.S. Hawkins

brings to the office a solid track record of leadership, and pastoral ministry. I am excited for him, and I am excited for the Annuity Board."

Head said Powell would continue with the board as a consultant to Hawkins. Powell had announced willingness to step down prior to his 65th birthday in late 1998.

With assets exceeding \$6 billion, the Annuity Board manages active retirement accounts for more than 80,000 Southern Baptist ministers and other employees of churches, agencies and institutions. Some 27,000 annuitants in pay status receive benefits that total more than \$200 million a year. The board has more than 400 employees in its offices located at 2401 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas. ■



HAWKINS

Camps Carson, Linden slated for renovations, improvements

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Action taken at the Sept. 5 Executive Board meeting here allows plans to continue for renovation of Camp Carson and Camp Linden.

Eventual renovations and improvements will provide improved facilities with broad capabilities for Tennessee Baptists, including lodges and conference centers.

There was no recommendation for a "lock and key conference center/camp project not to exceed \$10 million," as mistakenly reported by the Baptist and Reflector.

Specifically, the board okayed four recommendations from its Central Administrative Committee:

- (1) Develop a basic design for Phase I of the project which includes site excavation, utilities, lodge and conference center at both camps. (Money for development of the plan was approved by board action at the Sept. 6, 1996, and May 7, 1997, board meetings).
- (2) Begin an involvement campaign to raise \$5 million in cash, and \$1.5 million in volunteer labor and donated materials. [The campaign is to be aimed at individuals].
- (3) Report to the 1998 Tennessee Baptist Convention the status of the campaign, cost of the project, and seek permission to begin construction.
- (4) Construct the disaster relief buildings, maintenance facilities at both camps,

and manager's home at Camp Carson utilizing volunteer labor and the Executive Board coverage funds for 1996-97 at a cost estimated to be \$450,000.

The committee reported that the Involvement Campaign leadership team for funding will be recruited and in place prior to the TBC annual meeting in November.

Pledges will be solicited beginning early next year with a pledge total to be reported to the September 1998 Executive Board meeting.

The design phase of the project will continue to refine the design to meet the budget identified. The Central Administrative Committee will report to the board by next September a contractor's price for final approval.

A year ago the board approved a concept plan from the CAC for master plans for developing the camps, to serve as "the guiding blueprint for the development of both properties."

At that time master plans were presented to the board. The CAC was empowered to begin implementation of the master plans on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.

The Kemp Group of White Oak, Penn., is the consultant for the long-range project.

One of the main thrusts in the renovations and development is to make both camps better equipped for adult ministries. ■ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

It's budget planning time in Tennessee; include your Baptist state paper

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Do you want to know where Southern Baptist missionaries are working, and what they are doing?

Are you concerned with evangelistic efforts across Tennessee?

Does it matter to you that Tennessee Baptist associations are gearing up for fall meetings, and that the annual meeting for the Tennessee Baptist Convention is coming up soon?

Are you aware of needs in your association, your church? Do you feel a need for more information about all the TBC does?

Well, there's an answer for you. The official news agency for all Baptist news is your very own state Baptist newspaper, the Baptist and Reflector. And it won't break the church budget if a subscription for every family is included in the church budget.

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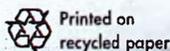
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IMB trustees elect missionaries with state ties

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — Trustees of the International Mission Board recently approved six missionary couples with strong Tennessee ties to join the nearly 4,200 Southern Baptist IMB missionaries sharing Christ in 127 countries among 336 people groups.

They were appointed during a Sept. 7 service at First Church, Dallas.

Mike and Amy Pardue Boone will serve Mozambique, where he will work in agricultural development and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Mrs. Boone, though born in Louisiana, considers Memphis her hometown and Temple Church there her home church. She also served as a North American Mission Board summer missionary in Tennessee.

The Boones have two children.

Troy and Mary Albritton Donahoe were appointed as missionary associates in the Central and Eastern Europe region. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Donahoe is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown, and served as associate pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Tennessee church staffer Rex Hunter and his wife, Rebecca, will live in equatorial Brazil where he will promote music in the churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1993 Hunter has been minister of music and youth at North Springfield Church, Springfield.

Mrs. Hunter is the daughter of D. Frank and Una M. Bell of Cosby, where her father is pas-



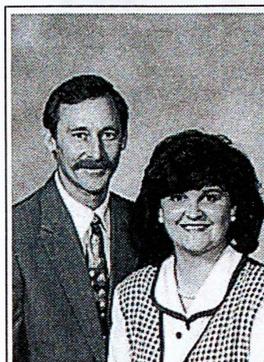
THE BOONES



THE DONAHOES



THE HUNTERS



THE LIMBAUGHS



THE WHITES



THE WOMBLES

tor of Webb Church, her home church. She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Hunters have two children.

Andrew and Angela Limbaugh will live in South Africa where he will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Though both are South Carolina natives they have lived in Memphis and both consider Kirby Woods Church there their home church. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

The Limbaughs have four

children and are expecting their fifth child in November.

Brian and Angela Wilson White will live in Argentina where he will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Mrs. White was born in Lawrenceburg and is the daughter of Haskel and Ruby Wilson of Goodlettsville. She considers Nashville her hometown and Lockeland Church there her home church. She is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Whites have three children.

Jeff and Cindy Womble will

live in Pakistan where he will start and develop churches and she will be involved in a number of outreach ministries.

Mrs. Womble is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and he is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. He served as a worshipper at Bellevue Church, Cordova, and both consider Bellevue as being influential to their Christian growth.

The Wombles have three children.

All the couples, except the Limbaughs, will go to Rockville, Va., in October for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field. The Limbaughs will go to orientation in January. ■

According to recent study

Ministers earn less, give more than other professions

Associated Baptist Press

CAROL STREAM, Ill. — Ministers are paid substantially lower compared to other professions, tend to be generous with their money, and are in debt, according to a recent study published in *Leadership* magazine.

According to the report, published in the magazine's Spring 1997 edition and summarized in the Sept. 1 *Christianity Today*, the median salary for pastors is about \$33,000.

That compares to average or median salaries in other fields such as \$100,000 for a director of engineering, \$96,229 for school superintendent, \$97,000 for manufacturing vice-president, and \$160,000 for

top executive for a non-profit organization.

The majority of pastors (60 percent) earn between \$25,000 and \$49,999. Three percent indicated their salary was \$75,000 or more.

The study found that 13 percent of ministers moonlight to supplement their income.

While almost half said they do not feel financially content, 70 percent of pastors said they rarely or never feel resentful about lack of money.

Almost two-thirds of pastors said their family tithes before taxes. Including those who give away 10 percent after taxes, the figure jumped to 76 percent.

Only 35 percent, however, said they

preach that their congregations should tithe.

More than half of pastors said they pay off their credit-card balances each month. For those who carry a balance, the median credit-card debt is about \$3,000, half as much as the average American's outstanding balance of \$5,800.

Ninety percent of pastors in the survey said it is appropriate for a pastor to ask for a raise, but 63 percent of those who feel financially discontented have never done so. Of those who have asked for a raise, only 13 percent said they didn't get one.

Nearly 40 percent of pastors said their churches do not have a policy for even cost-of-living raises. ■

If we all get to heaven, can we live together?

Going my way is an old movie title — but it's a valid question for Tennessee Baptists today.

We're so sure we are going to heaven and we are certain that our route is the best. We may be surprised at those who are there — when we just knew "they" wouldn't make it. How could they — even Tennessee Baptists need lessons on togetherness!

And, by the way, at times it seems that we ought to be witnessing to each other — because we are sure the "other" group is the "bad guy!" (You're already thinking about "them," aren't you?)

First Corinthians 13 is often called the "Love Chapter" of the Bible but we may have forgotten that. Specifically, when Paul begins listing the qualities of love with verse four, we need to stand at attention and listen closely — with heart and mind. *We must not stop loving each other.*

We are reminded that love is patient, kind, not jealous or conceited, not proud, not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable — and listen up — love does not keep score (doesn't keep a record of wrongs).

Paul also reminds us that love is unhappy with evil, love never surrenders, and its faith, hope, and patience never fail! They never fail!

Love must not be held in check, kept at bay, locked out of our discussions. It won't help to use good manners just to gloss over our dislike for each other.

If we are true to the mind of Christ,

and try to obey what he teaches, we will be careful about our attitudes toward each other. And we will act that way regardless of how "they" act.

Perhaps it's not the editor's responsibility to chide — but the editor so dearly loves the Tennessee Baptist Convention, that he will try to help, even if it means giving unsolicited advice.

No one should object to differences of opinions, and we should always hear those with concern. But it's the attitudes that kill us. What we've expressed thus far in this editorial will be discussed, and some people won't like it at all. Others may like a little bit, and some may agree totally. That's okay.

We need to conduct ourselves as righteous representatives of Christ — assuming the best instead of the worst about other Tennessee Baptists.

We have said it before, and here it is again. There is enough blame to go around. There is sufficient ill will all around to condemn both sides.

There's an acrostic that defines EGO like this: **E**-dging **G**-od **O**-ut. Did you get it, edging God out of our lives?

Personal egos ought not to treat God that way.

There may be many reasons why Baptists sometimes have difficulty with personal relationships — with each other. Here are a few opinions we've heard:

— "They" are favored, they have more on boards, etc., than we do.

— "They" aren't loyal to the CP.

— "They" won't cooperate.

— "They" give to CBF, Mid-America, James Dobson, BWA, (you fill in the blanks).

— "They" bypass the state office and give directly to the SBC's CP.

— "They" don't use SBC literature.

— We talk about fellow Baptists without always checking the facts.

— We delight in putting labels on each other, i.e., conservative, moderate, liberal, fundamentalist, Bible thumper.

— There's a planned effort to "control" the boards, etc., by "them."

— There's a move to overhaul the boards, etc., and throw "them" out.

You see, we don't trust each other, though we are kin in the body of Christ.

So what do we do about it. Why don't we try electing more laity to leadership? And maybe time can be given for some frank, honest talk face-to-face, to replace gossip, accusations, and rumors.

We know this is a serious matter, and aren't making light of it. It is so serious that serious attempts must be made to overcome our differences.

No one denies that some Tennessee Baptists don't like the direction of the convention and are trying to change it by getting like-minded messengers to the annual meeting in November. That's their privilege. But let's not throw out the things that are right with the nominating process. — *WFA*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

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

Husband: "Yes I do."

Wife: "Well, when was it?"

Husband: "It was the same day that I got the birdie on the sixth hole."

Take this truth

Most of us remember the things we think are the most important. Cicero said, "Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things." Combine that with a statement of George Eliot, "The true art of memory is the art of attention." I appreciate those teachers who made me memorize. It developed my youthful mind for adult responsibilities.

Memorize this Scripture

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. — Ecclesiastes 12:1

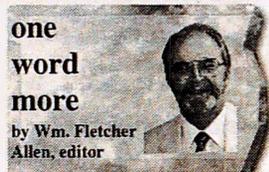
Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to take advantage of the opportunities that come to me while I am still able to take advantage of and profit from them. ■

Who said that?

"The body of Christ in reality, like the world, is marred by divisions — not the kind that reflect diversities of gifts and ministry but the kind that mirror fault-finding, bitterness and unforgiveness and what the Bible calls the works of the flesh." — James Leo Garrett, Southwestern Seminary professor who has just retired. Garrett spoke at a recent chapel on campus.

And the pastor said, 'We are our brother's keepers'



one word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

It was black, no moon, and only two pin points of light from the front of the Land

Rover. We had been traveling for about an hour and I could not help thinking — what am I doing here, riding in the rear of a Land Rover crossing a roaring river, straddling railroad tracks!

I remembered the very recent train ride with people packed to overflowing in every passenger car. I recalled the jumbled sounds of foreign words pelting our group.

And suddenly I asked, "What would happen if a train comes along and wants the whole track?" The driver laughed and responded, "I guess we'd give it to him."

Peering through the blackness that surrounded us, I could visualize the roaring river below us and the swamp ahead that we had to drive through.

We made it. In about half an hour, John Logan stopped his vehicle in front of a huge villa — which was his.

The Baptist rancher, transplanted from Florida, had met us in Siquirres, a sleepy village near Costa Rica's Atlantic coast.

The train had transported our group from Turrialba across the lush mountains. Pastor Wilfred Watkins and several others from the Siquirres Baptist Church met us and walked us to the church — where a great feast was prepared for us.

I was one of three adults traveling with about a dozen young people who had come to present a musical and to have VBS for children of missionaries.

There were many serendipities on that trip. We were hosted by Jackie and Arlene Cooper — dear friends and kindred spirits. It was our first trip to Costa Rica, and it was memorable.

Pastor Watkins, well past 80 at that time, had been a worker in the construction of the Panama Canal. He was ordained to preach when he was 80. He led us down the street from the train station

to the little church building.

As we walked along the dusty street, I was overwhelmed at the warm welcome of these loving Black brothers and sisters.

They won our hearts as we neared the church. We were only a few, and every church family wanted one of us as a guest. They fussed over us until Pastor Watkins finally said, "I've already prepared a list." His words were met with audible groans.

The Logan family had "joined up" with the church. They took some of us across that river by train track, and others were spread out in the community.

We were notified before bedtime that the pastor had planned a 5 a.m. prayer meeting at the church.

Do you know something? Recognizing there was not an option, all of us were there. The church prayed for us, and replaced money stolen from one of our youth on the train ride. Pastor Watkins said, "We are indeed our brother's keeper."

Even now, I still don't know who got the greater blessing, but I think it was the guests. ☺☺☺

Observe Anti-gambling Sunday; it's scheduled for Sept. 21



By Barry King
For Baptist and Reflector

There are many important reasons for opposing gambling because of its severe social consequences which ravage society. It should never be forgotten that there also are compelling moral and biblical objections to gambling.

Scripture emphatically condemns coveting. Coveting, the inordinate desire to possess what belongs to another, is classified with such hideous sins as fornication, idolatry, and extortion. All covetousness — sexual, sensual, or material — is abhorred by God and deplored by Scripture.

The Scriptures are replete with warnings concerning material covetousness. The decalogue explicitly forbids the desire for the goods of another (Ex. 29:17). The prophets denounced the schemes of unscrupulous men who desired the possessions of the poor and powerless and devised means to secure them (Micah 2:1-2). Jesus warned that believers should be on guard against covetousness and affirmed that the real meaning of life is not measured by material possessions but by the spiritual possession of a relationship with God (Luke 12: 15). Paul also spoke against it.

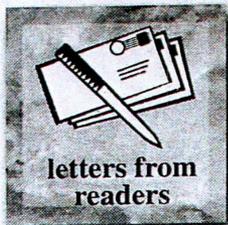
Like unscrupulous men who failed to escape prophetic denunciation, today's gambling entrepreneurs have devised schemes by which to defraud the poor of their meager resources.

Such elaborate hoaxes as casinos, lotteries, race tracks, bingo, video poker, and other electronic games of chance have at their root the covetous desire to enrich the gambling operator to the detriment of the players as well as the community.

And there are people who desire to attain material wealth and possessions, so they participate in gambling activities. They forget that material needs are to be met by working rather than wagering.

Hebrews 13:5 reminds us to avoid covetousness, and to be content with what we have. Let's observe Anti-Gambling Day on Sept. 21 with commitment. ■

King is a trustee of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, SBC, and pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church, Tumbling Shoals, Ark.



letters from readers

about letters

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

Retreat set for Women on Mission

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The annual Retreat for Women on Mission will be held Sept. 19-20 at Trinity Church, Cordova.

The theme for the weekend event is "For the Living of These Days."

Rosalie Hunt, a retired missionary to the Philippines, will lead Bible study and Eileen Mitchell of the Alabama Baptist Convention staff will lead music.

Missionary speakers include Carol Henson, Chile; Diana Lewis, Arkansas; Tim Cox, Memphis; and Leslie Durham, Yemen.

Conferences will be offered on a variety of topics including "Power Praying," "I'm A Complex Woman," "A Garden Path to Mentoring," and more.

Cost of the retreat is \$15. For more information, call Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union at (615) 371-2038. ■

Golden State Missions Offering

Goal:
\$1,325,000

Historic meeting set

Invitations recently have been sent to every church Sunday School director for the inaugural meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Sunday School Director's Association.

The Oct. 17-18 meeting will be held at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. If you are serving in your church as the Sunday School director and did not receive an invitation, please call me at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2055. You need to be in place for this historic meeting.

Tim Holcomb, leader
Christian Growth
Development Group, TBC
Executive Board Ministries
Brentwood, 37024

Cooperation vs. control

Usually I do not write about problems we Christians have, but try to see the answers that God provides for us.

After reading this week's *B&R* and hearing comments about the direction Texas Baptists are taking, I think it is time to look back and see how we have come to this place.

As I remember, the breakdown of the SBC started in Texas. There were those who sought to control and managed to gain this power. At that time cooperation seemed far from their minds. Now, as we hear the comments of some of the SBC leaders, we wonder about their blindness in years past when these changes were taking place.

If Texas is to be a new starting place for cooperation, I for one, will be much in prayer for them.

Dorothy Blake
Alcoa 37701

Soul sick

I have just finished reading the front page of the (Sept. 10) *Baptist and Reflector*.

I am soul sick and heartbroken that a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would ever be nominated for president of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board. How-

Poland leader thanks Tennessee Baptists for help at seminary



The summer months are passing quickly. We have been quite busy at the seminary. Just last Friday we finished a day camp project. We had a group of volunteers from Nashville who organized activities such as games, crafts, and Bible studies for the children in our neighborhood.

We have had a partnership with Tennessee for the last three years. We feel sad because the day camp project was the last one done with our friends from Tennessee. We are very grateful for all the projects, and help in terms of prayers, people, and the money we received from our brothers and sisters. We will miss them very much. Our hope is to be in touch with all of you in prayers and maybe do some projects together in the future.

This week we are hosting a group from one of our churches. They decided to get together

and spend a week learning more about God, and to relax.

We are looking forward to starting a new academic year. This year is going to be very special to us because we received permission from Billy Graham to establish "The Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism." We want to make evangelism a central part of our curriculum. Our prayer also is for God to use the seminary and its graduates to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in Poland to those who do not know him in a personal way.

We thank you for all your support. We appreciate your prayers and your generous donations. As you well know the needs are always great and we are very grateful for any help we get.

May God richly bless you as you seek to serve Christ and his kingdom.

Gustaw Cieslar, rector, Baptist Seminary
Radosc, Poland

ever, to be elected to such an important position is beyond words.

This tells me the direction our state convention is going. It's time folks that we pray up, get up, and stop it before it's completely too late.

May God have mercy on us all and the work of Tennessee Baptists.

Jim Carr, pastor
Middle Creek Church
Oliver Springs 37840

Correction needed

I must respond to inaccurate statements attributed to Guy Milam and myself in the Sept. 10 *Baptist and Reflector*. Bill Sherman referred to a letter we mailed in December of 1996 and attributed the following statement to us, "all we need to do is to have a majority at the state convention for two years, and we can take over the convention and change the liberal teaching in our colleges." No such statement was made. The actual statement was "years of moderate dominance will be reversed." That is quite different from "take over the convention."

Nearly 3,000 of these letters were sent and I encourage you to track one down and see for

yourself which version is accurate.

Bill Sherman went on, in response to our statement concerning liberal teaching, to say "we don't need this, it's no one's business, church to church we have soul freedom."

I have had individuals deny that liberal theology is being taught in our schools and I have had a few to argue that we need academic freedom, but I've never been told it's no one's business. In fact, the presidents usually begin their reports by saying, "this is your school." Are they referring to the Executive Board or to all Tennessee Baptists? I believe every Tennessee Baptist has not only the right but the responsibility to speak out and participate in the process when we believe change is needed.

Charles Bailey
Louisville 37777

In the news story, I was quoting Bill Sherman. Though he said he had a letter he was not reading from it. I regret if my writing was not clear. — Editor

Seeks pastor

Trinity Baptist Church, a congregation of about 120 peo-

ple located in Metterich, Germany, which is near Bitburg, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is comprised mainly of people connected with the American military.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If God is leading you to serve as pastor in a mission setting, please contact me at PSC 9 Box 4666, APO AE 09123.

Jim McGinnis, chairman
Pastor Search Committee
Trinity Baptist Church
Metterich, Germany

Missions request

My husband and I will be going to south Chile on a building project in the near future and some churches have asked us about the possibility of taking used choir robes that they can use.

Please contact us if you have adult size choir robes your church could donate or sell for this project to help a church in Chile. You can reach me at (615) 898-1926 or write to the address below.

Clara Brincefield Huff
2902 Regency Park Drive
Murfreesboro 37129

Article serves as a reminder that time truly does fly

an occasional word

by Lonnie Wilkey
associate editor



It seems like it was only last month when we brought Joanna home from the hospital, and it was only yesterday that she headed off bright-eyed and eagerly to kindergarten. Now, she's no longer "little." She is officially a "youth" at our church — in the seventh grade.

I read a wonderful article last week by a

My "little" girl will be 12 years old next week. It just can't be possible. It seems like it was only last month when we brought Joanna home from the hospital, and it was only yesterday that she headed off bright-eyed and eagerly to kindergarten. Now, she's no longer "little." She is officially a "youth" at our church — in the seventh grade.

Norman Jameson, who works for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and edits their publication, *Charity & Children*. In his article, he talks about his son, Nathan, who left home to enter college this fall. "It's a brief journey from the hospital to college," he wrote.

Norman added: "The shortest measurable unit of time is the moment between the delivery room cry and the dorm room good-bye." How true.

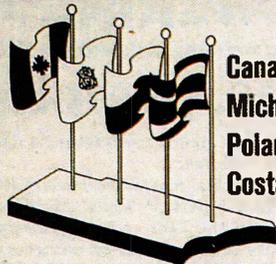
Norman talked about how he wished someone had warned him long ago of how fast their children would grow up and leave home. I'm glad he warned me now while there is still some time left.

I'll think of that story the next time I'm dead tired and Joanna wants me to pitch or kick a soccer ball with her, or when Daniel, our 8-year-old, wants me to play basketball with him.

I'll think of that story the next long trip we take and Joanna and Daniel are engaged in their favorite pastime — arguing with each other. Some day the memories of those trips will sound like sweet music.

Norman's story was a reminder to live in the present — to love your kids now, to spend time with them, to involve yourselves in their lives, to let them know you care, to be there when they need you most.

If I fail to do that, I won't be just letting Joanna and Daniel down, I also will be letting myself, Joyce, and God down. ■



Canada
Michigan
Poland
Costa Rica

The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships —
Canada, Poland, Michigan, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

From your missionary

Let me introduce to you the new ministry assistant of the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, Kim Huff. Kim joined our team last month, and she has already proved to be invaluable.

Kim has a heart and calling to missions, and she stands ready to assist you. In fact, let me allow her to speak for herself.

"Greetings, my name is Kim Huff, and I am from Sevierville. I am a recent graduate of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

"While at Tennessee Tech, I was involved with the Baptist Student Union in which I served as state BSU president from 1995-96 and was missions chairperson from 1996-97. I participated in several missions trips with the BSU.

"I also served as a local volunteer with Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries for six years working with summer missionaries, craft fair ministry, and theme park

ministry.

"Missions has been a large part of my life over the last few years. I believe that each Christian has a role to fill in ministry. Ministry can be working and living missions whether long-term as a vocation or short-term when meeting the needs of those around us who have not experienced the love of Christ."

Now that you know Kim, let me conclude. Some projects for 1998 have arrived. Please call us, and let Kim and me help you find a project that's right for you.

God Bless,

Levy



SHARP

After flooding in Poland

SBC Disaster Relief awaits assignments

By Marcia Knox
For *The Macedonian Call*

The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Assessment Team to Poland is awaiting word on needed flood recovery projects after severe flooding hit the country and Eastern Europe in July, according to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

The town of Wroclaw suffered the most damage, along with nearby villages. The interior of Second Baptist Church, Wroclaw, was destroyed by flooding, and the homes or property of five members of First Baptist Church there were damaged. Also, homes near Second Church, where many low income families live, were flooded.

Within the next two weeks, the Wroclaw Flood Committee, which is made up of members of the two Baptist churches,

will make their specific recovery needs known to the SBC Disaster Relief Assessment Team.

That team will pass them on to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Awareness and Involvement Group and Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team. Tennessee Baptists are interested because of the partnership relationship held with Polish Baptists.

The SBC Disaster Relief Assessment Team returned last week from Poland. It was made up of National Disaster Relief Director Mickey Caison, based at the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., and TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions specialist Terry Sharp.

Caison and Sharp toured the Wroclaw area Sept. 2-9 where recovery is continuing from the flooding and met with the Wroclaw Flood Committee.

According to Caison, the national office has developed a list of priorities which includes the area around Second Baptist Church, to help the low income families who are suffering from the impact of the flood.

"We will have a very narrow window of time to help Poland because of the arrival of winter here," Caison said. "December will be the latest we can foresee being here."

SBC Polish missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw are already filing needed projects with Sharp.

Interested individuals or representatives of churches or teams willing to help in Disaster Relief recovery in Poland may contact the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090.

The TBC is concluding a three-year partnership with Poland at the end of December. ■

State collegiate team serves church in Costa Rica

For *The Macedonian Call*

A Tennessee partnership team of Baptist Student Union students recently returned from a missions effort in Costa Rica where they painted a church, did creative ministry and evangelism, and led sessions on youth topics.

The five-person team was selected in February by a committee made up of students and directors of Tennessee Baptist Student Unions (BSUs). The opportunity to go to Costa Rica was first announced at the Fall State Student Convention. Many applicants applied for positions

through Tennessee Collegiate Missions. The trip was funded by BSU students through its Collegiate Missions fund.

The team selected included Martha Hampton, student at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Joy Williams, student at Union University, Jackson; Phil Baker, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; Brad Tharp, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and Martin Klinghard, Collegiate ministry specialist at Walters State Community College, Morristown, who also served as the team leader.

"When I found out that I had been chosen to go to Costa Rica

with three other college students from Tennessee, I was both excited and worried," said Baker. "My worries soon vanished when I met my team mates and arrived in San Jose."

The original project called for the team to work with the University Center Church in San Pedro doing light construction and painting a nearby school. However, plans changed and the team ended up painting the educational building of the church. According to pastor Juan Carlos Castro, it had not been painted in 20 years.

"Every day some church member prepared lunch for us at the church," Baker said. "Rice was served with almost every meal, and we drank fruit juices. Brad (Tharp) was the first to try any unfamiliar dishes," he reported.

During the Wednesday evening service, Tharp shared his testimony as Williams, a missionary kid who grew up in Honduras, translated in Spanish. In the Sunday morning service, Klinghard preached and Williams sang and translated. The students al-

so performed drama dressed as clowns, led by Hampton and Baker. The dramatic presentations were successful because they were wordless and required no translation. One Costa Rican church member said, "God has no language barrier."

"I was a bit reluctant to become a clown," Baker added. "But Martha (Hampton) provided the inspiration as she told the children the story of Noah's Ark as only a clown could tell the story."

The second leg of their trip was to a town on the Pacific Coast called Puntarenas. There the team did youth ministry, clowning, miming, and evangelism. This port city is economically depressed, but the people are very proud and spirited, according to Klinghard.

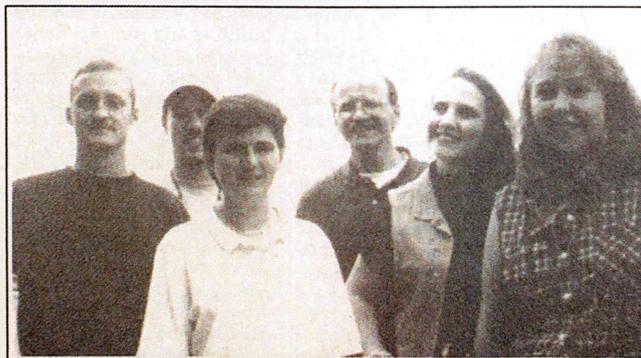
In youth meetings, the BSU students shared testimonies about what God was doing in their lives. In smaller sessions they spoke on parents, dating, and other youth topics.

Another evening, Klinghard led a Thursday evening Bible study at the church with Williams translating. Several decisions were made at the service.

"Mission trips outside of — See State, page 6



HUFF



WORKING WITH Missionary Sue Smith, third from left, are team members, from left, Brad Tharp, Phil Baker, Martin Klinghard, Joy Williams, and Martha Hampton.

Spectacular Rio de Janeiro — beauty, slums, promise

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
For *The Macedonian Call*

Have you heard? Tennessee Baptists have partnerships in missions with Baptists in other places! And you can go too!

If you believe the Great Commission of Christ, you will respond by giving, praying, and going.

Most Tennessee Baptists are familiar with the Great Commission — which Christ issued to all disciples (followers), and not only to those who were physically present when he spoke the words, "You go ... " For all disciples, for all time — while there is yet a person anywhere on earth that has not heard the Gospel — the message is the same.

We've given, we have prayed, and now it's the going that really challenges us.

As editor of *Baptist and Reflector* for more than ten years, I quickly latched on to Partnership Missions. While editor of the Maryland/Delaware state Baptist paper, I had made several trips to the African nations of Burundi and Rwanda in partnerships.

On the first trip, my life was changed. Yes, it is true that the partnership volunteer can gain more from a trip than those to whom the volunteers minister.

The Tennessee partnership parade for me has included Venezuela, the Philippines, Chile, Canada, Poland, Costa Rica, and a potential partner, the Carioca Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Some of these places I've visited more than once, and each time has provided blessings.

I was with the advance team in April surveying the Carioca Convention, to explore the partnership mission possibilities.

The team of five, and a couple of other survey groups since then unanimously agree — yes, we need to partner with Carioca. The Executive Board, TBC, okayed the partnership and is recommending it to messengers of the

TBC's annual meeting in November.

Let's pray for that discussion and vote.

Rio de Janeiro, one of the world's largest cities with at least 8-9 million population, encompasses the entire Carioca Convention.

There is more than enough for Tennessee volunteers to do. There are needs of all kinds, and projects are available for all spiritual gifts. *Every TBC entity, colleges, Children's and Adult homes, all Executive Board groups — can participate.*

In the few days we visited as the advance team, missionaries Elizabeth Oates, Memphis, and Marilois Kirksey, Abilene, Texas, showed us Rio — site of millions of people with hundreds of needs.

We looked at churches, missions, sites for church planting and Bible studies, a home for rescued street children — you name, we saw it.

We met mission pastors, children without homes, recovering drug addicts, volunteer nurses and musi-

cians, people who openly invited us to return quickly and bring Tennessee volunteers.

I was impressed that Rio convention leaders were prepared for a partnership. They say their prayers will be answered when the TBC approves the partnership. In short, they are convinced we can work together for much good in the service of Christ.

Another impression is that we saw churches of various sizes using tremendous innovations in evangelization. They seem to recognize that the church exists for the lost people — and church members are servants.

Oates and Kirksey showed us possibilities in extreme. For example, volunteer businessmen, doctors, attorneys, may be the only people who can reach affluent professional who live and work in spectacular high-rise buildings.

On the other hand, the home for street children needs help from anyone with compassion and time to give.

Many churches are located intentionally in the midst of huge slum areas. I preached in two of these churches. Horto Mission and Amizade Church are nestled in the heart of drug-infested slums, yet their ministries are propelled by intense devotion and compassion in the hearts of pastors and church members.

But Rio is a place of contrasts. Its beauty is exquisite, unmatched. And its poverty is extreme.

There are large "green" areas within the city confines — somehow striking a balance between slums and the homes and work places of the rich.

Tennessee Baptists, this is a place where you can lose your hearts in mission action. So, don't go to Rio without praying and giving a strong commitment to Christ. You won't have any regrets if you go — but you may have many if you don't because others will. **B&R**



RESIDENTS of a home for homeless children pause during their activities led by their supervisor, who is a former "street child" like most of the children. The home is provided by Baptists in the Carioca Baptist Convention.

Memphis church team labors at Canadian seminary State collegiate team serves ...

For *The Macedonian Call*

Of the 17 members of Broadmoor Church, Memphis, who served in Canada recently, 11 were participating in their first missions experience away from home.

During the later part of 1996 several members at Broadmoor church began praying for a mission trip for 1997. "When we were made aware of the partnership with Canada, everything fell into place for

the mission trip," said Hollis H. Bowling, president of the Young At Heart Club at Broadmoor.

The church accepted the assignment of doing landscaping and building wind breaks around student housing at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta.

Church members besides Bowling who participated were Ron and Dawn Chastain, Joe and Linda Hamer, Roger and

JoAnn Helms, Harry and Mary Ann Blackford, Howard and Jean Sigler, Fred and Sue Nichols, Shirley Bowling, Debbie Carrincross, Darin Wray, and Seth Billings. Billings served as the team organizer and leader.

Team member Harry Blackford described the group.

The Broadmoor group consisted of a variety of people, from those with young children to seniors with grandchildren, from high school graduates to graduates with multiple college degrees, from craftsmen to people with professional vocations, said Blackford.

"With all our differences, God was able to use our talents and interests to complete the as-

signed goals. God worked a miracle in the group by setting aside individual desires. Not once did I hear a complaint about a task," he said.



Canada

Blackford added that it was very satisfying to see individuals who didn't know each other well before the trip working together as a team on the trip.

"The time we spent at the seminary was one of the most fulfilling and fun experiences we have ever had," reported team members Dawn and Ron Chastain. "We will always remember the sense of accomplishment that we felt at the end of each day's work."

According to the Chastains, they will remember especially the new friends that they made among the seminary staff. "Not only did we make new friends, we also got to know the other team members from our church better."

Another impression of Canada was expressed by Bowling. "Canada is truly a field white unto harvest," he said, referring to John 4:35. ■

—Continued from page 5
this country mean many new things, and especially new friends," Klinghard said. "The BSU students developed strong friendships with each other, with the Costa Ricans, and with the Southern Baptist missionaries."

Baker said, "One of the things I took away from this trip was a better understanding of what my foreign missions offering goes toward. Our financial and prayer support help the permanent missionaries to better minister and buy supplies."

By getting to know missionaries like Sue and Greg Smith, the students now have a better understanding of what missionaries do, Klinghard said. "To be involved in their work gave the students a new appreciation of the sacrifices that all missionaries make and a renewed commitment to pray for them."

Baker added, "I thank God and the TBC for my time there, and I know that God will continue to work there." ■



THE BROADMOOR CHURCH team poses in front of the Canadian Baptist Seminary's sign.

Clarksville church ministers in Kalamazoo

For The Macedonian Call

A 29-member missions team from Hilldale Church, Clarksville, found out this summer that a place called Kalamazoo really exists. The team worked a week at Victory Church, Kalamazoo, Mich. They landscaped, worked on the church facility, and led Backyard Bible Clubs.

The Hilldale team was composed of adult and youth volunteers. The adults reworked the church's landscaping, painted a ramp for handicapped people, painted parts of the church, and replaced gutters on the church, which is pastored by Joe Shaler. Verlon Moore, pastor at Hilldale, also led three leadership and evangelism conferences for local ministers.

The youth led three Backyard Bible Clubs in the morn-

ings. With clowns, puppets, music, and recreation the Hilldale youth drew 70 children from a mobile home park and two subdivisions.

In the afternoons, the Hilldale youth targeted teenagers in the community. They hosted a "Pizza Pig-Out" and a

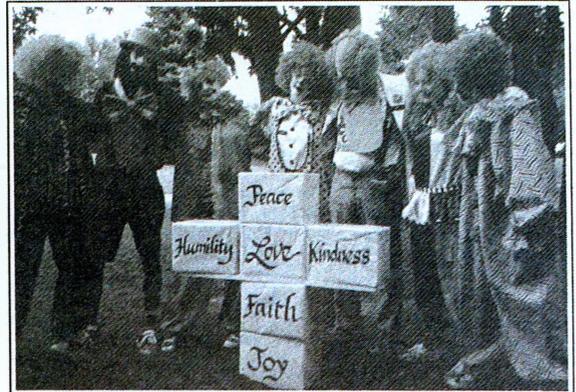
youth rally at Victory Church.

A total of 52 youth attended these activities, and 16 young people made professions of faith as a result of the Bible clubs

and Youth Rally. Waller Boyer, minister of youth at Hilldale Church, led the youth missions activities. ■



SUMMER MISSIONS workers of the two churches, Hilldale Church and Victory Church, gather at the church's sign and pose for a photo before the Tennessee group departs.



THE CLOWN TROUPE of Hilldale Church performs a skit in a park in Kalamazoo.

Two associations cooperate on another Michigan project

For The Macedonian Call

A joint team made up of members of churches from Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations worked together again this summer in Michigan.

This missions effort is an annual event for both associations who have been working together for five years. The effort is coordinated by director of missions Buddy Strickland, Sequatchie Valley, and Roy Davis, Cumberland Plateau.

This year a 36-member team did construction work at Oakland Woods Church, Clarkston, Mich.

The volunteers installed sheetrock in a 9,000-square-foot addition to the church's existing building. The project required about 405 sheets of 12-foot by 54-inch by 5/8-inch sheetrock. The group finished the project, including mudding and taping the sheetrock, by working 12-14 hours a day for five days.

However, the group enjoyed the time. They spent a lot of time together so they got to know each other better and they enjoyed times of fellowship with members of Oakland Woods

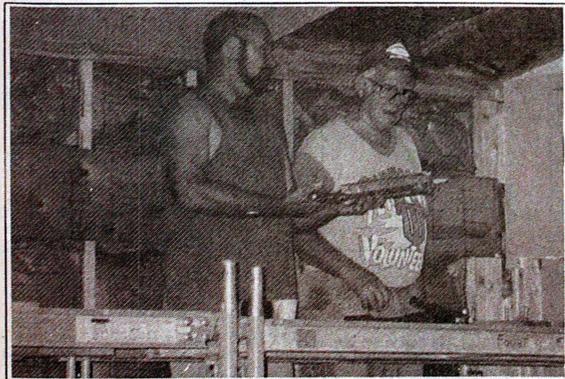
Church, the pastor of which is Bob Gale. The projects are planned to allow for such fellowship, the DOMs explained.

"It is a real joy to work along side of Roy Davis and the volunteers from his association," said Strickland. "The volunteers from our association look forward to this, not only in doing the job assignment, but they also look forward to seeing old friends again."

A member of the team agreed with the leaders. "Besides offering the work of my hands to the glory of God, one of the most gratifying things about missions construction is the fellowship," said Dorothy Dale, wife of Willard Dale, pastor of Cumberland View Church, Crossville. "Each year, we make new friends at the host churches so my 'family' is constantly expanding."

"The people of Michigan are a great people," said Davis. "We thank them for loving and blessing us when we have these opportunities to serve together."

Plans are now underway for the next cooperative missions event between the associations, which is set for July 11-18, 1998. ■



TENNESSEANS Alan Kirkland, left, and Roy Davis, director of missions, Cumberland Plateau Association, work on a church in Clarkston, Mich.

Clinton church group helps congregation in Michigan

For The Macedonian Call

A 15-member team from Edgemoor Church in Clinton recently helped a new congregation in Michigan prepare for its constitution service as a church which included a baptism.

Amazing Grace Church in Portage, Mich., has been meeting at its present site for a year, but had not been able to spruce up the building, which is more than 50 years old, or complete a baptistry.

The Edgemoor Church team, made up of 10 adults and five children, worked July 26 - Aug. 2 to complete the baptistry and worked on the interior of the building, which had not been painted for more than 10 years. The congregation constituted Aug. 3, the Sunday following the group's service.

The Tennesseans also helped the church with evangelism and outreach by conducting Backyard Bible Clubs in area neighborhoods.

"When we left Amazing Grace Church, its building was bright, shiny, and clean for an exciting Aug. 3 baptism service and constitution service," said Lola Byrd, 71-year-old member who served as cook for the team. "It was hard work, and we

worked late, but the church people were wonderful to us."

To complete the baptistry, volunteers did electrical, plumbing, and carpentry work. The group installed eight ceiling fans in the sanctuary, moved walls, and did other electrical work. The Edgemoor group also painted the sanctuary and some classrooms and wallpapered other rooms.

"We've got the talent in our church to do missions," said Byrd. What is needed to recruit members for such an effort is publicity and follow-up which will provide for future groups. "You never know who you will inspire to do missions," she explained.

The group was unusual in that it included children. The Edgemoor included David and Linda Brooks and children, Josh and Elizabeth; Jeff Morris and daughters, Megan and Lauren; Vivian Steele and son, Kailen; Linda and Barry O'Brien; Bill Brown; Patsy Longmire; and Patsy Hurd, a member of Big Creek Church, Rogersville.

The Michigan congregation held a dedication service Aug. 1 to thank the Tennesseans. The Amazing Grace Church is led by Preston D. Porter, pastor. ■



MEMBERS OF THE Clinton church team gather at the Michigan church where they served this summer.

Costa Rica Projects

Music

Project #: CR71998801
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Music
 Annual Music Camp needs a camp voice teacher to work with young people.

Project #: CR71998802
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Music
 Annual Music Camp needs a music camp teacher to help advanced musicians learn publication quality composition/arranging in Spanish.

Project #: CR71998803
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Music
 Annual Music Camp needs a choir director for about 80 campers to teach Spanish music with evangelistic theme.

Project #: CR71998807
 Dates: Aug. 10-17, 1998
 Location: Cartago/Tres Rios
 Description: Music
 A country music group of 5 is needed to perform in schools, universities, public places, churches, etc.

Creative Ministry/Evangelism

Project #: PM71998811
 Dates: Jan. 15-24, 1998
 Location: Cartago
 Description: Creative Ministry/Evangelism
 A team of 20 is needed for creative ministry as well as street evangelism during the annual National Sports Games.

Family Ministry

Project #: CR71998804
 Dates: March 13-23, 1998
 Location: Heredia
 Description: Family Issues Workshop
 A team of 5 is needed to help Central Church in Heredia provide family issues workshops and offer guidance on counseling.

Michigan Projects

Evangelism

Project #: SW-2
 Dates: Open
 Location: Lawrence
 Description: Evangelism
 Good Samaritan Church needs a team to lead a survey for a Spanish church.

Project #: M-1
 Dates: Open
 Location: Roseville
 Description: Children's Evangelism
 Bethel Church, Roseville, needs a team to conduct a BYBC and evangelistic outreach to children.

Church Planting

Project #: M-3
 Dates: ASAP
 Location: Port Huron
 Description: Church Planting
 The Macomb Association in

Port Huron needs a church planter for evangelism, leadership development, and some music work. Project length is 1-2 years.

Community Service

Project #: UP-1
 Dates: June 1998
 Location: Gwinn
 Description: Community Service
 A team of 25-50 is needed to clean up, paint, and present youth concerts/dramas in several locations.

Project #: N-1
 Dates: June 6 - Aug. 15, 1998
 Location: Roscommon
 Description: Lifeguard
 A team of 1-2 is needed to supervise a waterfront at a summer camp and do general maintenance.

Construction

Project #: N-3
 Dates: Spring/June 1998
 Location: Higgins Lake
 Description: Construction
 A team is needed to paint, frame, and do drywall work on a new building for Two Lakes Church.

Summer Missionary

Project #: W-1
 Dates: June 1 - Aug. 7, 1998
 Location: Holland
 Description: Summer Missionary
 A team of 2 is needed for evangelism efforts with churches in association.

Project #: N-2
 Dates: June 1 - Aug. 8, 1998
 Location: Roscommon
 Description: Summer Missionary
 A team of 2 is needed for evangelism efforts with churches in association.

Project #: GD-1
 Dates: June 1 - Aug. 7, 1998
 Location: Detroit
 Description: Summer Missionary
 A team of 8 is needed at Baptist Center in inner city Detroit to work with children, senior citizens, and homeless people.

VBS/BYBC

Project #: B-1
 Dates: Open
 Location: Birch Run
 Description: BYBC
 The Bay Area Association needs 5 or more volunteers for a BYBC.

Project #: G-1
 Dates: June 1998
 Location: Linden
 Description: BYBC
 A team is needed to do a BYBC and Block Party with outdoor concert for new church start.

Project #: SC-1
 Dates: Summer 1998
 Location: Kalamazoo
 Description: BYBC/VBS, Construction
 A team is needed to do a BYBC/VBS and work on church sanctuary.

Project #: G-2
 Dates: July 12-20, 1998
 Location: Fenton
 Description: BYBC/VBS, Construction

A team is needed to do a BYBC/VBS and new construction on building.

Project #: O-1
 Dates: July 18-24, 1998
 Location: Madison Heights
 Description: VBS Survey
 A team of 12-14 is needed to lead a VBS, survey, and other evangelistic efforts.

Canada Projects

Construction

Project #: PM31997605
 Dates: Open
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Construction
 Volunteers are needed to buy and renovate a bus for a mobile chapel.

Church Planting

Project #: PM11997636
 Dates: Open
 Location: Surrey, B.C.
 Description: Church Planting
 A team is needed to help begin a congregation. They will lead a BYBC for Vietnamese children and support the congregation through prayer.

Project #: PM11997622
 Dates: Open
 Location: Vancouver, B.C.
 Description: Church Planting
 A Tennessee church is needed to partner with Gladstone Church in sponsoring a new congregation for Mandarin-Taiwanese people.

Evangelism

Project #: 97NOR017
 Dates: July 18-26, 1998
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Evangelism/Construction
 A team is needed to provide entertainment at Prince Albert Exhibition and do light construction at a church.

Project #: 97NOR018
 Dates: July 18 - Aug. 1, 1998
 Location: North Battleford, Saskatchewan
 Description: Evangelism/VBS
 A team of 3 is needed to do a VBS, visitation, crafts, drama/puppets.

Project #: CA-20
 Dates: Aug. 3-11, 1998
 Location: Halifax
 Description: Evangelism
 A team is needed to give exposure to Southern Baptist ministry in Halifax at parks, malls, etc.

Project #: 97NOR016
 Dates: Sept. 19-27, 1998
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Evangelism/Music
 A team of 10-12 is needed to hold nightly revival services with music and drama.

VBS/BYBC

Project #: CA-18
 Dates: July 13-24, 1998
 Location: Northwest Edmonton
 Description: VBS/Community Survey
 A team of 4 is needed to do a VBS and survey focusing on low income people in the area.

Project #: CA-19
 Dates: Aug. 2-11, 1998
 Location: Halifax
 Description: BYBC/Prayer Walk

A team is needed to lead BYBCs and prayer walks, and conduct opinion polls.

Poland Projects

Construction
 Project #: 11997440
 Dates: Open
 Location: Warsaw
 Description: Renovation
 Baptist Union needs a volunteer to replace steel grill work on its building.

Tennessee Projects

Construction

Project #: T-3
 Dates: Open
 Location: Crossville
 Description: Construction
 Lantana Road Church in Crossville needs a team to seal a roof on a metal building.
 Contact: Brian Branam, (615) 788-1577

Project #: T-4
 Dates: November
 Location: Springville
 Description: Construction
 A church in Springville needs a team to provide help with asphalt, electrical masonry, painting, plumbing, drywall, roofing, etc.
 Contact: Rev. Kenneth Basham, (901) 644-0318

Project #: T-13
 Dates: Open
 Location: Nashville
 Description: Construction
 Covenant Church in Nashville needs help with framing, roofing, and interior finishing of building.
 Contact: Van Molding (615) 271-5469

Project #: 93
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rossville
 Description: Construction
 Gospel Light Church needs team of 15-20 youth/adults to help repair low income homes.
 Contact: Les Sanders, (901) 853-8366

Project #: 94
 Dates: Open
 Location: Jackson
 Description: Construction
 Greater Hope Day Care needs team of 5-10 to do light construction for one week.
 Contact: Richard C. Lee, (901) 423-6290

Project #: 96
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 New Song Church needs a team of 10 youth/adults to repair neighborhood homes.
 Contact: Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868

Project #: 102
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rossville
 Description: Construction
 Rossville Church needs a team of 5-10 adults to install a driveway. Bring equipment.
 Contact: Ted Powers, (901) 877-3734

Camp

Project #: T-6
 Dates: May/September 1998

Location: Benton
 Description: Camp
 Camp Agape in Benton needs volunteers to serve as kitchen help, camp nurse, general maintenance worker, and craft workers. Teams of 3 adults per week are needed.
 Contact: Andy Jordan, (423) 338-4153

Project #: T-7
 Dates: May/September 1998 (weekends only)
 Location: Benton
 Description: Camp
 Camp Agape in Benton needs teams of 4-8 each week and weekends to conduct river hospitality and campground ministries. Creative arts/sports and BYBC workers can work 2 weeks or entire summer.
 Contact: Andy Jordan, (423) 338-4153

Project #: T-11
 Dates: Aug. 2-8, 1998
 Location: Elizabethton
 Description: Camp
 A team of 15-20 is needed to staff a local children's camp. Team will lead games, sports, hikes, teach Bible stories, and work with Big A Club workers.
 Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: T-11
 Dates: Aug. 2-8, 1998
 Location: Elizabethton
 Description: Camp
 A team of 15-20 is needed to staff a local children's camp. Team will lead games, sports, hikes, teach Bible stories, and work with Big A Club workers.
 Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Health Care

Project #: 103
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Health Care
 Brinkley Heights Alliance needs a team of 5-10 health care professionals or medical/dental students to conduct screenings for 1 week.
 Contact: Judy Jackson, (901) 372-2373

BBC/VBS

Project #: T-8
 Dates: June 22-27, 1998
 Location: Elizabethton
 Description: BYBC/Community Improvement
 A team of 10-20 is needed to provide BYBC, VBS, or Big A Club at Hale Community Ministries for children ages 5-12 from public housing.
 Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: T-10
 Dates: July 19-25, 1998
 Location: Elizabethton
 Description: BYBC/Community Improvement
 A team of 10-20 is needed to provide BYBC, VBS, or Big A Club at Hale Community Ministries or children ages 5-12 from public housing.
 Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: 108
 Dates: Open
 Location: Jackson
 Description: VBS
 Up to 40 teams of 6-10 youth/adults are needed to hold one-week VBSs or BYBCs in apartment areas or for Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations.
 Contact: Carol Vaughan, (901) 668-5690

Project #: 109
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: VBS
 Monument of Love Church needs teams of 5-10 youth to

lead VBS and other related duties for two weeks.
 Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

Project #: 111
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: BYBC
 New Song Church needs teams of 10 or more youth to lead BYBCs in public housing community building in church neighborhood.
 Contact: Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868

Miscellaneous

Project #: 113
 Dates: Year Around
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Clothing Ministry
 Brinkley Heights Church needs individuals or team of youth to work in clothing room. Volunteers are needed for 1-2 days per month for 2 hours per day.
 Contact: Janie Hemminger, (901) 458-0617

Project #: 115
 Dates: September-April
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Tutorial Ministry
 Brinkley Heights Alliance needs individuals (high school age youth/adults) to tutor grade school children on Thursdays for 2 hours. This is one-on-one tutoring.
 Contact: Jeane Billington, (901) 372-7477

Partnership Prayer Requests September

- 17 — Pray for the members of the International Church in San Jose, Costa Rica, as they seek to relocate the church from a radio station to a permanent home.
- 18 — Pray for the State Single Adult Retreat in Michigan Oct. 3-5 at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center.
- 19 — Pray for Clare Bremer, president, Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.
- 20 — Pray for the state Fall Marriage Retreat in Michigan Oct. 10-12 at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center.
- 21 — Pray for Sid and Ruth Carswell, as they lead the International Church, San Jose, Costa Rica, to start Bible studies outside the church.
- 22 — Pray for the Executive Board, Baptist State Convention of Michigan, which meets Oct. 27.
- 23 — Pray for Mainstay Ministry Center and Thrift Store in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and its director, Kim Warren. The volunteers are working to develop team building skills.

IMB trustees affirm agency's vision, organization for 2001

Baptist Press

DALLAS — On their knees in prayer surrounding 14 new overseas regional leaders, trustees of the Southern Baptist

International Mission Board signaled unanimous support for the final stage of an overseas operations revitalization begun earlier this year.

In the hours preceding the prayer session, the new regional leaders described their vision to take the Gospel to the entire world and not just portions of it. They also reviewed their plans to implement creative ministries and approach-

es on every continent. The board's new regional leaders recounted spending hours, even days, praying with personnel in their regions for God's leadership in the new directions.

The board's reorganization expands the number of overseas administrative units from 10 to 14, covering every population group outside North America. In many places — particularly in areas where Co-

operative Services International, the former relief and development arm of the board, and former geographic areas overlapped — personnel who have never worked together are being combined into new team configurations.

Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations, described the regional leaders' presentation to trustees as "historic." He said it marked the beginning of a ma-

major new advance in Southern Baptist international missions.

The presentation reflected the agency's shift from focusing on 194 countries to targeting 12,862 people groups in the world. IMB President Jerry Rankin said he envisions a day when Southern Baptists are reaching every people group overseas, bolstered by the work of 15,000 full-time missionaries — more than three times the current 4,200 workers. ■

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Executive Board Position Openings

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces that applications are being accepted for the following positions:

Missions Awareness & Involvement Group — Administrative Secretary
 Administrative Services — Support Services Assistant
 Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37214, or calling (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position.

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY in Eureka Springs, Ark! Super \$33 Group package includes the best (\$14.50) tickets, plus fun, lodging and meals! (Special \$2 Sept.-Oct. discount w/ this ad). **KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, (501) 253-8418.**

Classified

MUSIC POSITION: Salem Springs Church, a small, growing church in Murfreesboro, seeks bivocational minister of music. If interested, contact Larry Hayes at (615) 898-1239 or Sharon Lamb at (615) 896-5701.

PART-TIME POSITION: Hobson Pike Church, Mt. Juliet, seeks part-time youth director. If interested in an exciting opportunity to build a youth group, contact Rita DeLacey at (615) 443-0616 or Pastor Chuck Groover at (615) 885-4002.

PART-TIME POSITION: Merton Avenue Church seeks part-time minister of music. Interested? Send resume to Merton Avenue Baptist Church, 337 N. Merton, Memphis, TN 38112, or FAX to: (901) 458-5106.

FULL-TIME POSITION: FBC, Joelton, seeks a full-time Minister of Music to oversee age-graded choirs from preschool through senior adult and have significant responsibilities for senior adult ministry as well. Send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080.

FOR SALE: 6-foot Yamaha Grand Piano — C3, high polished black lacquer, excellent condition, \$14,000 or best offer. Call (901) 323-9100.

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Position Open

The Cincinnati Baptist Association is now accepting resumes for the position of Associational Missionary. The Associational Missionary would oversee Associational staff, offer support for churches and their staffs and direct the area churches in missions. The successful candidate should have a seminary degree, 10 years experience as a pastor, and experience with starting new churches.

Resumes can be sent to Associational Missionary Search Committee, 735 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio, 45040.

125th Anniversary Celebration — Sept. 28 Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

"Celebrating the Past — Looking to the Future"

Join us for worship at 10:30, dinner on the grounds at noon, a time capsule presentation at 1:30, and a worship service at the former Smyrna Church at 2 p.m. For more information, call (615) 364-7453.

Third Baptist Church in Murfreesboro invites you to their 50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 21

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — **Celebration Worship**
 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. — **Covered Dish Luncheon**
 2-4 p.m. — **GOLD CITY in Concert**

For more information, call (615) 893-8192
F. Murray Mathis, Pastor

Church pews for sale

Following church furniture is for sale: Solid white oak padded pews — 25 9'6"; 6 12"; 2 11"; 2 6'6"; plus 2 pulpit chairs, one pulpit, one communion table, 3 offering plates. Receiving sealed bids to be opened Sept. 27. Bidder will be notified. To view, call Pastor Guy Milam at (423) 977-9115; or members at (423) 856-2240; (423) 982-5371; or (423) 856-0442. Church reserves right to reject bids.

Send bids to Springview Baptist Church, 4220 US Hwy. 411 S., Maryville, Tenn. 37801.

Houseparents Needed

The Boys Ranch of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes at Millington is in need of a full-time husband and wife houseparent team.

The Boys Ranch is searching for a devoted Christian couple whose calling and commitment would find fulfillment in this ministry to troubled teenage boys. Experience with cattle and/or farm work desirable.

For more information, please call collect: Mr. Bert Sutton, TBCH vice president, at 901-872-0839.

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leaders

■ **Conyer Walker** has been called as pastor, Riverside Church, Nashville. Formerly pastor of First Church, Bruceston, he will begin duties at his new pastorate in October. **Dick Adkinson**, interim pastor, will be available for interim or supply work beginning Nov. 1. He may be reached at (615) 643-8813.

■ **George Siler** has been called as minister of youth and recreation, effective Sept. 1. He was associate director for World Changers when it was based at the former SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Siler is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

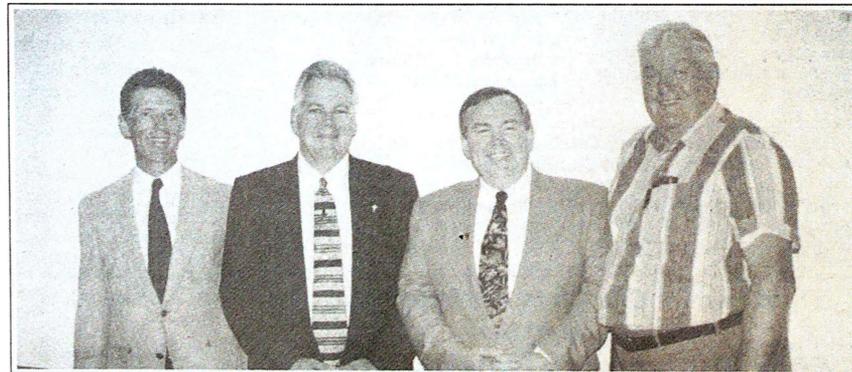
■ **Russell Trotter** began serving Aug. 24 as pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La. native is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



TROTTER

■ Hillhurst Church, Nashville, has called **Joel C. Tilson** as pastor, effective Sept. 14. He comes from the pastorate of North Johnson City Church, Johnson City. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Lu Anne, have three children.

■ Lyons Creek Church, Strawberry Plains, has called **Michael E. Driver** as pastor. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, MT. JULIET, located on the northwestern end of Rutherford County, recently celebrated its 170th year of continuous and uninterrupted worship services. The day was highlighted by a message from Pastor Glenn E. Smith who challenged the church to be bold and aggressive in fulfilling its mission. The church was organized in 1827 with 33 charter members and has been a member of Concord Association since that time. Participating in the celebration were, from left, Mike Scott, minister of music; Pastor Glenn E. Smith; Jim Powers, director of missions, Concord Association; and Houston Garvin, deacon chairman.

■ **Grandview Church**, Maryville, recently celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day, honoring five years of service by their pastor and his wife, **Byron and Betty Gibson**. The couple were given a gift and a memory book following a fellowship meal in their honor.

death

■ Retired pastor Oscar Garrett died recently while helping to conduct a funeral in Knoxville. He was pastor of at least five churches in Grainger Association — Puncheon Camp, Lea Springs, Washburn, Helton Springs, and Central Point.

churches

■ **David V. Brown** will begin serving Sept. 28 as minister of education/administration at Dalewood Church, Nashville.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will have a tent revival



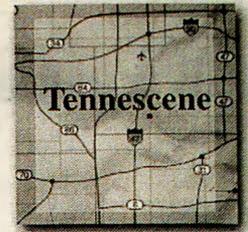
JOHNSON GROVE CHURCH, ALAMO, celebrated its 160th anniversary Sept. 7 with homecoming, dinner on the grounds, and a concert by The Fincher Family and Steve Hughes. Church members originally thought the church was 150 years old, but when they researched the deed, they discovered it was dated Dec. 1, 1837. Joining in the celebration were, from left, Gary Williams, director of missions, Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations; Pastor Elzie Danley, James Stephenson, chairman of deacons; and Kent Freeman of Union University. Williams presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, while Freeman presented a framed certificate from Union.

Sept. 21-25. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sept. 21 and at 7 p.m. the following nights. Ronnie Owens of Clinton is guest evangelist.

■ **Island Home Church, Knoxville**, will hold its 137th homecoming celebration Sept. 28 beginning at 10:45 a.m. My-

ron Wallace Weaver, associate pastor of Winfree Church, Richmond, Va., will address the congregation. A covered dish luncheon will follow the service.

■ **Johnson Grove Church, Alamo**, held revival Sept. 8-10. Guest evangelists



were Pete Criner, John McCommon, and David Green.

■ **Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 21 with a celebration service at 10 a.m., followed by a covered dish luncheon and a concert from 2-4 p.m. by GOLD CITY.

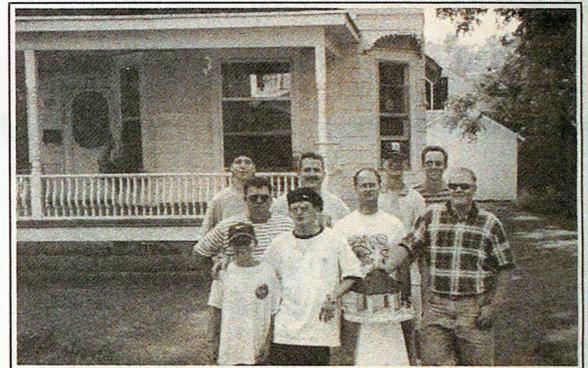
■ **Bethel Church, Parrottsville**, will hold homecoming on Sept. 28, beginning with the 11 a.m. worship service.

associations

■ **Watauga Association of Baptists** is seeking resumes for the director of missions. Resumes will be accepted through Nov. 1, and may be mailed to Watauga Association of Baptists, 3871 Hwy. 19E, Elizabethton, Tenn., 37643.



ON AUG. 9 the Dyersburg Site BSU and Dyer Association sponsored a one-day youth event called Breakout designed around the theme "Developing a Servant's Heart." Sixteen churches involving 260 youth, college students, and volunteers enjoyed a full day of worship, teaching, recreation, and time for "random acts of kindness" where students could go to a local nursing home, wash vans at Union Mission, or pick up trash on the campus of Dyersburg State.



A TEAM FROM Swannsylvania Church, Dandridge, recently sent a mission team to work in southern Michigan. The team did construction work and conducted Vacation Bible School in Frontier, Mich., and a Backyard Bible Club in Jonesville, Mich. More than 50 children were enrolled in VBS, supervised by Bruce Hunt. Clifford Kelly supervised the work in Jonesville. Team members pictured in front of Lighthouse Mission, that is served by Kelly, are, from left, first row, Andy Chrisman VI, Daniel Taylor, Dusty Williams, second row, Don Lane, Mike Hensley, third row, Blake Woody, Andy Chrisman V, Zeke Woody, and Tim McLaha.



JOHN RUSH, center, of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, accepts a check from the Joseph and Christopher Hughes R.A. chapter at First Church, Watertown. The RAs held a game-a-thon to raise the money which was used to send several children to camp.

The one and only response

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — Philippians 3:2-11

Thus far in our study of the exclusive nature of the Christian faith, we have seen that there is one God (Sept. 7), and there is one Savior (Sept. 14). What kind of response should we make to the God who made us and the Savior who died for us?

The title of this lesson says there is only one response. How I wish that were true! But after being a pastor and preacher for 40-plus years, I have found that not everyone is willing to believe. Or, they want to believe what they want to and reject the rest. There is among us today a creeping universalism. The subtle temptation when some refuse to believe is to water down the Gospel. But that is not what the Bible clearly states: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is not any other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, NIV).

The title of the lesson is correct. The only worthy response to the Gospel is to believe in Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior.

1. Beware of false boasting. Philippians 3:2-3 The dogs here are those vicious animals which ran in packs. They are not the lovable household pets. They are evil workers who were trying to add essential works to the saving power of Jesus Christ and the grace of God. Jesus taught this when he said that his Gospel was not going to be a new patch on an old garment nor new wine in old wine skins. Jesus taught that his Gospel was going to be altogether new.

Paul says our only glory is not in ourselves — our only glory is in Jesus Christ. But Paul adds, "if any person wants to brag about their heritage (flesh and human accomplishments), let me tell you about myself."

2. Notice Paul's advantages. Philippians 3:4-7 (1) His racial inheritance (3:5a). He was circumcised the eighth day. (Genesis 17:12; Leviticus 12:3) His parents were Jewish. He was not a proselyte nor a convert to Judaism. He was of direct Israelite descent. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He lived kosher and spoke biblical Hebrew. (2) His personal achievement (3:5b-6). Regarding the law he was a Pharisee — a defender and expounder of the Law. Regarding enthusiasm — he hunted down the church. Concerning righteousness — no one could accuse him of failing to keep the oral tradition of the Law. Saul of Tarsus was a prime example of the Jewish faith.

3. Paul exchanges trash for treasure. Philippians 3:7-8. Paul's experience on the Damascus Road forever changed his role as a persecutor of Christians. His proud Jewish heritage and achievement as a law-abiding Pharisee were cast aside as trash. Why? Because he had experienced the presence and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's ambition for his life was to know Christ, to be found in Christ, to share in the fellowship of his sufferings. Paul here uses the imagery of profit and loss. He envisions a pair of scales. On one side is every human prestige and advantage. On the other side is Jesus Christ. Paul says that Jesus Christ far outweighs all human position, power, and prestige.

4. The goal of Paul's life for Christ. Philippians 3:10-11. When Paul received Christ as his own personal Savior, he received a new life. But his new life must be changed from his old life. Paul's attitudes changed, his prejudices were dissolved, his earthly goals became heavenly as he became more Christ-like. The changes that would take place in Paul's life were not of his own doing. The same power that raised Jesus from the grave would be available to him. What happened in Paul's life can also happen in the life of anyone who believes in Christ. What response have you made to the Gospel? The only worthy response is to believe in the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

A time to rebuild

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Haggai 1:2-9; 2:1-5

The Lord God used Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. This occurred in 538 B.C. However, by 520 B.C., all the Jews had to show for their rebuilding efforts was the temple foundation. The Lord raised up the prophet Haggai to address this problem of procrastination and to call the people to complete what they had begun years earlier.

The Lord exposed their selfishness (ch. 1:2-4). In verse 2, the people denied it was the appropriate time to rebuild the temple. They did not say the work was unnecessary, but there was no initiative on their part to complete the work God called them to do.

Family Bible Lesson

The Lord responded to their selfish excuses with a question in verse 4: "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?" That question exposed their selfish attitudes. They had been thinking of themselves before considering the ways of the Lord who had delivered them.

Haggai referred to God as "the Lord of hosts." This title suggests God's rule of the universe, his lordship of all nations, and his redemption of Israel. In contrast, Haggai referred to the Jews as "this people." They were not acting like the people of God.

By building their lives and homes around loyalty to and worship of God, they could have proven their covenant relationship with the Lord. An unfinished temple shed doubt about their loyalty and commitment to God. A rebuilt temple would have expressed their

love for him.

The Lord explained their sorrow (vv. 5-9). In verses 5 and 7 God challenged them to "consider their ways." Adverse events were taking place around them and they needed to know why.

Five illustrations are given in verse 6 to indicate the people's lack of satisfaction and fulfillment. They had sown lots of seed, but harvested little. They ate, but were never satisfied. They drank, but were never filled. They put on clothing, but it was not enough to keep warm. They earned wages, but put them in purses full of holes.

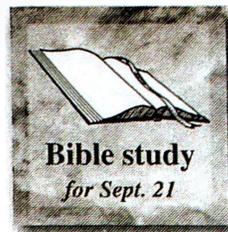
In verse 9, God is very clear why they looked for much, yet found little. His house was desolate, while they lived comfortably in their own homes. When our lives run contrary to God's will, there will never be any real satisfaction and peace.

The Lord encouraged their spirits (ch. 2:1-5). In verse 3, Haggai asked the people three questions pertinent to the temple. Their answers probably brought them despair and discouragement. The Lord through Haggai addressed these feelings so that he could encourage them to rebuild the temple.

Three times in verse 4 God encouraged them to be strong or courageous. Then he gave them his greatest encouragement: "for I am with you." To further encourage them, the Lord reminded them how he had delivered their forefathers out of Egypt and established his covenant with them. Therefore, they could be assured that his spirit was in their midst.

A favorite hymn of many states this truth: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

For Haggai, the people to whom he declared God's words, and for us today, it ultimately comes down to trust and obedience. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



Human sin and divine love

By Michael L. Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 3:4-6, 8-15, 21

Jesus Christ was and is God's ultimate solution to the problem of human sin and God's ultimate expression of his love for us. Already here at the beginning of the Bible we see the seriousness of the problem of sin as well as the action of God to address it redemptively. Genesis 3 teaches us about our sin and about God's response to our sin.

Our sin. Temptation can lead to sin, as it does in this story. Genesis 3 begins with Eve being tempted by the serpent. This serpent is a crafty creature (v. 1) who knows how to raise doubts in Eve's mind about the commands of God. He tells her that God does not want his human creation to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because in so doing they "will be like God, knowing good and evil" (v. 5). Indeed, God had commanded the man and woman not to eat of the tree (2:17). That command of God, however, like all commands of God, was designed to contribute to the fulfillment of his purpose and to contribute to human well-being. The serpent, though, led Eve to question the motives of God in giving the command. God had placed limits on humanity, but Eve, like all humans, was tempted by the possibility of being her own god. To place self rather than God at the center of our existence is the essence of sin.

Explore the Bible Lesson

From where does temptation to sin come? It comes from our environment, from those circumstances that are a part of our setting in life. It comes from Satan, who had the audacity to attempt to get even our Lord to put self interest ahead of the Father's will. It comes from within us, since "one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it" (James 1:14). All people are tempted. But the decision to give in to temptation and therefore to sin is the responsibility of the individual, as it was the responsibility of Adam and Eve.

Still, there is a communal aspect to sin. Apparently, as Eve was having this conversation with the serpent, Adam was right alongside her (v. 6). Eve handed him the fruit, and he ate. Adam was no help to Eve, though. He did not assist in the debate with the serpent. He was not a positive influence in the time of temptation. Instead, he was a silent partner in sin. To sin or not is an individual decision and action, but we children of God should be helpers to one another as we struggle with temptation.

God's response. Our sin produces consequences. Adam and Eve experienced alienation from God, as

is evidenced by their attempt to cover themselves with garments made of fig leaves and by their hiding in the garden. Their felt alienation from each other is also symbolized by their effort to cover themselves. That alienation as well as their alienation from the rest of God's creation is made clear by the verdict rendered by God (vv. 14-19).

But such alienation is not the final word in this text. After the couple's sin they are approached by God even as they try to hide from him. God is a seeking God, as his inquiry "Where are you?" (v. 9) indicates.

When human sin produces its devastating consequences, God comes seeking the sinner. Herein is grace. We also see grace in the clothing of Adam and Eve by God after he speaks his words of judgment (v. 21). It is a tender scene. Even as God is telling them of the consequences of their sin and even as he is preparing to expel them from the garden, he is protecting them and preparing them for their life outside the garden. So does God protect and prepare us for our lives on the other side of our innocence.

In his grace, God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins so that the ultimate consequences of our sin might forever be negated. Here in Genesis 3 we catch the first glimpse of that grace of God. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.



Georgia committee votes to maintain ties with Mercer

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention has overwhelmingly approved a proposal to modify yet maintain the convention's relationship with Mercer University.

The committee's vote, 77-7, came during its regular meeting Sept. 9.

Following the meeting, the proposal also was endorsed by the executive committee of Mercer's board of trustees during a closed session on a 5-4 vote.

For the proposal to take effect, Mercer officials said it would have to be approved by its 45-member board of trustees in December.

Among provisions of the proposal are an agreement by present Mercer trustees to have three conservative ministers and two conservative laypersons nominated as trustees by the 1997 convention nominating committee and the establishment by the convention of a college relations department to act as a liaison between the colleges and the convention.

The proposal came from the Mercer Relationship Study Committee appointed by the convention executive committee last year following the publication of a controversial book by Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey. Godsey's book *When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest* ignited a firestorm of protests among critics who objected to such statements as "Jesus is not God" and that the "Virgin Birth is more truth than fact." ■

Alabama executive to retire in 1999

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Troy Morrison has announced his retirement as executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention's state board of missions, effective Jan. 31, 1999.

Morrison told board members at their Sept. 5 meeting he decided to make the announcement more than a year in advance to give time for a search committee to become acquainted, organize, solicit recommendations, and screen available candidates. He also cited other reasons.

Morrison has served as executive director in Alabama since 1990. ■

In Albania, God kept working after missionaries left

Baptist Press

ELBASAN, Albania — Southern Baptist missionaries to Albania in August found God stayed put even after they evacuated the country this past March as violent mob anarchy degenerated into civil war.

"God is working in all of the churches in Elbasan," said Suzanne Lacy, who works with believers in the city, located south of the capital, Tirana.

She noted they kept meeting on Sundays and "visited in town as conditions allowed and in some of the villages where we worked at great personal risk."

The ministry is stronger as a result. The group she is working with baptized 20 believers two weeks before she returned; others are awaiting baptism. ■

First order placed on BSSB web site

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — South Side Church of Russellville, Ala.,

made history Sept. 9 by placing the first dated literature order on the Baptist Sunday School Board's World Wide Web site.

Robbie Richardson, church treasurer and Sunday School director for the church which averages "just under 100 persons in Sunday School," placed the order using a form located at <http://www.bssb.com>. He obtained a personal identification number (PIN) to ensure security for his church's account and did not have to provide billing information on line.

Richardson noted it's "a real added convenience to get on-line and place your order."

For now, online ordering is available only to churches and only for dated materials, according to Gus Reyes, director of the church growth group's sales and customer service department. Undated resource ordering will be added in the future.

Detailed instructions are provided on the BSSB web site by clicking on the "Dated Resources Online Order Form" graphic. The electronic form follows the same sequence as the printed form mailed to churches.

Within 24 hours of submitting an order, the church's order is confirmed by e-mail, Reyes said. ■

Oklahoma paper taps John Yeats as new editor

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — John L. Yeats, editor of the *Indiana Baptist* for the past 18 months, will assume the duties of editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, newsjournal of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention, Nov. 1.

Yeats, 47, a native of Caddo, Okla., was unanimously elected by the paper's board of directors at their Sept. 9 meeting.

As the eighth editor of the 85-year-old *Baptist Messenger*, Yeats will follow Glenn Brown, who will retire Sept. 30 after 10 years as editor of the fifth largest Baptist state paper.

Yeats currently serves as recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention and was a pastor in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas before becoming editor in Indiana. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of I Thessalonians

Use the Morse Code to decipher the following Bible Verse.

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-1 Thessalonians 3:12a

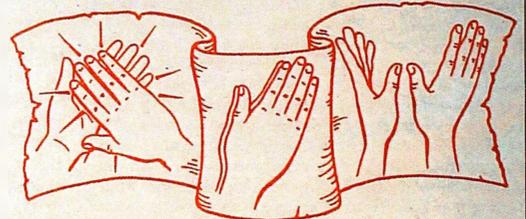
MORSE CODE

A ·—	H ····	O ———	V ···—
B —···	I ···	P ···—	W ···—
C —·—·	J ···—	Q ···—	X ···—
D —··	K ···—	R ···—	Y —·—
E ···	L —···	S ····	Z —···
F ····	M —···	T ———	
G —··	N —··	U ···—	

Fun for the Family

Just for Kids

The Book of I Thessalonians



Fill in the following verses by using the vowels a, e, i, o, u, y.

R _ j _ _ c _ _ lw _ ys,
 pr _ y c _ nst _ ntl _
 g _ v _ th _ nks _ n _ ll
 c _ rc _ mst _ nc _ s;
 f _ r th _ s _ s th _
 w _ ll _ f G _ d _ n
 Chr _ st J _ s _ s f _ r y _ _.

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Answers to the Sept. 10 Fun for the Family Puzzles

The Book of Colossians for adults

I	B	D	I	J	U	S	T	U	S	U	M	I	S	E	N	O	N
H	L	A	K	A	D	A	I	L	T	Y	C	H	I	C	U	S	
E	K	U	L	S	A	I	N	T	S	V	A	U	D	W	E	O	A
P	O	A	C	I	R	C	U	M	C	I	S	E	D	V	E	Y	R
A	S	P	H	V	B	E	E	A	N	B	R	M	E	A	R	I	
P	E	A	R	N	A	B	A	S	A	I	N	Y	M	P	H	A	S
H	E	S	I	D	R	U	N	A	Y	T	O	A	U	I	T		
R	C	E	S	V	I	E	D	S	L	A	V	E	S	E	T	T	A
A	K	L	T	X	A	S	E	N	O	D	H	R	Z	U	N	T	R
S	O	I	J	N	H	T	G	R	E	E	K	D	S	A	N	C	
U	A	T	E	X	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	E	Y	M	K	H
W	T	N	S	O	A	O	E	S	U	D	V	E	O	E	M	U	
L	O	E	U	L	R	I	A	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	S	
Y	M	G	S	L	K	A	B	H	U	W	E	F	F	R	A	O	
A	R	C	H	I	P	P	U	S	Y	G	D	L	Y	F	A	S	

The Book of Colossians for children

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY, TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER IN ALL WISDOM, AND SING PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD.

-Colossians 3:16

"Fun for the Family" is a feature of the *Baptist and Reflector* that will appear regularly.