

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 43

Statewide Edition

October 29, 1997

this week's news

- Scholar urges parents, schools to re-think Halloween. — Page 2
- Erwin church celebrates 175th anniversary. — Page 2
- TBC collegiate ministry leaders caution against new movement. — Page 3
- Stories examine churches with contemporary styles of worship. — Pages 6-7
- Senior adult musical premieres in Nashville. — Page 9
- Royal Ambassador Week begins Nov. 2. — Page 10
- TBC churches minister in Russia, Poland. — Page 12
- Foreign missions opportunities come to Western District churches. — Page 13

Former TBC presidents meet to pray, dialogue

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Answering a call to prayer from current TBC president Herbert Higdon, 18 former Tennessee Baptist Convention presidents joined him here Oct. 23 at the Baptist Center.

"We had an excellent meeting," Higdon said. "There was unanimity of mind and we were able to disarm some aspects of problems facing the Tennessee Baptist Convention in general — and the annual meeting in November."

Higdon said the prayer focus "helped us to have good dialogue." He added that there was a good atmosphere as questions were asked and answered.

James Porch, Executive Board executive director, agreed with Higdon that the meeting was positive and had good objectives.

He applauded the prayer emphasis and expressed agreement with the need for Tennessee Baptists to work together.

One product of the meeting was a desire of the former presidents for the Executive Board to reconsider the "bridge of unity" idea that was not approved at the board's September meeting.

At that meeting, board members surprisingly defeated a motion originated by board

member Paul Durham for the establishment of a committee to try to "bridge" differences among conservative and moderate elements in the convention.

First brought to the board in May, the idea was given to the board's executive committee which studied the plan and then recommended it to the board in September.

Now, apparently the board will be asked to look at the "bridge of unity" idea again.

The board next meets on the day before the opening of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Jackson Nov. 11.

Higdon and Porch agreed that the unity bridge idea should be offered again.

Said Porch, "I heartily endorse the suggestion for a special committee as posed by the former presidents. It is my prayer that the Executive Board will give serious consideration to the suggestion."

He said such a committee "could provide assistance as Tennessee Baptists work to advance the cause of Christ through evangelism and missions."

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarwood Church, Cordova, and TBC president in 1982, said spirit of the meeting was good.

"I think we attempted to grasp some of the problems facing state conventions, Tennessee in particular. I think there is a desire expressed by



ANSWERING A CALL to prayer from TBC president Herbert Higdon, 18 former presidents gathered in Brentwood Oct. 23. Among those who came for prayer and dialogue, were, from left, Ray Newcomb, Millington; Higdon; Raymond Langlois, Nashville; and Leonard Markham, Hendersonville.

all former presidents to seek avenues for continued cooperation. We didn't try to deal specifically with problems. I think it was mutually accepted there are problems that need to be dealt with."

Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, TBC president in 1993, said a unity committee could help Tennessee Baptists "to understand and appreciate our diversity," and would be an appeal to do more in cooperative efforts.

He said he was not in favor of a committee that would diminish efforts of TBC educational institutions.

Bill Sherman, president in

1978 and pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville, said the meeting was positive, with basic ideas presented "to help us with acceptance, speaking well of each other — and doing ministry and missions. We don't need anything divisive."

"Politics is not a part of this state convention," he added.

Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington and president in 1994, said the meeting was positive, but that, "We have a problem and it must be addressed."

He added, "We all must come in the unity of the Holy Spirit, believe the Bible, love Jesus, do the Great Commission — See Former, page 2

Ken Weathersby named as TBC evangelism specialist

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Ken Weathersby, black church extension specialist for the Executive Board ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention since 1993, has been named evangelism specialist for the convention.

He has been serving in that role on an interim basis since Aug. 11.

Weathersby takes over the spot vacated after Jerry King began long-term disability leave earlier this year.

A native of Mississippi, Weathersby holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a doctor of ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Miss.

Weathersby and his wife, Belva, have two children, Kenyeta and Breon.

In discussing his new duties and

dreams for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in the area of evangelism, Weathersby said he would like to see baptisms in the state double in 1998 to 50,000 through Tennessee Reach.



WEATHERSBY

"I believe through teaching the people of God to fall in love with Christ, that love will overflow into the hearts of lost people," the new evangelism specialist said.

"Also, I envision, from this office here (evangelism) that more people will be trained in witnessing. It doesn't make sense for us to do the work of 10 people when we can train leaders to share their faith and train 10 to train 10, etc.

"We will be involved in crossover events with the North American Mission Board

in small area crusades, mass evangelism, and new church starts," he continued.

"We will strive to revitalize plateaued churches and in general to mobilize the people of God."

He noted there are currently three million unchurched people in the state of Tennessee. The major components of winning the lost to Jesus Christ, he said, are training, witnessing, and mass evangelism. "Whatever needs to be done; whatever God wants to do; he can do it through us, his people, if we are willing and open to his call," Weathersby said.

"Ken Weathersby, a dynamic Christian and committed witness for Christ, brings to this position a rare combination of vision and focus — a vision for the three million lost people of Tennessee and a focus upon each person in need of Jesus Christ," said James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer. ■

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

REGUL 370
HISTORICAL COMMISSION 318
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203
900-004-10-0127



about your newsjournal

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- ▶ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 50 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$8.00, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Contact office and we will bill you.
- ▶ **To contribute a news item**, call, write, or e-mail Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- ▶ **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- ▶ **For billing and subscription data questions** — Betty Williams, book-keeper
- ▶ **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- ▶ **For information about local church edition** — the Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Ambers Wilson, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Elmer Crosby, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Ray Newcomb, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Gary Watkins
- ▶ **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
- ▶ **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- ▶ **Phone** — (615) 371-2003.
- ▶ **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- ▶ **E-mail** — 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on
recycled paper

Scholar urges schools to rethink Halloween

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — “Maybe it’s time for public schools to take a fresh look at Halloween,” a religious liberty expert suggested in a nationally syndicated column Oct. 19.

“After all, would education suffer if Halloween disappeared?” asked Charles Haynes, scholar-in-residence at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University here, and editor of its nationally used publication *Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Education*.

Haynes voiced a word of caution, however, to parents opposed to Halloween school functions: Wait until November.

“Canceling traditions, even silly ones, at the last minute makes a lot of people unhappy,” Haynes wrote in his col-

umn, distributed via the Gannett News Service.

“Once Oct. 31 has come and gone, call together parents and teachers with a wide range of views about Halloween, and begin to explore alternatives that might satisfy everyone.

“For example, many schools now substitute harvest festivals or similar celebrations for Halloween. Kids still dress up, celebrate, and have fun — without the controversy.”

Another suggestion: “Ask those parents who insist on costume parties and parades to organize them as after-school events for students who want to participate.”

Haynes observed controversy over Halloween functions in public schools “seems to be growing.

“The first objectors may have been conservative Christians, but others have joined

the fray,” Haynes wrote. “More and more parents don’t just want to opt their kids out of Halloween, they want to kill it off altogether.”

Haynes recounted, “In addition to religious objections, some parents are increasingly disturbed by the violent and ugly behavior now associated with this date. There’s more going on than the ‘trick or treat’ we knew as children.”

Of his suggestion that schools take a “fresh look” at Halloween, Haynes acknowledged it is popular with many kids and good for the economy. “But is that reason enough to celebrate the holiday in school, especially when it offends so many people?”

At the very least, Haynes advised, “make sure parents can opt their children out. Religious objections must be taken very seriously.” ■

Nabi named as contract worker

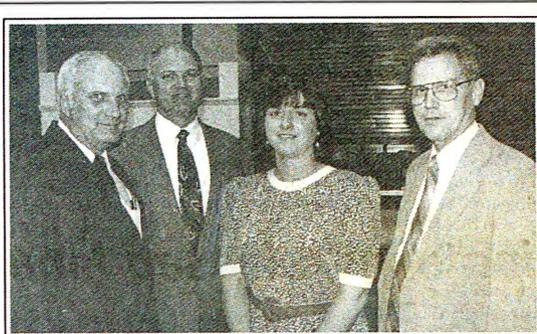
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A new position for special education has been added to the TBC Executive Board’s Church Growth Development Group.

Gene Nabi of Nashville has been selected to fill this contract position, effective Nov. 1, according to Tim Holcomb, group leader. “We are pleased to increase the emphasis on special education ministry,” Holcomb said.

More than 80 churches in Tennessee have a special education ministry. In addition, the TBC conducts two special education weekend retreats, two five-day camp experiences, and various workshops and conferences.

“The TBC has been a pioneer in this ministry and I look forward to building on this base,” Nabi said. ■



Maury Association meets

Maury Association met Oct. 21 with ‘So Send I You,’ as its theme. Officers include, from left, Dwain Brown, Rock Springs Church, moderator; Director of Missions Robert Gamble; Sandy McKinney, clerk and treasurer; and Jim Ledbetter, Liberty Church, vice moderator.

Former TBC presidents meet ...

— Continued from page 1

sion. When we glorify Jesus we will be where God wants us to be as Tennessee Baptists.

“Our purpose needs to be lifting up Jesus, leading sinners to salvation, and laboring in missions to reach our state, the nation, and the world. The only way we will ever have unity is not by our diversity, our programs, or our inclusiveness, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Former presidents who joined President Higdon in the prayer and dialogue at the Baptist Center included:

Ken Hubbard, 1996; Frank

Hawkins, 1995; Ray Newcomb, 1994; Leonard Markham, 1993; Bill Bates, 1991; James McCluskey, 1986; Raymond Langlois, 1984;

Wayne Allen, 1982; John Laida, 1981; William Palmer, 1980; Fred Kendall II, 1979; Bill Sherman, 1978;

Ralph McIntyre, 1977; Carroll Owen, 1976; Eugene Cotey, 1975;

Grant Jones, 1974; Fred Wood, 1973; and Tom Madden, 1969.

The three-hour meeting began at 10 a.m. and ended with lunch at the Baptist Center. **B&R**

First Church, Erwin, celebrates 175th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

ERWIN — First Church here held homecoming Oct. 5 and celebrated its 175 anniversary.

In 1822 the congregation formed as Indian Creek Church. It became Erwin Church in 1855 when the congregation moved here and later became First Church. It has been in its present sanctuary since 1957.

It is generally believed that Indian Creek Church was the successor of Greasy Cove Church which was organized in 1779 and was one of the seven organizing churches of Holston Association, the oldest association in the state, according to Pastor Ray Sorrells.

First Church has been instrumental in starting five other area Baptist churches, Sorrells noted.

Twenty-eight pastors have served the church since its beginning. Throughout the years First Church has cooperated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Holston Association.

Former pastor Aubrey Hay, now ministry specialist with the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, brought the homecoming message. He served as pastor of First Church from 1984-90.

William J. Purdue, who

served the church on three different occasions, also participated on the program. Tal Thompson, director of missions for Holston Association, presented the church a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. ■



HOLSTON ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Tal Thompson, right, presents a plaque to Pastor Ray Sorrells from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.



PASTOR RAY SORRELLS, center, of First Church, Erwin, visits with Aubrey Hay, left, former pastor, and William J. Purdue, who served the church on three different occasions as interim pastor.

Movement not what it seems, leaders caution

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Bill Choate, collegiate ministries specialist for Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries at Vanderbilt University here, is working with many students lately who hold a new commitment to church.

However, these students aren't communicating with their families; they are not doing well in school because of demands on their time; they can't make decisions without checking with their "discipliner," and they are contributing a lot of money to their new church.

These students have joined a church affiliated with the International Church of Christ, called one of the fastest-growing and most dangerous Christian movements today by *Christianity Today* (Sept. 1, 1997 issue).

The Nashville college students, along with other young adults, have joined Nashville Church or Nashville Church of Christ, as it also is known. A recent report in a daily newspaper here reported that it has 1,100 members. Other Ten-

nessee sites of the church are Memphis and Knoxville.

The church, based in Los Angeles, has existed since 1979 and originated in Boston, Mass. Thus, it has been known as Boston Church, Boston Church of Christ, and the Boston Movement.

Although it has roots in the Church of Christ denomination, it has lost any similarity to churches of that denomination, said Choate.

The International Church of Christ holds a theology which seems Bible-based except that it insists that one must be baptized into its church. But its practices are authoritarian and do not allow the biblical principle of the priesthood of the believer, he explained.

For example, members are disciplined by an authority figure from the church. The discipling methods have been described as abusive. Choate has heard of students being examined and counseled for up to eight hours in one session. Then they are instructed to maintain grueling schedules allowing for Bible verse memorization, Bible study groups, evangelization of others, and meeting with disciplers, he added.

The International Church of Christ responded to such criticism in *Christianity Today*. Al

Baird, the ICC's top spokesperson and an elder in the Los Angeles Church of Christ, vehemently denied that the church abuses its followers. He maintains that the group's intense focus on evangelism and discipleship is grounded in Scripture.

The church has gained acceptance. ICC reports that 145,763 are attending its Sunday services this year, according to its web page (www.icc.org). It has 308 churches in 123 countries, according to the page.

In response, Tennessee campus ministers have been informed about the ICC, said Ircel Harrison of TBC Executive Board ministries. Collegiate specialists Steve Hixon, Pellissippi State Technological

Community College, Knoxville, and Dane Anthony, Belmont University, Nashville, have reported that students on their campuses are being confronted with the ICC, said Harrison.

The response of Generation Xers to the ICC, he said, is a measure of their intense interest in spiritual matters, but their vulnerability if they don't have significant support groups.

It should be a warning call to Tennessee Baptists that we must lead young people to have a personal relationship with Christ, not just an association with a church youth group, he continued.

Nashville students are responding because of personal contacts with ICC members, suggested Choate. He estimates a significant part of the freshmen class at the school has been contacted by ICC members in just three months. Vanderbilt University is one of about 20 schools which has barred the group or denied campus registration because of allegations involving manipulative recruitment or harassment of students, reported *Christianity Today*.

Choate warned Tennesseans



to be aware that the ICC may have targeted the South. It held a national meeting in Nashville recently.

The ICC also is of concern because it's not what it seems, said Choate. Since 1988 when the ICC began recruiting students on the Vanderbilt campus, Choate has seen the church adapt to criticism. "It's amoeba-like, in that it adapts and conforms to gain acceptance," said Choate.

And it is difficult to control or reverse the impact of the movement, he noted, because members of the church respond to confrontation as persecution and accept a martyr-type role.

Choate advised parents and friends of young adults to educate them about the church and, if the young people become associated with the ICC, to try to maintain contact with the person.

"These are bright young people they are recruiting," he said. "It's amazing to think how needy people are." *B&R*



CHOATE



HARRISON

Kingsport churches participate in 'released time' pilot project

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

KINGSPORT — When 22 eighth-graders signed up for a "released time" class this fall, none knew the Lord's Prayer, only three knew the Ten Commandments and only two could explain a very basic plan of salvation.

Volunteer teacher Ann Bennett said this lack of biblical knowledge is common among public school students, with 60 percent of "released time" enrollees nationwide coming from unchurched backgrounds.

The program of biblical and morals instruction represents a major missions opportunity for Southern Baptists, said Bennett, a member of Indian Springs Church here.

"I see this as the greatest home missions opportunity Southern Baptists have," she said. "This is springtime for planting the seed. Across the nation — look at how many churches are next to schools," she noted. "There does seem to be a wall between the two, and I think the wall will grow higher as more kids go to private schools and home schooling. 'Released time' breaks down those walls but helps keep (school and church) separate."

"Released time" refers to students being released from classes to attend religious instruction of their choosing, usually for an hour or two a week. In 1952 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled it was legal if done off-campus.

Bennett is part of a 12-week pilot project involving Lynn View Middle

School near Kingsport. The eighth-graders are studying Josh McDowell's curriculum, "Right From Wrong."

Though the Sullivan County school board only approved it as an experiment, the director of a thriving South Carolina statewide effort foresees rapid growth of the released time concept.

"When people hear about it, they're amazed," said Janet Yusi of School Ministries, which has its headquarters at Augusta Heights Church, Greenville, S.C. "They say, 'It's legal? Let's do it.'"

"I believe it's one of God's key vehicles for reaching public schools in our country's history. That's why people jump on it, because they see it as an open door."

For example, 22 communities in South Carolina have classes or are planning them. That compares to three a year ago, Yusi said. They expect to have 700 students enrolled by Nov. 1, she added.

Scripture Union, a Philadelphia-based ministry that oversees School Ministries and several other programs, estimates 250,000 students are enrolled in 32 states.

National schools coordinator Grayson Hartgrove cautioned that despite the positive results in South Carolina, setting up these classes is hard work.

"There's a tremendous amount of 'spade work' and foundation building that has to be done," he said. "It's on the upswing in South Carolina because we've been out holding conferences and telling people the good news."

Yusi said traditionally many classes

fizzle because of a lack of leadership training. Her organization sponsored a recent seminar for that purpose, with 75 persons attending from a four-state region.

Citizens need to plan a broad-based effort in five areas, she said, citing finances, curriculum, human resources, community relations, and administration. "The challenge is to keep all the balls in the air and not let anything drop," she said.

She said other demands include student recruitment, complying with federal tax guidelines, educating the public about its legality, and convincing school boards to allow it.

Churches must also support an interdenominational effort, said Bennett. Her co-teacher, Sherrrena Arrington, is a member of Lynn Garden Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which hosts the class.

Kingsport's program draws support from 11 area churches from a variety of denominations. The three Southern Baptist co-sponsors are Lynn Garden, Higher Ground, and Gravely churches.

When he attended an informational meeting in July 1996, the pastor of Lynn Garden Church never dreamed "released time" would catch on so strongly and quickly.

Pastor Carl Strickler said his church voted to remain active in the area's effort after the city school board rejected a proposal for Kingsport schools last year. Members have supplied funding for instructional materials and refreshments for some of the classes, he said.

"I have seen our church participate in an enthusiastic way," he said. "This gets us in doors we wouldn't otherwise for Bible teaching. Since it's outside school property, you can teach the Bible for more than literature or history. You can teach it for its message and salvation."

However, Bennett warned that supporters must be prepared for intense opposition. Among those taking potshots at the local "released time" program have been the two major newspapers in Tennessee's fifth largest county.

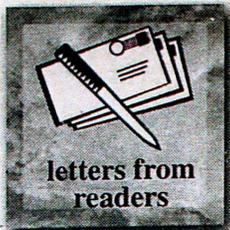
Calling "released time" a mistake, Stan Whitlock of the *Kingsport Times-News* said Christianity's virtue is as a religion, not a moral system. He noted people don't confess Christ because they think he will help them with math but because they believe he brings everlasting life.

"The Bible is not a source, or even a preamble, to ... practical knowledge," wrote the newspaper's assistant managing editor recently as part of a stinging attack.

Meanwhile, the *Bristol Herald Courier* editorialized that approval of the experiment made losers of everyone who believes in good government, democracy, and quality education.

Bennett finds the critiques "ludicrous."

"Children are spiritual beings," she said. "When they're prevented by the Supreme Court from having that aspect of their life addressed, they're not being educated. So, we are educating the students." ■



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.



Partnership

Prayer Requests

October - November

- 29 — Pray for the pastors of Baptist churches in Costa Rica and their wives.
- 30 — Pray for Elizabeth Oates, missionary to Brazil from Tennessee, who will be the partnership coordinator if it is approved.
- 31 — Pray for the convention officers and committees in Michigan as they work and plan for the future. The committees include the Executive Committee, Executive Board, and Task Force: 2000 and Beyond.
- 1 — Pray that teams will help Westhaven Church, Memphis, refurbish its church building to support the Mississippi River Ministry.
- 2 — Pray for the churches in Michigan without pastors.
- 3 — Pray for Wade and JoAnne Holmes of Whitehorse Yukon Territory, Canada. They are trying to start a church and need a sponsoring congregation.
- 4 — Pray for Doug and Marcie Shaw, Baptist representatives in southeastern Poland. They are trying to help flood victims there.

Affirms process

I am serving my first year on the Committee on Boards; therefore, I am a new kid on the block with all the work that was to be done. I have been asked many questions about the work; and I have been surprised about some of the conclusions that have been drawn. Therefore, I felt I would like to make a few statements "to whom it may concern."

First, I was very much impressed with our chairman, Clay Austin. He gave ample time for discussion and he emphasized the duties of the committee, as presented in the bylaws, on many occasions.

Secondly, most of the members of the committee were persons that I had seen but had never had the opportunity of getting to know. After all of our meetings, I never felt that any member had a "hidden agenda."

Therefore, my sincere belief is that the Committee on Boards did their best to be faithful servants to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. No extra guidelines were added to our responsibilities as presented in the bylaws; but we were encouraged to abide by the nine duties adopted by the convention in the bylaws.

It is a pleasure to work with a committee and I feel that honesty, fairness, and integrity have been observed.

The report of the Committee on Boards (page 6, Oct. 8, *Baptist and Reflector*) would be excellent to review for facts.

Archie King
Murfreesboro 37133

Clarifies giving

Recently a mail out from pastors Jerry Sutton and Roger Oldham charged that several of us serving on TBC boards and committees were not supportive of the TBC. They further argued our churches do not support the TBC. In the case of Second Church, Memphis, nothing could be further from the truth.

According to the TBC's constitution and bylaws, a church is regarded as being in cooperation with the TBC when it makes financial contributions to the TBC's causes and supports the TBC's principles, programs, and policies. Members of such churches are eligible to serve as messengers to the TBC's annual meeting and to serve on TBC boards and committees.

Second Church meets the criteria. For example, according to the TBC's accounting office, our church contributed \$98,746 to TBC and SBC causes in 1996, or about 11.46 percent of the \$861,359 we collected in undesignated and designated gifts. Many members have given their personal and financial support to our TBC entities, such as the colleges and children's home.

Our facilities have always been available to the TBC in order to support its programming efforts. By our convention's adopted standard, Second

Church is a cooperating member of the TBC and its members fully eligible to serve the TBC in any way. Knowing the other churches and persons mentioned in the mail out, I suspect the same could be said of them.

In the future, I trust those who send mailings calling into question the reputation of churches and individuals will exercise greater care to collect full and verified information. Better yet, let's all forswear such activities. The cause of Christ would be better served by Tennessee Baptists choosing to accept one another as partners in a large, diverse, effective family of Baptist Christians.

Michael A. Smith
senior pastor
Second Church
Memphis 38117

The writer refers to a mail out from Jerry Sutton of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, which included information prepared by Roger Oldham of First Church, Martin. — Editor

Freedom for all

When I read the story (*Baptist and Reflector*, Sept. 10) of the Kentucky Muhlenberg County Association's mistreatment of Angie Flack, I thought I had dozed off and was having a nightmare. I spent three years as a pastor in Boone County, Ky., and I never heard of such behavior.

Angie Flack is not the pastor of First Church, Drakesboro. Her husband, David, is pastor. She is a member and an ordained pastoral counselor with no church position. Yet her opponents blame the church for granting her membership.

Being a woman, she was not allowed to speak in her defense because women may not serve as messengers. This is incredible!

Jesus did liberate womankind from the yoke of male bondage, but the threat is too great for some men. They stretch Bible verses in their defense. Others pounded pulpits and used Bible verses in defense of slavery.

A man's treatment of any woman reflects his walk with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leonard W. Riley
Memphis 38115

Asks cooperation

I am amazed at letters featuring the word "control." What happened to the fine old Baptist word "cooperation?" Why is CBF such a threat to those who use the control word? Could it be that Baptists who take seriously autonomy of the local church, soul competency, and its corollary priesthood of the believer, along with separation of church and state, are a threat to those with a control mind set?

Contrary to letters mailed across the state, CBF owns no publishing house, no school, no ethics group. CBF works with those who wish to uphold cooper-

ative missions and historic Baptist principles.

Also, one does not have to choose between the TBC and SBC. Autonomy allows a church to be part of one or both. Every church has the right to partner with those whom they choose.

There is no grand design by CBF to control anything. There is a desire to cooperate in winning a world to Christ. Cooperative Baptists involve all who are willing to work together. Control-minded Baptists eliminate those who do not walk lock step.

I am not currently employed by CBF as some have said.

Howard Olive
Maryville 37803

Cooperative support

I have always agreed with the principle that money shouldn't be the driving force whether or not a church is considered cooperating; however, this seems to be the understanding of executive boards of the past few years.

The constitution of our convention also sets a condition that the church "subscribe to and support the principles, programs, and policies of the convention."

Apparently Rev. Mantooth (in his letter in the Oct. 15 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*) has taken the same position as many of our former convention leaders, simply relying on financial response to cooperative efforts as the means of determination, without consideration as to the support of "principles, programs, and policies."

Historically, undesignated financial support for convention causes has been used to indicate the level of cooperative support for the convention. This may be why the amount of cooperative dollars and the designated receipts from churches are listed.

Phillip C. Senn
Troy 38260

Servant preferred

I received a letter from Dr. Jerry Sutton, senior pastor of Two Rivers Church of Nashville. It had an enclosure written by Dr. Roger S. Oldham, his friend. Dr. Oldham's essay entitled "Observations of a Concerned Baptist" twice used the word "powerful" as a descriptive term for the Executive Board, TBC.

During the time I have served on the Executive Board I have never heard any member of the administrative staff or of the board use that term. What I have heard are the words servant or servant team.

There has been an emphasis on responsibly serving Tennessee Baptists.

My observation is that the servant approach is what Jesus was teaching in Mark 10:42-44 when he said, "Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon

them. But so shall it not be among you; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."

The clear teaching of the Bible is that God's work only progresses when we follow his instructions, "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). I believe if we would move closer to Mark 10 and Zechariah 4, we would have less need for essays or letters like this.

John W. Holland
vice president
Executive Board, TBC
pastor, Salem Church,
Knoxville 37938

On church giving

My church budgets and contributes 13.25 percent of its undesignated collections to the Cooperative Program and our association.

A few years ago, it came to our attention that a few members were designating their gifts to the church for local purposes only. Their intention was that none of their gifts would go to SBC institutions and programs.

They made gifts directly to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. These are faithful church members and have been involved in many SBC and TBC activities. They have no quarrel with the TBC or the association.

As a result of their method of giving, the TBC and the association were left out. To correct this, we now permit members to designate the SBC portion of their gifts to the CBF and forward to the TBC and association their respective shares.

We don't budget or promote gifts to the CBF. I have heard only support for the SBC from our pulpit and am not aware of recruiting efforts for the CBF.

I understand that as a result of our permitting this designation, our church, its staff, and members are labeled unfaithful Baptists by some vocal preachers. This is confusing to me. What kind of statement is that making to non-Christians?

H. David Smith
Nashville 37205

Thanksgiving letters invited

In the Nov. 25 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we will publish letters relating only to thanksgiving and gratitude.

Thanksgiving Day is Nov. 26 and we encourage readers to write about an event or person that makes Thanksgiving meaningful for you. The letters must not exceed 150 words, and must be received in our office by Nov. 14.

Also, we will not publish letters concerning the upcoming TBC annual meeting after the Nov. 5 issue. — Editor

Don't make something worse than it really is

Probably no Tennessee Baptist would want to make something worse than it really is.

But James Reston, famous newspaper columnist, once said about a former president of the United States, that he had a knack for making something worse than it really was. In other words, though he did many good things, he made some mistakes.

Please understand this — there is desire and need to do things better. A theme for staying on track is often expressed as "making the main thing the main thing." There is no time for misguided objectives.

It should not be necessary to remind Tennessee Baptists about the Cooperative Program. This is the last week in October, and the month traditionally has been designated as a time to emphasize the value of *cooperative giving*.

The Cooperative Program is one of the best instruments Baptists have for supporting ministries, missions, and evangelism. Other than prayer and obedience to God, the CP is a necessity for combining our strength and cooperative efforts.

Estimates say there are at least 2 million lost and unchurched people in Tennessee. Few churches are baptizing adults who come from outside the church family.

Children are killing each other at home and at school. Drugs are capturing thousands and thousands of children and youth.

Radio and television talk shows are dominated by pathetic people who are divorced and don't know why, yet seeking other marriages. Some are marriage and family cheaters and wonder why things aren't going well with their children (of each participant).

Homosexuals are getting more adamant about their lifestyle — even seeking benefits of marriage. Please!

Thousands of children go home from school with no one there but a television for guidance and entertainment.

Children are bearing children — and don't know how to cope. Children are starving.

More often than we'd like, politicians are selling their souls to gods of power and money.

The workplace often is offensive to anyone with high standards and pure motives. Even in Christian service, too often pastors are booted out with little reason.

Non-Christian religions are proliferating, even sending missionaries to our front doors. There is more — much more — but do we want to hear it?

We need to do more than sign petitions and boycott Disney. It isn't enough to fill clothing closets with old stuff, while buying the latest styles, and forgetting to distribute the clothes.

We pray and fast, but neglect to provide money to feed the starving. We baptize our own children but overlook chil-

dren down the street or across the city.

We may point our fingers at people who are of a different color, culture, financial status, age, or spiritual condition.

Don't we remember the ridiculous request for power made by two members of Christ's "inner circle," James and John? They wanted to be his "top guns," sitting on the throne of power with him.

Guess what — the other ten disciples were furious. We can imagine.

Jesus told them that those leadership places would be given to those for whom it had been prepared.

We discover that these two disciples, great men on whom Christ could depend, were bumbler in this situation. This is a valuable lesson from the Word of God.

Tennessee Baptists have the answers to all these problems — indeed, we are the answers.

So what is the lesson?

Along with cooperative giving through the CP, Tennessee Baptists need to strive for *cooperative living*. It's that simple. Not only do Tennessee Baptists have enough work to do for Christ, we shouldn't get sidetracked.

Let's be servants together, using the plan God gave us and working together. Let's steer away from "domestic violence" that would threaten the strength of TBC ministries.

As the CP continues to undergird our work, *cooperative living* will also. — *WFA*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Traveling salesman to small town resident: "Any movies in town?"

Resident: "Nope."

Salesman: "Bowling alleys?"

Resident: "Nope."

Salesman: "I'm here overnight. What can I do for entertainment?"

Resident: "Well, come on down to the drugstore with me. There's a freshman home from college."

Take this truth

Alexander Pope said that a little learning is a dangerous thing. Tennyson wrote of "the intoxication of new knowledge." The truth is that college never made a fool of a man.

Memorize this scripture

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — II Timothy 2:15

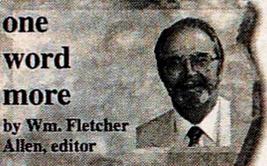
Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to try to learn as much as I can, and help me to know what to do with what I learn. ■

Who said that?

The man who aims to tell approximate truth is a liar; he who lives only in the neighborhood of honesty is a crook; he who thinks he will be only a little courageous is a coward. — J. M. Dawson, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, from a pamphlet written by James M. Dunn, published by Historical Commission, SBC, 1987, Nashville.

God's love expresses itself in October's blue skies



one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

My, if you pay attention to folks at the annual meetings for Tennessee

of blue skies and color-splashed hillsides and splendid sunny days.

Traveling across Tennessee north and south, east and west, at association meeting time is enough to make the soul sing.

Despite the murmuring of some "Chicken Littles" who think the sky is falling, I don't believe it will happen before October finishes its explosion of spectacular wonder. God is a great painter with an unbridled imagination.

For me, the exclamation comes with the welcome from fellow Baptists at the meeting place. It's as though they invented the word "hospitality."

I see that they are doing what God commands, following in the footsteps of Christ, and constantly invoking the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

In Maury Association, for example, messengers met with First Korean Baptist Church — probably the first time a Tennessee association has met officially with an ethnic church body. And we ate deli-

icious Korean food — served by lovely ladies of the church. The association also accepted into its fellowship Zion Hill Church, a Black congregation in Smyrna that has a long history of serving Christ.

Big Emory Association heard a tremendous evangelistic sermon by Ken Weathersby, the convention's newly-elected evangelism specialist. Messengers didn't want him to stop preaching.

These are but two or the many gratifying experiences I've encountered this fall on the associational meeting trail.

The whole experience is like a great sandwich. The "meat" is the meeting, carefully sandwiched between the anticipation of getting there and the warm feeling of kindred spirits on the drive home.

Please, let's celebrate these days of glory each October. Drink in the deep spirit of cooperation. Discard the bland platitudes that you might have expected.

Like Christmas and Resurrection Day, October grandly warms our spirits. ☺☺☺

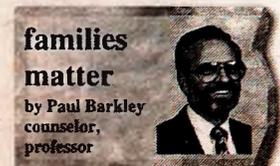
Baptist associations, you would think that everything is good and all's well in the world.

Now that's not to say that Tennessee Baptists are without problems. But I am poised on the edge of shouting — because grassroots people, the salt of the earth, are busy doing everything except vote to adopt negativism.

That's grassroots, as in the people out there whom politicians often identify as the beginning of a "groundswell," or movement to suddenly become enamored with the politicians!

I say again that October in Tennessee is a superlative time, a grand celebration

Getting along in life while having your own way if possible



families matter
by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Many Christians struggle with the appropriateness of wanting what they want. Do we Christians have the right to desire our own way? Am I less spiritual when I

think of myself, my wants, and my desires?

Let's try to remember the experience of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane when he prayed, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." Jesus was quick to add, "not my will, but thine be done."

One of the biggest hindrances of getting along while I am trying to get what I want is a tactic com-

monly called "you" messages. These are expressed in four ways: asking questions, absolute statements, analysis of behaviors and motives, and accusations.

We parents are particularly prone to phrase the "you" message in the form of asking a question. Do you want me to spank you? Don't you take any pride in your room? Do you care anything about our family? There is no way that these questions can be answered in a satisfactory manner.

Another problem that often keeps us from getting along while getting what we want is absolute statements. "You never ..." "You always ..." I have heard an old saying that nothing is always and never say never. Rather than sticking to the issue at hand we tend to generalize into all the areas of the relationship and behaviors that we don't like. Absolutes have

the tendency to overwhelm the other person and keep us from getting what we want.

Analysis of behaviors and motives is another of the problems that keeps us from getting along while we try to get what we want. Analysis often leads to labeling. "You're stupid," or, "You're lazy."

When we analyze another person, we often assign meaning to behaviors that the other person did not intend. I caution people all the time about reading more into body language and non-verbal cues than is actually there.

The final problem with "you" statements is accusation. No matter how accurate the accusation, it will anger the other person and make him feel demeaned. It may be possible to get along and get my way, but these tactics will get in the way. ■

Pastors of contemporary churches agree

Methodology may differ, but message is the same



By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Churches with "contemporary" styles of worship are springing up all

over the state.

Yet, while their method and style of worship may be different from "traditional" churches, the saving message of Jesus Christ is still the same, pastors of contemporary churches agree.

"Some think we sacrifice the message for the method. We don't do that here," said John Ledford, pastor of Contemporary Church, Mt. Juliet.

While contemporary churches have a casual overtone and environment, they are "very serious in nature," Ledford noted.

Churches with contemporary styles of worship are geared to reach people born between 1964-83, commonly referred to as Baby Busters or Generation X, Ledford said. Most are not attracted to other church models or examples of church life they have experienced in the past, he added.

"This generation is psychologically and sociologically different from any generation we've had in a long time because of the technological age," Ledford observed.

"We have a generation that is Christianity poor. They're burned out in regard to Christianity.

"It will take a radical, different approach, with the same Gospel message, to affect them," Ledford said.

Some people assume that either the traditional or contemporary style of worship is better than the other, observed Pastor Fred Davis of Victory Church, Dunlap. "That simply is not true."

He noted churches with contemporary styles of worship are not better than those with traditional styles, or vice versa.

"It's a matter of carrying out the work of ministry in the setting in which you are most effective," Davis said.

"The important factor is ministry is

taking place," he added.

Mark Norris and John Shepherd recently began a contemporary church in Murfreesboro. They conducted a door-to-door survey of the area and discovered reasons as to why unchurched people did not attend services.

Among those reasons cited were condemning attitudes, boring sermons, and requests for money.

"What we are trying to do is to remove the barriers and obstacles that are keeping people from church," said Shepherd, who is the "teaching pastor" at River Oaks Community Church.

Ledford agreed. "There are many people in our society who have fallen through the cracks of the organized religious systems we have in America.

"It takes a specialized ministry to re-harvest those people," he said.

Pastors of contemporary churches are well aware of criticisms leveled against their styles of worship.

Shepherd said he and Norris have been told they focus on entertainment and dilute the Gospel to draw an audience.

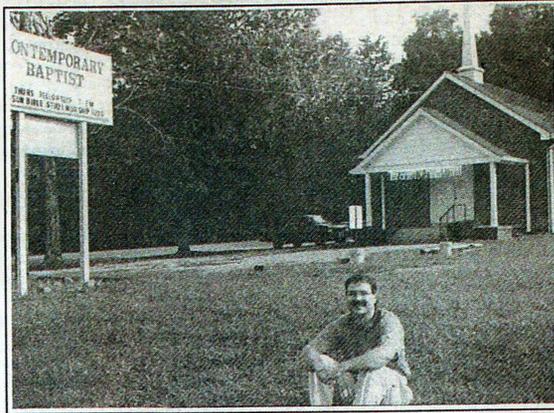
Neither is true, Shepherd insisted.

Ledford, who comes from a traditional Southern Baptist background, noted he has "never sacrificed my doctrine or testimony.

"I just modified it to the environment."

Some contemporary churches also are accused of not being denominational. Churches with contemporary styles of worship are not necessarily anti-denominational, Ledford said.

There are those churches with a con-



PASTOR JOHN LEDFORD sits outside Contemporary Church in Mt. Juliet. Though contemporary in nature the congregation worships in a traditional building. See story below.

temporary mindset who believe in the denomination and "hopefully many more will be created."

Likewise, Ledford continued, "we need to see an openness from Southern Baptists to churches with a contemporary approach who are denominationally-minded."

While some may not like the methods of their contemporary brothers and sisters in Christ, people need to look at the results.

"It's (contemporary style) working in a lot of places. You can't discount that. There are precious souls that legitimately love the Lord and are changing their way of life.

"We are reaching families that would not come to traditional church," the Mt. Juliet pastor noted.

"The best way to build God's kingdom is by starting churches that will reach those not attending church," Shepherd added.

"A beginning church has a built-in incentive to reach people, even by being different. If you don't reach people you don't make it." *B&R* — Connie Davis contributed to this article.



DOMs affirm contemporary worship styles

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Congregations with contemporary styles of worship are meeting needs, agree two directors of missions in areas where several of those churches exist.

"To me the contemporary style of worship is another method of doing the same thing we've been doing and that is spreading the Gospel," said James Powers, director of missions in Concord Association.

"As long as churches with contemporary styles of worship minister with integrity in their music, drama, and preaching, I feel they are a welcome addition to our worship styles," Powers added.

He noted churches in the association are trying to "provide the worship styles that meet the needs of different people who are moving into our community."

Jim Freedman, Nashville Association DOM, noted there are more and more churches in his association using the contemporary style of worship.

Most of the Anglo church starts in the association in recent years have been those centered around a contemporary worship style, he observed.

The contemporary style of worship is popular today, Freedman said, because it seems to represent a style of worship that lost people can come and feel comfortable with.

Freedman disagrees with the view that contemporary churches "water down the Gospel."

"In my position I worship with our churches and the messages I hear preached are Gospel messages," he said. *B&R*



POWERS



FREEDMAN

Numbers have steadily risen at Contemporary Church



For Baptist
and Reflector

MT. JULIET — The church name leaves no

doubt about what style of worship will be found here.

Contemporary Church was birthed by two Nashville Baptist Association congregations — New Hope in Hermitage and First Church, Old Hickory.

The congregation first met during a week night in a store in the Donelson-Hermitage area in February 1994 for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, according to Pastor John Ledford.

A few months later the church held its first Sunday morning service. By the end of that summer average attendance was in the high 20s for

Sunday worship, he noted.

The church began to grow steadily and by 1995 needed more space. "We prayed about our future growth and a larger space to meet in," Ledford said.

The church learned of a vacant facility which was then owned by Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. "Through a series of phone calls and prayer meetings, the Lord created a situation in which we could receive our present facilities," Ledford recalled, noting that Tulip Grove donated the building and property for the new congregation. Ironically, the church, which is contemporary in both style and name, meets in a traditional Southern Baptist church building.

Ledford noted 1996 was a "stabilizing" year for the church and that this year has been a "building" year.

In June the church was officially recognized by New Hope and First churches as an autonomous body.

"We have moved forward financially, started new Sunday morning classes, trained many new members, and hired a part-time youth director," Ledford said. The church also has begun to build a leadership base through the training of new converts.

He is assisted in his efforts by Michael Barrs, who serves as worship and music leader; Greg Collins, youth director; June Hailey, church secretary; and his wife, Zina. "Without these people and our deacons in training, we could not have done it," Ledford said.

Average Bible study attendance is near 50 with worship attendance moving steadily to the 80 mark, he said.

New congregation enjoys new approaches



By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — At its first service in the YMCA meeting room here,

382 attended. And in the seven weeks since then, River Oaks Community Church has averaged 270 people.

Worship services are so "upbeat we disarm people," explained John Shepherd, teaching pastor. He refers to drama, music led by a band, projected videos, and messages about "power plays" and mistakes by marriage partners. The services are led by smoothly changing computer-generated song lyrics and message outlines which also are projected.

"Everything we do is of the highest quality we can find and is well-planned," said Mark Norris, worship pastor. "That's what God deserves," he added.

One result has been the baptism of 8 people and the addition of 10 more as members. That might not seem like many, but Shepherd and Norris explained the congregation is different.

The duo, which met while serving other churches in Florida, felt God call them to start a congregation in Middle Tennessee similar to those they were working with in Florida.

After learning about fast-growing Rutherford County, they started their research. They found the county has 225 churches with a population of about 150,000. But they also discovered from Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries and the North American Mission Board that 75 percent of the population doesn't attend church regularly.

To prepare for a church to meet the needs of these people, they did a door-to-door survey in Murfreesboro. They discarded the responses from those already involved in churches and focused

on the others.

What they discovered was that people not involved in church disliked condemning attitudes in church, sermons which were boring, and requests for money.

So they began planning for a congregation without "the barriers and obstacles that are keeping people from church," said Shepherd.

For example, when an offering is accepted at the church, it is explained that members and those who attend regularly should give, he noted, and not others.

This approach concerning money might seem self-defeating for a beginning congregation, but Shepherd disagreed, noting the guideline has forced them to rely on God for their needs.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Golden State Missions Offering is providing Shepherd with a \$12,000 salary and Norris with a \$7,200 salary during their first year and diminishing help for two more years. River Oaks Church also is receiving gifts from Concord Association and several of its churches, including New Vision, Stonebrook, Westwood, and Barfield, of Murfreesboro, and from Crossroads Community Church, Brentwood, in Nashville Association.

Shepherd acknowledged several criticisms of churches which use different approaches. Such congregations may be seen as focusing on entertainment and diluting the Gospel to draw an audience. He said neither is true. Messages during the 75-minute Sunday morning service are biblical and straightforward, he said. And to join the church,



STANDING in their offices in a downtown office building in Murfreesboro are Mark Norris, left, and John Shepherd. The drum set has to be moved to their church site each week, along with everything else for the worship service.

people must attend a four-hour Discovery Class and sign a covenant to the church.

As to the notion that entertainment is the goal of their services, Shepherd said it is rather to "communicate the Gospel in relevant ways with people in the 90s. People feel they have to step back into the 50s to worship," he noted.

For example, they use computer technology because people are used to such communication in the business world, Shepherd explained. Norris added they use the most talented musicians they can find, including several who are not Christians, and it has paid off. Several have become Christians because of their exposure to the Gospel, he added, and people are drawn to the excellent worship music.

The church also has used mass mailings and advertisements to inform residents about River Oaks.

"We know we're right in the middle of a God-sized movement here," he said. "Neither Mark nor I am smart enough or rich enough or spiritual enough to be able to do this.

"We realize we have 300 people to

disciple. We're on our knees a lot," he added.

They are especially thankful for assistance from New Vision Church and its pastor, Mike Thomas, said Shepherd. New Vision is located just a mile from the YMCA and would be considered competition by many congregations.

When Shepherd and Norris contacted the YMCA to ask permission to use its facilities, they were told New Vision previously had reserved them. New Vision needed the space for youth Sunday School classes.

However, when Thomas learned of the plans of Shepherd and Norris, New Vision used YMCA space only during the summer to allow River Oaks to start on its projected date, Sept. 7.

New Vision also is helping River Oaks by allowing it to hold mid-week services in its building. And they are doing this despite the fact that River Oaks has grown to nearly the size of New Vision, he added.

That kind of sacrifice to assist another beginning congregation is rare among churches, said Shepherd.

In the future, Shepherd and Norris plan to lead River Oaks to start other churches, which is the key to building God's kingdom, they said. They plan to work in Moscow, Russia, toward that end next year.

And they aren't worried about the work which faces them between now and then.

"I just have to remind myself that God's in control and the pressure is on him, not on us," said Shepherd. *B&R*

Nontraditional Victory Church ministers in traditional setting in Dunlap



By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

DUNLAP

— Victory Church here is a "nontraditional church in a traditional setting," according to Pastor Fred Davis.

Yet, the 5-year-old church is meeting needs and is outgrowing its education space. It began in a funeral home and members built their first building about two years ago.

The church recently purchased additional acreage for a total of 17 acres, in part from a grant from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's new work start program and a three-year no interest loan from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. "We could not have done that had it not been for their help," Davis affirmed.

Fifteen people were present when Davis came to the church about three years ago.

But on a recent Sunday the church had 157 people and at times has had more than 200, according to Davis. He estimated the church has averaged around 160 over the last two years. "The Lord has brought the people," he said.

Davis noted the church may not be for everyone. It basically is seeking to meet the needs of new families moving into the Dunlap area who are not comfortable with traditional church settings.

It is necessary to relate to people where they are, Davis insisted. "We accept people no matter what their backgrounds. We accept people in the condition they're in and start them on a journey to be all they can be through a relationship with Christ."

Davis is not the typical pastor for a nontraditional or contemporary church because of his age and background.

The 51-year-old Davis served as pastor of traditional churches during most of his

30-year ministry.

"I came to the realization we've got to keep the Gospel presentation basic but must change the methodology."

When he joined Victory the church was seeking to go in a contemporary direction, he noted. "It was the first time in my position I could develop some of the things I felt God wanted me to do," he said.

His age has not been a negative factor despite the fact the average age of the congregation is in the mid-20s.

"God has blessed me with the ability to use people skills," he said, adding that he has focused on training leaders at Victory in people skills.

Davis is still a firm believer in the development of churches through Sunday School because it provides for the needs of people in small groups.

"If we don't build personal relationships with people we will miss their needs," he said.

He also uses small groups for discipleship programs such

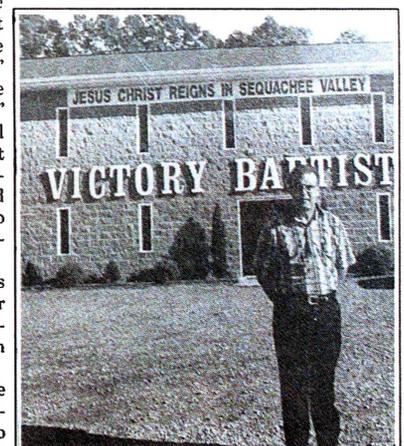
as *Experiencing God* and *Mas-terLife*.

The church is contemporary in its worship style with worship and praise music. In his sermons Davis takes care to clarify what he says. "If it is not understood we have missed them," he said. Yet he does a "traditional" invitation. "I feel very strongly about the call of commitment. The Lord calls people to make public decisions."

The church has an active banner ministry and programs for children and youth groups.

Although some believe contemporary churches do not support missions, Victory has embraced Southern Baptist work, giv-

ing 10 percent through the Cooperative Program. In addition, members are very active in missions. A team went to Kenya this summer and another trip is planned for next year. *B&R*



PASTOR FRED DAVIS stands outside Victory Church, Dunlap, a church he describes as a contemporary church in a traditional area.

Associations hold fall meetings



SEQUATCHIE VALLEY ASSOCIATION officers include, from left, Jim Christian, First Church, Whitwell, treasurer; Bob Rueling, First Church, Gruett-Laager, Sunday School director; Mike Brown, First Southern Church, Pikeville, moderator; Virgil Powell, South Whitwell Church, Discipleship Training director; Roger Webb, Baptist Hill Church, stewardship director; Nancy Holmes, clerk and associational secretary, First Church, Whitwell; Buddy Strickland, director of missions; and Pat Keef, music director, Kimball Church.

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU ASSOCIATION used its annual meeting to introduce its theme for the coming year.



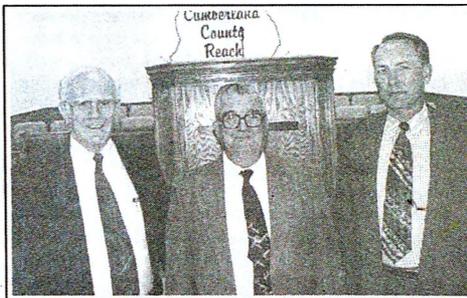
FIRST CHURCH, Rockwood, hosted Big Emory Association Oct. 16. Ken Weathersby, TBC evangelism specialist, gave a mission challenge. Officers, from left, are Mike Henegar, pastor of Cedar Grove Church; new associate moderator Bobby Melton, pastor of Sunbright Church; and Howard Hannah, associate moderator who was elected as new moderator. Frank Kubas, right, was re-elected clerk.



MESSENGERS to Central Association honored Wynette Ballard, second from left, for her 20 years of service. She is associational clerk and office secretary. Others from left, Richard Jenkins, Cornerstone Church pastor, vice moderator; Ballard; Roger Stacy, director of missions; and Joe Wright, pastor of First Church, McMinnville, moderator.



HOLSTON ASSOCIATION met at Woodlawn Church, Bristol, and heard messages by Mike Kemper, missionary to Romania, and D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, and former TBC executive director. From left, outgoing moderator Steve Playl, pastor of Woodlawn, congratulates new moderator Ron Murray, pastor of Central Church, Johnson City, and new assistant moderator Chris Ward, pastor of Ninth Street Church, Erwin.



INCOMING MODERATOR Willard Dale, pastor, Cumberland View Church, is welcomed by Cumberland Plateau Association Director of Missions Roy Davis, left, and outgoing moderator, Bill Roberts, right, pastor, Memorial Church.



NEW LAWRENCE COUNTY ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Larry Smart, center, is welcomed by outgoing moderator, Larry Bullard, left, St. Joseph Church, and incoming moderator, John Albright, Faith Church.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE 145th annual meeting of Clinton Association included, from left, Jeff Calloway, Clear Branch Church, incoming assistant moderator; Louise Matthews, First Church, Oliver Springs, clerk; Tom Byrge, Clinch River Church, outgoing moderator; and Tom Aiken, Mt. Pleasant Church, outgoing assistant moderator.



LEADING the Carroll-Benton Association during its first day of sessions at First Church, Huntingdon, are, from left, Lillian Rice, clerk, member, Prospect Church, Hollow Rock; Billy Murphy, moderator, pastor, Howse Church, Atwood; and George Hill, director of missions.

Senior adult musical premiere held at rally

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — At the annual Senior Adult Fall Rally held here Oct. 2 by Nashville Association, a musical for senior adults was premiered. And the event had another Tennessee connection which was unusual. The creators/arrangers were from Nashville and were personally involved in the event.

Greg and Gail Skipper, creators/arrangers of the new musical, "Serve With Gladness," not only attended the rally for the premiere, but they led a 40-member choir of senior adults from Tusculum Hills Church to present it.

The couple are members of Tusculum Hills Church. In fact, they based the musical and drama on the senior adult group at the church, which is led by Bill Highsmith, recreation/activities/senior adult director there.

The senior adults were their inspiration because they "can run circles around everybody else in the church," said Gail Skipper. The group, which has more than 200 members, pro-

vides leadership and encouragement to all areas of the church, she added. Gail is a public school teacher.

Greg Skipper concurred and added that the senior adults were most of the reason he accepted his first assignment of producing a musical for that age group. Skipper, who has been a part of the Music Ministries Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, for 19 years, has compiled/arranged three collections. And with Gail the duo has created/arranged 16 musicals. But their previous work was for music groups in smaller membership churches.

Skipper said he also was inspired by his parents, who are still active Southern Baptists.



SINGING the new musical, "Serve With Gladness," are senior adults of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, who formed the choir for the premiere. — Photos by Connie Davis

"Who says we have to stop. Who says we have to slow down when we still have a strong spiritual fervor about us," said Skipper, who also has served as a minister of music in several churches.

Members of the Tusculum Hills group told the *Baptist and Reflector* that they could identify characteristics of their group in the musical, which tells the story of a senior adult group. Similar to one of the characters in the drama, Highsmith uses different colored flyers to promote activities and in meetings he refers to those colors to distinguish among activities. Also the Nashville seniors have a craft group and a fix-it squad, which were portrayed in the drama.

The musical relies on humor to communicate its message. One character is a harried and disorganized treasurer of the group who becomes organized during the musical, but whose reports are the same — the receipts are zero.



ACTING THEIR parts in the drama part of the musical are, from left, Ethel Rust, Virginia Hampton, and Bobbye Gibson from Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville.

The musical follows a senior adult group during a year as it learns the importance of ministry. Months are marked by a "calendar girl," another character in the musical.

The music ranges from one original song to arrangements of other songs and hymns which were prepared by Skipper and associate Stan Pethel. It in-

CREATORS/ARRANGERS of the musical, Gail and Greg Skipper, pause during the rally.



Association directs unusual ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The recent Senior Adult Fall Rally, which drew about 500, was the 17th annual event held for senior adults by Nashville Association, reported Rusty Sumrall of the association. The annual rally may be the oldest event in the state and the largest held by an association for senior adults.

More recently, the association began holding a spring and fall rally and leadership training each year.

The senior adult ministry of the association was begun by Dennis Lyle, retired from the association of Belmont Heights Church here.

Members of the senior adult committee of the association which planned the rally were Dan Brown, First Church, Madison; Tom Clark, Harpeth Heights Church; Cal Cooper, Grassland Heights Church; Joe Haynes, First Church, Nashville; Bill Highsmith, Tusculum Hills Church; Leonard Olisson, Brentwood Church; Millie Shirley, Two Rivers Church; and Jerry White, Belmont Heights Church. *B&R*

Tennis facility at Belmont honors 104-year-old donor

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University here gave Frances Davis an early birthday present Sept. 30, with the dedication of the Frances Davis Tennis Center, two days before her 104th birthday.

The complex is named for Davis to honor her and the generosity she and her family have shown the university. Davis and her family have been long-time supporters of Belmont, contributing funds for Belmont's original tennis facility as well as the The Davis Foundation, which provides major scholarship funding.



DAVIS

Davis is a member of Immanuel Church, Nashville.

A refurbished plaque from the original tennis courts was unveiled to commemorate the dedication. In attendance were all of the Davis scholars and members of the Belmont tennis teams. ■

Five churches in Union City area hold youth event after sports event

For Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — Five Baptist churches in the Union City area held the second annual Fifth Quarter Blowout recently, which drew a record number of about 700 youth, reported Mark Wofford, minister of youth and singles, Second Church, Union City.

As a result, 16 people made professions of faith and 48 others made other spiritual decisions.

The event was held following the rivalrous annual football game between Union City High School and Obion County Central High School.

The youth event followed the game and featured Partners In Christ, a music group from Nashville, and a drama group from Sunswep Church, Union City, one of the sponsors. Other worship leaders were the Singing Hands Group of Calvary Church, Union City, another sponsor; and New Beginnings, a music group from Second Church, Union City, a sponsor. The speaker was Brady Weldon.

Other sponsors were First Church, Union City, and First Church, Troy. ■

Larry Smart named director of missions

For Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — Larry O. Smart has been named director of missions, Lawrence County Association.

He formerly was pastor of Calvary Church, Tusculum, Ala., where he had served for nearly 10 years.

Smart served on the staff of six other churches, including churches in Alabama and First Church, Loretto from 1981-85.

He is a graduate of the University of North Alabama, Florence; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. *B&R*



SMART

Tennessee, SBC churches to observe RA Week

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press



RA work alive and well in Tennessee

By Bob Davison
For Baptist and Reflector



BRENTWOOD — The Royal Ambassador program is a longtime standing tradition in Tennessee. However, tradition is not a good word today.

We are in a time when things seem to change from day to day, even in Baptist life.

Many know that there has been a major change in the structuring of the Southern Baptist Convention (Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, and Home Mission Board merging into the North American Mission Board). But many may not know that the program consisting of Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, and Men's Ministries education is alive and well.

What better way, than a week set aside by the Southern Baptist Convention and known as "Royal Ambassador Week" to celebrate this good work taking place in our churches.

Royal Ambassador Week should be a time of celebration of the work done by Tennessee

Baptist lay leadership in our churches. The week can contain different events in order to call attention to missions education, evangelism, and many fun activities taking place in your own churches.

Church staff should call their congregation's attention to lay leaders who spend many long hours serving through the RA program. The RA leadership should remind the church how the children have progressed in the many areas of Royal Ambassador work. Royal Ambassador Week is a time of celebration of the work being done. Let's show the young people and leaders in our Tennessee Baptist churches that we appreciate what they are doing.

If any of us at the Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team can assist now or in the future, please let us know by calling (615) 371-2025. ■ — Davison is children/youth brotherhood specialist in the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.



DAVISON

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Jim McGee directs one of the largest RA (Royal Ambassador) programs in the United States, with an emphasis on developing Christian leaders among boys in his church. The Pensacola, Fla., congregation has about 2,500 in attendance each Sunday, and more than 150 RAs in grades one through six.

In a small town in Texas, meanwhile, Robert Adams leads another of Southern Baptists' most successful RA programs with about 45 boys. The church has fewer than 200 in Sunday school every week, and only about a fourth of the RA members are Baptists. The emphasis is on reaching the entire community.

As Southern Baptist and Tennessee Baptist churches nationwide prepare to observe Royal Ambassador Week, Nov. 2-8, the two churches demonstrate the dynamic flexibility possible through Royal Ambassadors. After 89 years, there are now more than 170,000 RAs nationwide in more than 12,000 churches. The ministry remains Southern Baptists' most effective tool for teaching boys about the importance of

reaching a lost world for Christ — and giving them the leadership training, confidence through individual achievement, and practical skills to carry out that mission.

In addition to the primary goal of missions education, RAs also receive merit awards in a variety of spiritual and

practical disciplines. Bible memory, camping, recreation, uniforms, teaching on the plan of salvation, missions involvement — all contribute to a balanced program encompassing boys' spiritual, social, mental, and physical development.

"When the basic principles of Royal Ambassadors were

formed, the characteristics of boys served as guidelines," according to the RA leadership guide published by the North American Mission Board. "Royal Ambassadors capitalizes on what boys enjoy doing."

This year's RA Week theme is "Following Jesus' Footsteps." The Royal Ambassadors

program was started by Woman's Missionary Union in 1908 and led by that organization until it became the responsibility of the Brotherhood Commission in 1957. As of this summer, the comprehensive range of RA materials are being developed and produced by the new North American Mission Board.

Whatever the emphasis and methodology chosen by local churches, North American Mission Board missions education leaders stress their commitment to continuing the tradition of excellence in supporting the wide range of materials available for use by RA groups.

In the future, new tools such as quarterly videotape programs also are planned, according to Tim Seanor, director of missions education for NAMB and former director of Royal Ambassadors at the Brotherhood Commission.

"The future is bright for Royal Ambassadors at the North American Mission Board," Seanor said. ■

Auburntown congregation celebrates 175th anniversary

By Donna Nichols
For Baptist and Reflector

AUBURNTOWN — As the antique Auburn Church bell rang out Oct. 19, more than 300 people gathered for a day of celebration and worship.

The day marked the 175th anniversary of the church.

The church choir began by

singing "The Old Time Religion" which reflected the character and values taught by spiritual ancestors. Children of Auburn Church provided a short history lesson by answering a series of questions.

Auburn Church was founded in 1822 by John Fite. It is one of the oldest churches in Cannon County. The county it-

self was not established until 1836. Originally known as Sander's Fork Church, it was called Poplar Stand Church by local residents.

By 1869 the church moved to its present location and became known as Auburn Church.

During the Oct. 19 celebration the morning message was

brought by Cannie Leonard, who served as pastor of the church 56 years ago, from 1941-46.

Leonard noted the church family kept him fed and housed during the World War II era and shared memories from that time.

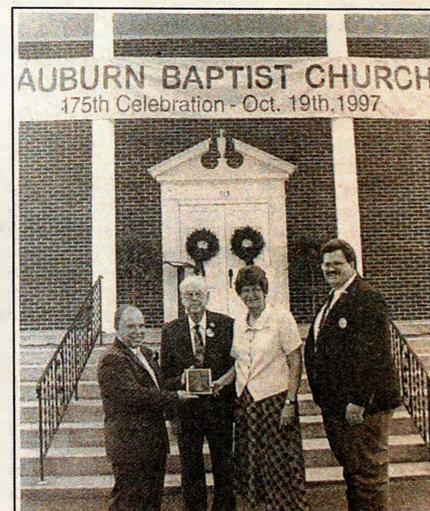
Following his message the church had dinner in its newly remodeled church kitchen and fellowship hall and then

Gospel singing in the afternoon.

Thurman Seber, director of missions for Salem Association presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. Pastor Ric Lee also compiled a church history booklet which was given to each household in the church. ■ — Nichols was chairman of the Celebration Committee at Auburn Church.



THE INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL class of 1946 at Auburn Church had their picture made with then-pastor Cannie Lansford. Fifty-one years later, all but one of that group, reunited for another photo with their former pastor during the church's 175th anniversary celebration. From left are front row, Dot Taylor, Minnie Owen Ferrell, Myrtle Owen Ferrell, Claudine McAdoo Davis; second row, Cannie Leonard, Kizzie Fann Vance, and Mary Taylor Shaw.



SALEM ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Thurman Seber, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to, from left, former pastor Cannie Leonard, Donna Nichols, chairman of the Celebration Committee, and Pastor Ric Lee. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

churches

■ **Ball Camp Church, Knoxville**, will hold a Fall Festival Oct. 31 from 7-9 p.m. Call (423) 693-1641 for more information.

■ **First Church, Columbia**, will hold revival Nov. 2. Keith Fordham of Atlanta, Ga., will speak.

■ **Cherry Road Church, Memphis**, will hold revival Nov. 2-5. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Little Hope Church, Clarksville**, broke ground for a new education building Oct. 12.

■ **Safe Harbor Ministries of First Church, Smyrna**, will hold a free training seminar for support group leaders Nov. 6-8. Kay Moore of the Baptist Sunday School Board will speak. For more information, call Margaret Fann, (615) 893-7497.

■ **Cottonwood Heights Church, Memphis**, has changed its name to Spring Creek Church and relocated to Collierville. The congregation has bought 10 acres of land and is meeting at Collierville Activities Center.

■ **Natchez Trace Church, Camden**, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Nov. 2. Warren Rose will speak. Activities include an afternoon service.

■ **First Church, Hohenwald**, will host Heaven's Gates and Hells Flames Nov. 2-4 at 7 p.m. The drama is being held by Baptist churches in Hohenwald.

■ **First Chinese Church, Cordova**, is building a new worship/education site.

■ **First Church, Gatlinburg**, has bought 1.4 acres of adjoining property to use for parking and classroom space needs.



ATTENDING THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY celebration of the formation of Christian Writers and Artists are, from left, seated, Hazel Jones, Sharon Dobrowsky, Carolyn Graves; standing, Rebecca Culpepper, Dorothy Blazier, Juanita Murphy, Ella Mae Hood, Angela and Christina Konopasek, Patrice Puglise, Gladys Brymer, Pat Emholtz, Kathryn Harrell, Frances Mullins, Ruth Berkes, and Alma and John C. Davis Jr. The group meets at Mount Olive Church, Knoxville. For more information, call Dorothy Blazier at (423) 577-6877.

associations

■ **ALPHA Association** will hold a Magnify Jesus Prayer Meeting for Revival and Spiritual Renewal Nov. 3 at First Church, Centerville at 7 p.m.

■ A 10-person team from **Sevier County Association** worked with Russwood Church, Springville, recently. Team members did construction on the church's building and led a Backyard Bible Club. Temple Church, Paris, sponsored the new Springville church.

■ **Hamilton County Association** has called Stan Braley as director of community ministries. Braley held the position in a part-time capacity as well serving as part-time collegiate ministry specialist at Chattanooga State Technological Community College formerly. He held the positions for six years.

hospital

■ **Baptist College of Health Sciences**, a part of **Baptist**

Memorial Health Care, Memphis, has launched a respiratory care baccalaureate degree program. It is the only school in the tri-state area to offer a baccalaureate level degree in health sciences with a major in respiratory care, and one of only 34 in the country. There is a shortage of respiratory care practitioners across the country and the need for them is expected to grow faster than the national average for all job growth. For more information, call (901) 227-4301.

schools

■ **Members of the Baptist Student Union at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville**, helped prepare a house to serve as a home to former inmates, who will live with college students. The house is the Upper Cumberland Dismas House, which was founded by a TTU professor.

■ **The Center for Christian Leadership and Center for International Studies at Union University, Jackson**, were dedicated Sept. 8 during the school's fall convocation. The purpose of the leadership center is to equip people with a

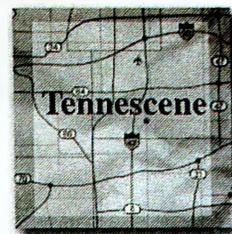
world view and skills to be servant-leaders. The purpose of the international studies center is to strengthen involvement in international programs, including the recent addition of an English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

leaders

■ **First Church, Gatlinburg**, has called **Gina Howard** as minister of education and children and **Bryon Fortner** as minister of senior high youth. Howard is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a former staff member of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala., and the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Fortner is a graduate of Southern seminary. Both positions are new.

■ **Mark Edwards**, minister of music, **First Church, Nashville**, will be honored Nov. 2 on his 20th anniversary of service there.

■ **J. David Pittman**, director of church services, **Hamilton County Association**, recently recognized his 10th anniversary of service.



■ **Jack R. Peeler Jr.**, has been called as pastor, **Bridgewood Church, Arlington**. He was pastor of **Fellowship Church, Memphis**. He is a graduate of **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis**.

■ **Bobby Hawkins** has been called as associate pastor of missions, **Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis**. His work involves developing Bible study groups in multi-housing units to reach African Americans.

■ **Ted Trent**, pastor, **Calvary Church, Mooresburg**, has resigned. He served the church for five years.

■ **Curtis Webber**, pastor, **Panther Park Church, Morristown**, has resigned.

■ **Faith Church, Bartlett**, has called **George Siler** as minister of youth and recreation. Siler was associate director, **World Changers, Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis**. He is a graduate of **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas**.

■ **First Church, Charlotte**, has called **Bobby Divine** as pastor.

■ **Memorial Church, Clarksville**, has called **Jerry Shelton** as pastor.

■ **First Church, Cumberland City**, has called **Earl Kinslow** as pastor.

■ **First Church, Surogoinsville**, has called **Kevin Brannon** of Louisville, Ky., as minister of music.

■ **Carey Dukes** has been called as pastor of **Only Church, Only**.

Tennessee samplers

by leaders of churches, associations

Acts in inner city area

By Rick Baggett, pastor Eastland Church, Nashville

An amazing set of events has been occurring in East Nashville the past few weeks.

Drugs and crime have all but vanished from this once rough part of

town. The mayor is pleased and credits increased patrols and a drug intervention task force for the change.

However, local residents have a much different story to tell. They give all the glory to God who they say has done a miracle for them. As I interviewed people at bus stops, restaurants, and convenience stores, it seems that all the talk is of the things of God. It permeates every conversation.

Hundreds of residents report being suddenly gripped with conviction that they are not living lives which are pleasing God. Following their agony and cry to God, the residents here are filled with a joy inexpressible and glory.

The Metro buses traveling Gallatin Road sound like touring Gospel choirs and the passengers sing praise choruses and hymns as they travel. Area ministers report being overwhelmed by the numbers of people looking for some type of relief.

As this reporter sought to find the spark that ignited this fire, it was traced back to Eastland Church. It seems that during a series of revival meetings, one well-respected member of this church became so convicted that he came forward and confessed his hypocrisy and sins against the church.

Then member after member streamed

forward to testify and confess sins. This meeting continued for some 33 hours before it was officially dismissed.

Now services are held every evening lasting well into the night. Members of this church have been testifying about God's movement in their midst.

The experience has repeated itself in church after church in East Nashville and shows no sign of ending. Ministers from other parts of town coming in to help are taking the revival fire back to their churches.

If this keeps up it will be another Great Spiritual Awakening. (A fictitious account of what could be based on past acts of God.) ■

Kirby Woods minister shares experience in Russia



By Frank Jones
For Baptist and Reflector

M E M - PHIS —

Drawn to intensified time in Bible study? Greater compassion for unbelievers? Heightened sensitivity to the lostness of those who don't know Jesus? Focused praying for the spread of the Gospel? Increased giving to local and world missions? Escalating involvement in evangelizing? Greater satisfaction in your Christian life? Glory to God? A short-term missions trip will provide all the above for you and your church.

I have supported Southern Baptist Convention missions throughout my Christian experience. Like most believers, though, my ideas about missions were somewhat romanticized. Those ideas were limited to reading about missions, praying for missions, giving to missions, and hearing an occasional visiting missionary in church.

It's one thing to support others who go. It's a totally different thing to go yourself. I never dreamed God would allow me to participate in world mis-

sions personally and directly. All that changed in 1994 with my first short-term missions trip to St. Petersburg, Russia. Recently, I went on a second trip — this time to Barnaul, Russia. My perspective on world missions will never be the same.

Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, has the world upon its heart. Robert Pitman, pastor, led the church to become a Key Church in 1994. (A Key Church is part of the North American Mission Board program which encourages congregations to start other congregations.) Howard Bickers, minister of missions, oversees the church's involvement with missions, missionaries, missions organizations, and churches around the world.

Kirby Woods sponsored the recent effort in Barnaul, Russia, with International Church Planters, a ministry of Southern Baptist church members and churches including Kirby Woods to help missionaries and nationals start churches. The ICP coordinates its work through the International Mission Board.

Twelve members from Kirby Woods were joined by seven other Baptists. We worked in

small teams, joining about 12 Russian young men who had been trained last year and who were committed to starting new churches.

The central church in Barnaul had targeted areas where they had new congregations or wanted to start new congregations.

In and around Barnaul, we gave our testimonies, handed out tracts, sang, witnessed, and preached. We evangelized on the streets, in churches, hospitals, schools, and orphanages. School classrooms are open to evangelization in Russia.

One of our teams even appeared on television. We distributed almost 10,000 tracts, more than 350 Scripture portions, and saw 458 people make professions of faith.

Tracy Putnam, a team member and a seminary student, said he experienced the bond of Christ with Russians despite language barriers while in Russia. He met people who were embittered about Communism and felt that God had deserted them, he said. But Putnam was encouraged by the fact that the children he met were studying the Bible in school.

Another seminary student who served, Phillip Edge reported that he spoke in schools where evangelistic meetings had never been held.

Team member Libby Baxter, a nurse, said the experience has encouraged her to witness in the United States.

Tennessean Don Terrell Jr., a recent high school graduate, said, "You go thinking you will minister to people; they minister to you more than you could ever imagine."

Several businessmen were team members. Andy Andrews described his experience with the Russian people. They were so loving, he said, he felt many of the team left "a piece of our hearts in the Soviet Union." And Jeff Jordan felt inspired to preach while visiting an outdoor market. As a result, two young women made professions of faith, he said.

Theresa Hargrove, a homemaker, was changed spiritually when she helped lead her translator, who was a college student, to God.

Michael Beyl, a school teacher, reported he led a person to God for the first time. Then he led another person to God.

Darrel Greer, a health care

worker, said the fact that the team didn't see a sunset while traveling to Barnaul made him think. He learned that time, as far as what day it is or what hour it is, means nothing. "You must give every second of it to the Lord. We waste so much time," he said.

Many felt God calling them to foreign missions during our experiences.

I learned how God works in little things. Prior to leaving I jotted down a sermon outline without a text. After arriving in Barnaul, the pastor asked me to preach on the exact text which fit that sermon.

Another illustration is when one team member lost her passport and visa. God sent the person who found the articles to turn them in to a police station. That was the police station we visited to report the loss.

As I said, God worked in little things. And he worked in big things. He is great. ■ — Jones is associate pastor of the church.

Jackson church supports partnership with Poland



For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — A 13-member team from Poplar Heights Church, Jackson,

worked in Gdansk, Poland, recently to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership.

The Tennesseans built classrooms in the attic of the Baptist church of Gdansk. The classrooms will be used for English language classes. These classes, as well as home Bible study classes, are the main outreach min-

istries of the church. The language classes are popular because Poles are eager to learn English. As relationships are built between students and teachers, people can learn about God.

The Tennesseans and Poles became close during the effort. As Robert Miksa, pastor of the Gdansk church said, "We all seem like family."

The church gave each team member a commemorative mug of the millennium celebration of Gdansk as a parting gift.

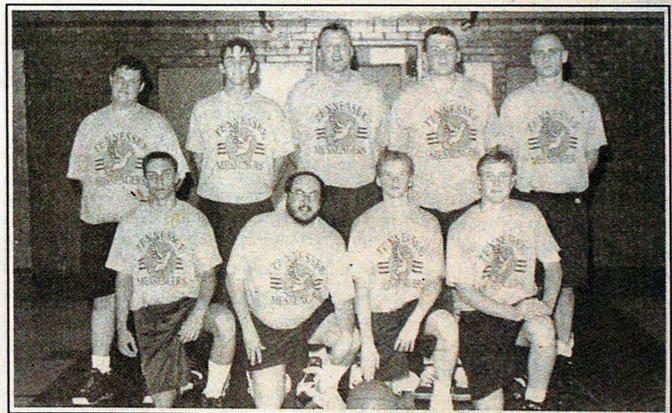
The construction involved building metal stud walls and completing them with sheetrock. Heating and duct work were added, as well as electrical outlets and lighting.

The team included four members on their first missions trip. It was the church's first effort in Poland. Members have worked in Brazil and Bolivia. B&R



TEAM MEMBERS were, from left, kneeling, Don and Sue Taylor; standing, Joe McIntire, Percy Thompsett, Chris Davis, Michael Murray, John Scott, Bill Walls, Mary Jane Shellabarger, Johnny Shellabarger, Betty Coad, A.L. Scott, and Gary Coad.

Basketball team from association uses sports evangelism in Poland



SPORTS EVANGELISM team members were, from left, first row, Aaron Bennett, Tim Bennett, Anthony Padelski, David Verble; back row, Luke Gillis, Brad Horner, Keith Turner, Josh Brickey, and Josh Nichols.

For Baptist and Reflector

Eleven junior and senior high school basketball players from East Tennessee led by Keith Turner, head basketball coach, Unicoi County High School and member of Calvary Church, Erwin, served in Poland this summer to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership.

The players, who worked in Radom, Poland, competed against

professional Polish basketball teams, did street evangelism, led a basketball camp, and led a worship service at a church.

During games, the Tennesseans shared their faith at half-times. The volunteers also distributed 1,200 Gospel tracts to residents of Radom.

Helping lead the team was Tim Bennett, minister of youth, Calvary Church. B&R

Received training in Tennessee

Pinnock appointed as Costa Rica's first missionary

By Rick Lane
For Baptist and Reflector

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Jokes abound that where there are two Baptists there are three opinions.

Baptists in Costa Rica demonstrated recently that is not always true.

Three Baptist entities, with the support of even more, joined together in late September to appoint Anne Marie Pinnock as a two-year missionary to British Guyana.

Pinnock, a former fashion model, served this summer as a camp missionary for Girls in Action camps at Linden and Carson.

Pinnock told the *Baptist and Reflector* earlier this summer she prayed for nine years after she felt God calling her to be a missionary.

"I know that God is faithful, and if he called me to do something, he would open the door one day," Pinnock said.

Pinnock's persistence and faith was capped off by her appointment service that took place on the final evening of a



ANNE MARIE PINNOCK, Costa Rica's first missionary, worked with Tennessee Baptist Girls in Action this summer at Camps Carson and Linden.

five-day Missions Congress sponsored by the Missions Board of the National Union of Baptist Churches.

The UNIB was assisted in the organization and presentation of the Congress by Cali Patricio, area director for Central America of the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board.

Representatives of the Costa Rica Baptist Convention

(another national body), the Costa Rica Baptist Mission (International Mission Board), and Costa Rica Baptist Theological Seminary also participated. Approximately 200 people gathered in First Church here to show their support for Pinnock.

Pinnock shared her testimony of God's work in her life from the time she first came to

know him as a young fashion model to her gradual involvement in a local Baptist church to her seminary career and finally to her recent work with a group called Music and Missions.

Pinnock expressed her gratitude to the IMB missionaries present who she said had "always believed in her call even when others did not."

In addition to the ongoing financial support she will receive from her church in San Pedro, the UNIB, and the Brazilian Mission Board, an offering had been taken on several occasions to help Pinnock purchase a small motorbike. At the close of the commissioning service, those present were given another opportunity to contribute. The final sum was about double what organizers had hoped for. ■ — Lane is missionary press representative for the organization of Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in Costa Rica. This story also contains information from an article written earlier this summer by Lonnie Wilkey and Betty Poor.



Retired DOM honored by church

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSTON — E.R. Gamble Day was held recently at Chapman Grove Church, south of here, for the long-time pastor and former director of missions of Hiwassee Association.

Gamble's grandson, David Gamble, pastor of Grace Church, Newport, paid tribute to his grandfather as one who spent time with his family, demonstrated love for his family, and prayed for his family. Other family members and friends also shared their memories of Gamble.

A portrait of Gamble was unveiled at the close of the service, along with a plaque naming the church educational building for him and a book of letters. ■

Foreign missions comes to Western District

By Tim Hill
For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — What do you do when foreign missions is in your back door?

Bill Smith, director of missions for Western District Association, was faced with that question recently when he planned for a World Missions Conference among the congregations in his association.

Smith knew there were a significant number of Hispanics that work on local farms in the association. He wanted the World Missions Conference to be something more than missionaries coming to share with his churches about their mission work.

He contacted the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., about the possibility of having at least one home missionary come who could speak Spanish.

They were able to secure Jesus "Chuy" Avila, a Mexican-born home missionary who serves as a Hispanic catalytic missionary in Midland (Texas) Association.

Smith also contacted Mickey Basham, pastor of Puryear Church and arranged for Avila to speak there on a Sunday morning. For a number of years Puryear has had a ministry and Sunday School class for the Hispanic farm workers, but communicating the Gospel to them in their native language has been a challenge.

When Avila arrived at Puryear for Sunday School there were 22 Mexican men there who had come to study the Bible.

Being Mexican himself, and knowing not only their language and culture, but also their religious upbringing in the Catholic Church, Avila was able to simply share the plan of salvation and offer an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Fourteen men made the decision.

"These people are hungry for the Gospel," Avila said.

"It was news to them when I told them that

Jesus was not still on the cross, but he is alive and able to come into their life and forgive their sins."

Basham had scheduled for Avila to visit one of the local squash farms near the church. They carried soft drinks, cake, Spanish Bibles, and tracts to share with the Mexican men while they were on break.

Once again Avila simply shared the Gospel with the 24 who were there and gave the invitation. Two more accepted Christ into their hearts. A number of them who did not make decisions said they had never heard the Gospel before.

Avila also visited the community of Henry, south of Paris, on the last day of the WMC.

Pastor Brian Anderson and the congregation of Henry Church have been working with Hispanics for about a year and wanted to take advantage of Avila's language skills and expertise.

On Saturday, before Avila's appearance at Henry Church, Anderson and Avila went door-to-door, visiting Hispanics and inviting them to church. The next morning there were 20 Hispanics, primarily ladies whose husbands had returned to Mexico to take care of family business, in attendance.

After presenting the Gospel, 10 of those present accepted Christ. Avila plans to return to Henry in November with some members of his Hispanic churches in Midland to help strengthen the work there.

By week's end some 26 Mexicans had accepted Jesus. During the entire week the missionaries who came to the World Missions Conference were praying for these people and their salvation.

"Somewhere someone had planted the seeds of the Gospel.

"I was just fortunate to be the one who could be a part of the harvest," Avila said. ■ — Hill is ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

NAMB names Tennesseans

For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Two couples with strong Tennessee ties have been appointed missionaries by the North American Mission Board.

Michelle McCluskey has been appointed director of church and community ministries for Bradley Association in Cleveland.

A native of Knoxville, McCluskey is the director of Ocoee Outreach, a ministry she co-founded in 1996 to meet the needs of low income home owners in her community.

She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

McCluskey's husband, Jay, is pastor of North Cleveland Church.

Tommy and Liz Stevens were appointed as home missionaries in Arizona where he will serve as director of evangelism and missions for Cochise County Association.

A native of Memphis and recent resident of Lawrenceburg, Stevens has been a pastor in Tennessee for the past 15 years.

He is a graduate of Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis) and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.



THE MCCLUSKEYS



THE STEVENSES

Mrs. Stevens also is a native of Memphis. She will serve with her husband in Arizona in the area of family and church. ■

Collections of can pull tabs not sought

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Ever tried to pull the pop-tab off of an aluminum soft drink can? Thousands have — including many church members — usually in response to well-intentioned drives to collect the tabs for kidney dialysis or other causes.

The only problem is, there are no such programs, and church and civic groups would be better off selling the entire can for more money and less effort.

Similar to the recurring rumors regarding the Procter & Gamble company logo or Madalyn Murray O'Hair's supposed efforts to halt religious broadcasting, the aluminum can-tab story has been recurring for years with no basis in truth, according to Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company and the National Kidney Foundation.

The most popular version of the story goes that the tabs can be exchanged for time on a kidney dialysis machine for someone with kidney disease. "Many well-intentioned yet misinformed groups and individuals collected pull tabs only to find that there was no pull tab/kidney dialysis donation program," according to a Reynolds brochure. "It never existed. Anywhere."

Kidney dialysis is actually funded for everyone by the federal Medicare program as treatment for a disability, according to Jenni Palocsik, a spokesman for the National Kidney Foundation of Georgia. ■

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers of Bowling Lights, Baptries, Signs
TOLL FREE 1-800-446-7400
FAX: 804-822-2210 Steeples
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Nominations for Associational Missionary for the Genesee Baptist Association, Flint, Michigan, may be mailed to Chairman, Roy G. Adams, 10158 S. State Road, Goodrich, MI 48438. Include cover with resume. Nominations will be received through Dec. 1, 1997.



Available in 20' to 33' models
(12 to 36 Passenger, New and Used)

Church Buses

- We rent new buses!
- We buy used buses!
- Guaranteed buy back!

Call Henry Headden
Carpenter Bus Sales
Brentwood, Tenn.
1 (800) 370-6180
1 (615) 376-2287

Southern trustees approve four-year Bible college

Compiled from BP & ABP reports

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously approved creation of the James P. Boyce College of the Bible Oct. 14, described as the first four-year Bible college associated with a Southern Baptist seminary.

Calling the new college an "historic advance for the cause of theological education among Southern Baptists" and the "continuation of a vision that gave birth to" the seminary, President R. Albert Mohler Jr. told trustees the program will address needs of Southern Baptist churches.

"The Boyce College of the Bible is designed to offer a traditional Bible college education of the highest quality to the thousands of Southern Baptists who do not yet hold a college degree, but have been called by God to the ministry of the Gospel," Mohler said in making the recommendation at the seminary's semiannual board meeting.

The new college, named for the founding president of Southern Seminary, will replace the Boyce Bible School which was created in 1974 as a non-degree granting under-

graduate program for ministerial training. By 1994, the Boyce School was accredited to grant associate of arts degrees.

Currently, Boyce Bible School offers a two-year associate's degree and Campbellsville (Ky.) University works with the seminary to offer a bachelor of arts in Christian studies on the seminary campus.

The new degree would specifically target students seeking training for ministry in a church, said Danny Akin, SBTS vice president for academic administration.

"This is a niche degree for those who already sense God's call to full-time ministry," said Akin, who added that some students want all four years of their undergraduate careers to be focused on Bible studies.

In response to a trustee's question, Mohler said the seminary hopes to continue its present partnership with Campbellsville University. Noting the liberal arts focus of Campbellsville, Mohler said some students may prefer that focus to the biblical studies focus of the new college.

Officials at Campbellsville declined to comment.

In background materials made available to news media, the seminary notes creation of the Boyce College is not expected to "compete with Baptist colleges and universities for students." Unlike liberal arts undergraduate programs, "The very tight focus on biblical studies for ministry is the unique hallmark of the Boyce College of the Bible. Bible colleges rarely compete with liberal arts colleges for students."

Set to begin operations Aug. 1, 1998, Mohler noted Boyce College of the Bible will be a fully accredited four-year Bible college which will offer a 129-hour bachelor of arts in biblical studies degree and a 66-hour associate of arts degree. As the fifth school of Southern Semi-

nary, Boyce College will have a separate faculty, although the college faculty and seminary faculty may at times teach courses in the other's academic program. A dean will be hired for the college.

According to background materials, the college will be funded as part of the seminary's "total budgetary structure" and will not significantly impact the seminary's Cooperative Program funding received from the Southern Baptist Convention since the college will replace the already existing Boyce program.

The plan drew mixed responses from some Kentucky Baptist leaders. Some questioned whether the new program would compete with existing schools. ■

Vice President for Program Services

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, a private, non-profit child care organization that provides care and hope for hurting families and children through Christ-centered ministries, is seeking a vice president to lead its program services.

Key Responsibilities include:

- Manage the operation of all statewide, Agency program services
 - Organize and sustain systems to provide quality assurance, utilization review, research, appropriate licensing and accreditation, contract management, client information system and other necessary activities to achieve and maintain high quality, cost effective services
 - Strategic planning and development of new programs
- Position Requirements:**
- Master's degree in social work or related field and extensive experience in the field of children and family services
 - A minimum of 10 years job-related experience, preferably with a private, child care program. Prior experience with JCAHO is a plus.
 - Excellent ability to manage and supervise groups of staff to attain established goals
 - Must possess a high degree of skill in nonverbal, oral, and written communication skills
 - Must be a professing Christian and an active member of the Baptist church

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will be accepting resumes until Nov. 17, 1997. Please send resume and salary requirements to:

Karen Hamilton, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243; Fax (502) 244-3249

Equal Employment Opportunity/AAP Employer M/F

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIRE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Director of International Development

The Baptist Sunday School Board, located in Nashville, is among the world's largest publishers of religious materials.

Responsibilities: establish vision, strategic objectives, issue analysis, and entry strategies for global expansion in the Christian publishing market. Develop a detailed business plan including risk management; establish strategic alliances with local in-country industries; and initiate product line implementation programs.

Requirements: Ten years of consulting, general management, marketing, sales, and distribution experience in international and domestic markets. Latin American experience is preferred. Strategic planning and global product development skills are required along with solid implementation ability and keen financial sense. Results oriented with proven leadership and excellent communication skills. Publishing or consumer product experience, preferably for church-related organization. Extensive knowledge of Southern Baptist markets required.

This is an excellent opportunity to significantly impact the ongoing success and stature of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Competitive package along with substantial benefits. If qualified and interested, please fax, mail, or e-mail resumes to: Stephanie A. Lipsey, Associate, Schuyler, Baker, & Parker, Inc., Two Concourse Parkway, Suite 775, Atlanta, GA 30328; Fax: (770) 804-1917; slipsey@sbpsearch.com

Metal Buildings

Steel Buildings — Must sell from cancellation! One is 30 x 42; 40 x 40. Brand New! Will sell for balance owed. Call Bob 1 (800) 552-8504.

Accepting Resumes

For full-time music/education minister. Send to First Baptist Church, 501, N. Main, Fordyce, Ark., 71742.

Book Store Facility Manager

The Baptist Sunday School Board, located in Nashville, is among the world's largest publishers of religious materials.

Responsibilities include coordinating the budget, designing, planning, and implementation of phased, prioritized renovation, relocation, and remodeling process for the growing Baptist Book Store/Lifeway Christian store chain of 70 stores.

Qualifications: Degree in architecture or related field. Knowledge of AutoCAD, familiar with computer spreadsheets. Ten years experience in construction/facilities management related field. Strong negotiation and management skills. Knowledge of commercial real estate leases. Some travel involved.

If interested and qualified, fax or mail your resume to: Baptist Sunday School Board, Human Resources Department, MSN 121, 127 9th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234, Fax: (615) 251-5017.

Classified

FOR SALE: 44-passenger Blue Bird Church Bus, air cond., auto, Mich. tires, 3208 cat eng., 1 owner, 104K, excellent cond., FBC, Humboldt. (901) 784-1883 or 784-2223.

PLANT 'N PRAYER: Gifts with a spiritual emphasis. Seasonal products for Thanksgiving & Christmas. Orders shipped to recipient. Contact Kay Quintero or Tammy, toll free @ 1 (888) 227-3098, PIN# 7267.

SEEKING: Woodbine Church is seeking a full/part-time minister of music and youth. Mail or fax resumes to: Tammy Tanksley, chair, Woodbine Baptist Church Search Committee, 29 Whitsett Road, Nashville, TN 37210; fax (615) 331-9630.

Pray or not

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — Psalm 28:6-7; Colossians 4:2-4; I Thessalonians 5:16-18; I Peter 5:6-7

In the month of November we have five lessons under the theme of "Teach Us To Pray." The purpose of our study is to help us learn to pray more effectively.

Lucien Coleman in his study guides on the Sunday School lessons relates the following story. "A woman who had been a practicing Buddhist for six years was converted to Christianity and joined a Baptist church. She later told a friend: 'As a Buddhist, I prayed and meditated six hours every day — two in the morning, two after coming home from work in the afternoon, and two before bedtime. As I got to know the women in my Sunday School class, I was astonished to learn that only two or three of them devoted even 15 minutes a day to prayer.'"

Do you pray? How much do you pray? The purpose of our study in November is to help us learn how to pray and then to pray. Why should we pray?

We need to pray because of God's blessings in the past. No one is certain about the background of Psalm 28, but what is certain is David's trust in God. There had been a time when David called out to God, and God heard his cry. David had found God trustworthy in the past; therefore, David was assured of God's blessing and protection in the future.

For David, God was his strength and shield. I think of God as a loving heavenly Father who is far better than any human father. I was blessed with a loving father. I have tried to be a loving father to my children. But my heavenly Father is far better and wiser than my father or myself. No wonder David "would thank God in song."

Because we are engaged in God's service. Paul urges his readers to "devote" themselves to prayer. Devote translated literally means to "remain strong, persevere, persist." Paul wants his readers to pray fervently for the work Paul was engaged in. Paul knew his work involved "rulers ... authorities ... powers of this dark world." Human strength and wisdom is not enough. We need God's help as we attempt to serve our Lord in an evil world. Every pastor, church staff member, every deacon, every Sunday School teacher, and worker needs to know that others are praying for them.

Because God commands us to pray. Paul says "pray continually ... for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Our prayer is to be an attitude of joy. God's will for our lives involves joy, prayer, and thankfulness. The admonition "give thanks in all circumstances" is not easy. Life has some hard knocks. Everyone has a burden to bear. Whether our circumstances are pleasant or most difficult, we need to pray with an attitude of confidence tempered with thankfulness.

Because God cares for us. The Old Testament adage "no man cares for my life" is contrasted by Peter's words "Casting all your anxiety upon him; for he cares for you." How can we know God cares for us? We can see his care in the lives and testimony of others. And when we are honest with ourselves, we know God cares for us because he alone loves us without reservations.

This lesson gives four reasons to pray. It is our loss when we fail to pray. I hope that the illustration of the converted Buddhist does not include you and me. Prayer is the wonderful opportunity for a believer to talk to and listen to the heavenly Father. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

The temple completed

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Ezra 6:14-22

The Lord God wanted the temple completed. God's will was evident from his sovereign work in the life of Cyrus and Darius. Earlier, by God's intervention, Cyrus had decreed that the Jews could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. When the Jews began work on the temple, much opposition came from the Samaritans in the land which caused the work to cease. From about 537 B.C. to 520 B.C., no further work was accomplished on the temple. When questions were raised about the Jews rebuilding their temple, God moved Darius to order a search to be made in Babylon for Cyrus' decree. The decree indeed was found and even included the stipulation that the project be paid for by the king's funds. Darius then ordered those in opposition to the Jews to not interfere with the construction, and to provide needed funds and animals for sacrifices.

Family Bible Lesson

Completion — vv. 14-15

The Lord used the two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to encourage the people to rebuild. Haggai challenged the people to rebuild the temple since they already had built houses for themselves. Zechariah, through his visions, reminded the people of God's divine assurance and strength. These two prophets were instrumental in moving the people to restart construction after that 17-year lapse (537 to 520 B.C.). Through these two prophets, their leaders, and the decrees from Cyrus and Darius, the people understood that God wanted the temple completed.

Trusting God

By Michael Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 15:1-8, 18

For all their greatness, the heroes of the Old Testament were still human beings. That is good news for us, because we can find inspiration in their humanness. Greater inspiration is found, however, in the fact that God is always God. He is always faithful to his character and is always faithful to his covenant. From Abraham we learn some things about the possibility of a human being trusting God.

Trusting God is a response to God's initiative. At the beginning of chapter 15 we read of the Lord speaking words of encouragement to Abraham in a vision. "After these things," points us back to chapters 13 and 14, which reported the separation of Lot from Abraham and then the rescue of Lot by Abraham from a group of marauding kings. God told Abraham not to be afraid after related episodes of disappointment and victory. God comes to us in the varied experiences of life. While we may not think about it much, the fact is that we need his encouragement as much in the glow of victory as we do in the shadow of defeat. Disappointment brings fear, but so does victory, for there is always the possibility of losing what we have gained.

Trusting God does not eliminate all questions. God assured Abraham that his reward would be very great, and

Explore the Bible Lesson

Abraham responded by raising a very honest question about his lack of an heir. Note that Abraham raised this concern immediately after a statement by God which was designed to encourage him. Later, God said, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur ... to give you this land to possess." Immediately, Abraham asked how he was to possess it.

Remarkably, this concern is raised even after the very significant statement concerning Abraham's trust in God. This narrative teaches us that expressing our questions to God is appropriate. Indeed, such questioning is a vital part of the development of our faith.

Real faith is trusting, but real faith is also honest. A relationship of wholeness with God requires that we be honest in our dealings with him.

Trusting God is the basis of a relationship with God. Verse six contains one of the most significant statements in all the Bible: "And (Abraham) believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness." Righteousness is an important Old Testament word for describing the state of a person who is in right relationship with God. Abraham's righteousness was based on his believing

Consecration — vv. 16-18

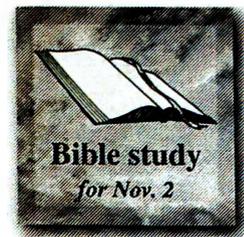
The Hebrew word for "dedication" is Hanukkah. Hanukkah, which is still observed, became the name of a feast designed to celebrate a later reconsecration of the temple in 165 B.C. This Hebrew word described anything newly made and put at God's disposal. The dedication or consecration of this rebuilt temple was reminiscent of what had been done when Solomon dedicated the first temple 400 years earlier, with the exception of the number of animals sacrificed.

Twelve goats were sacrificed as an offering for all Israel. This revealed two things. First, that they felt a real need to be cleansed from their sins. Second, at least symbolically, all of Israel was included, not just the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Part of this consecration process was to rededicate the distinctive roles of the priests and Levites for temple service.

Celebration — vv. 19-22

How appropriate it was that the first use of the new temple was to celebrate the Feast of Passover. They celebrated not only the time when God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt, but now as God had delivered his people from exile in Babylon. Verse 22 indicates that they also observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread with joy "for the Lord had caused them to rejoice." When we complete what God has commanded, he will cause us to rejoice in him.

Why did God command that the temple be rebuilt? Because integral to being the people of God is the worship of God. The temple was a clear reminder that the worship of God is central to living and an expression of their acknowledgement of his goodness to them. We don't have a temple like the Jews. We are the temple of God, a kingdom of priests. We can walk daily with an attitude of worship. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



the promises of God. In other words, he trusted God.

The New Testament sees Abraham as the model for salvation through faith. For example, Paul wrote, "Just as Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness, so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham" (Galatians 3:6-7).

Just as Abraham became righteous by trusting in God rather than through works of the law, so are we saved when we trust in the grace of God through Jesus Christ rather than trusting in our own merit or ability.

Trusting God means waiting on God. The larger passage for this lesson includes chapter 16, which tells of the birth of Ishmael. Sarah, concerned as was Abraham that she had as yet not given birth to an heir, proposed that Abraham take the servant Hagar as a wife so that she might give him an heir. Hagar indeed gives birth to Ishmael.

However, as the subsequent narrative reveals, God's purpose will be fulfilled only when Sarah gives birth to Abraham's son. Serious complications arise because of this effort by Abraham and Sarah to "hurry up" the fulfillment of the promises of God.

Real trust is patient and is content to wait for things to happen in God's time. When we try to do God's work for him, we tend to make a mess. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.



Former GGBTS president dies

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Harold K. Graves, former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and a native of Tennessee, died Oct. 21 after a prolonged battle with heart difficulties. He was 85.

Graves served as president of the seminary for 25 years, from 1952 until his retirement in 1977. He guided construction of the 130-acre campus here, moving the seminary from a single building in Berkeley, Calif.

He was named as president emeritus of the seminary after his retirement.

Graves was born in Sale Creek. He is survived by his wife, Frieda, two children, and four grandchildren. ■

President vetoes abortion ban again

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton again has vetoed a bill banning a gruesome abortion procedure, using reasoning discredited by the medical community.

It was the second time in 18 months Clinton had rejected the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. The president's action came despite a veto-proof majority in the House of Representatives and a near veto-proof majority in the Senate.

Congress is not expected to attempt a veto override until next year. ■

NOBTS dedicates 24-hour prayer center on campus

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Round-the-clock prayer and Internet computer technology joined forces at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Oct. 9 when a 24-hour prayer center officially opened on campus.

A prayergram for "Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide" went out via the Internet when NOBTS President Chuck Kelley and T.W. Hunt, one of Southern Baptists' foremost teachers on prayer, pushed a computer button together with Renate Viveen and Kim Leech, two NOBTS students who first asked Kelley for a 24-hour prayer center on campus.

The prayer room includes a 24-hour world clock. ■

Okla. legislators oppose casinos

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Casino gambling in Oklahoma is being publicly opposed by 109 state legislators and all members of the state's congressional delegation, according to Forrest Claunch, himself a state legislator and chairman of Oklahomans Against Casinos.

Voters will decide Feb. 10 the fate of State Question 672, a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize casino gambling in various parts of the state, including the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas.

The reasons those opposed to the issue vary, Claunch said, "but there is general agreement that this constitutional amendment is a terrible gamble. It simply is not good for Oklahoma." ■

SEBTS trustees OK additional housing

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Construction is set to begin by mid-November on two seminary housing projects following action taken by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's

board of trustees Oct. 14.

Trustees finalized plans for construction of nearly 200 housing units to be built within about a two-mile radius of the seminary's campus here.

A 76-unit complex, called Fletcher Village, after Paul Fletcher, Southeastern's vice president of administration, will be built off Stadium Drive, west of Richland Creek. Another 100-unit complex is set to be built off White Street, about a mile from the seminary campus. ■

GGBTS to offer degree via Internet

Baptist Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary could become the first school in the nation to offer a master of theology degree via the Internet under plans approved by seminary trustees Oct. 14.

Pending approval by the seminary's accrediting agencies, the master of theology degree on the Internet will begin as a three-year pilot program in the fall of 1998. It is designed to be completed in two to four years. The program will consist of 28 semester hours, a thesis, and weekly on-line dialogues among students and faculty on seminar topics. ■

Montana Baptists adopt \$1 million budget once again

Baptist Press

EAST HELENA, Mont. — The Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship adopted a \$1 million budget for the second year in a row during its annual meeting earlier this month.

The budget for the coming year is \$1,111,283, an increase of \$3,847 over last year's first-ever \$1 million-plus budget.

In Cooperative Program giving from the fellowship's 117 churches and missions, receipts of \$334,771 are anticipated with 22 percent to be allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention international and North American mission causes.

B. J. Hallmark of Great Falls was elected president of the fellowship which encompasses 12,055 church members. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of Philemon

Using a straight line, connect the names in column 1 to the descriptions in column 2. Your lines will pass through both a number and a letter. The number tells you where to put the letter in the box below. The answer will reveal what Paul was asking of Philemon.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| PAUL • | ② | ① | • Sister in the Lord |
| PHILEMON • | ⑤ | ④ | • Runaway slave |
| APPHIA • | ④ | ⑥ | • Ambassador for Christ |
| ARCHIPPUS • | ① | ⑦ | • Fellow workers |
| ONESIMUS • | ⑦ | ⑧ | • Fellow soldier |
| EPAPHRAS • | ⑥ | ③ | • Slave owner |
| MARK, ARISTARCHUS, DEMAS, LUKE | ③ | ⑤ | • Fellow prisoner |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Fun for the Family

Answers to the Oct. 15 Fun for the Family Puzzles

The Book of Titus for adults

Answers to the crossword puzzle for adults:

- Across: 1. WIFE, 2. BLAMELESS, 3. YOUNGER, 4. TEACH, 5. REVERENT, 6. GRAVITY, 7. INTEGRITY, 8. MODELS, 9. LOVE HUSBAND, 10. CHASTE
- Down: 1. BLAMELESS, 2. GOD, 3. SOUNDER FAITH, 4. TEACHER, 5. REVERENT, 6. SOUND SPEECH, 7. INTEGRITY, 8. MODELS, 9. OBEY, 10. OBEY

The Book of Titus for children
FOR THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED,
BRINGING SALVATION TO ALL.
-Titus 2:11

Just for Kids

The Book of Philemon

Use the endings at the right to complete these key words from Philemon.

- PA _____ (MON) (US)
- IMPRISONM _____ (UL) (HER)
- PHILE _____ (NER) (TS)
- ONESI _____ (CE) (TH) (Y)
- SLA _____ (VE) (NCE)
- SAIN _____ (MUS) (ENT)
- FAI _____
- JO _____
- BROT _____
- JES _____
- PART _____
- OBEDIE _____
- GRA _____

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