

■ **this week's news**

global —

■ Mexico in "shock" after assassination. — Page 2

national —

■ Orlando evangelism effort needs volunteers. — Page 2

■ SBC spiritual leader calls for "Christlike" response to Dilday's firing. — Page 3

■ SWBTS trustees send letter to Southern Baptist pastors, directors of missions. — Page 3

■ Two Alabama churches damaged by tornado. — Page 6

state —

■ Bluegrass Church has "different" revival. — Page 4

■ Editorial a reminder "not to lose sight of God's assignment." — Page 5

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Tennessee Baptists have ties to movie 'Christy'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

TOWNSEND — The Easter night premier of the movie "Christy" was of more than just casual interest for several Tennessee Baptists.

Jay T. Rockwell, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Calvary Church, Kingsport, served as the director of stunts, special effects, and ani-

mals for the movie which is based on Catherine Marshall's best-selling inspirational novel about a young girl who, in 1919, left her home in the city to teach at a mission school in the remote mountains of East Tennessee.

The movie was filmed about a quarter-mile from Bethel Church in Townsend and used several local actors, including Curtis Franklin, the son of Bethel Pastor Curt Franklin.

Franklin and Rockwell were contacted by the *Baptist and Reflector* after the premier for their reactions.

"I was very impressed with the family atmosphere and the importance of the Lord" that was portrayed in the movie, the Bethel pastor said.

Rockwell, too, was pleased with the outcome. He directed the special effects and doubled for actors on stunts. His wife, Becky, was a double on stunts for actress Tyne Daly.

"It went off really well. It was a great quality piece, and to have the message that it has is the icing on the cake," he said.

Rockwell, who turned down a similar job with a show that would have meant more money, said the movie's message was one reason he took the job.

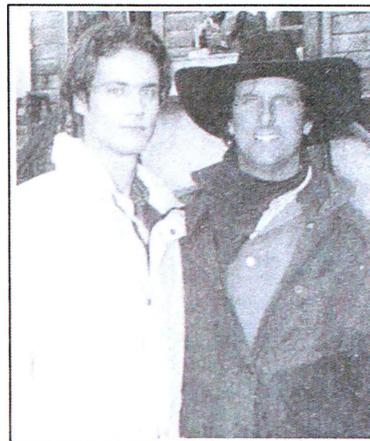
"I'm blessed to be working on a project like this," he said.

Rockwell said the movie and subsequent TV episodes became "a project for the Lord."

He encourages people to let CBS television officials know that they liked the movie and want more family-oriented shows on TV.

Six episodes of "Christy" are scheduled to be aired. Check local listings. Future episodes depend on viewer response.

"This is a way for good moral Christian people to stand up and say, 'This is what



KINGSPORT LAYMAN Jay T. Rockwell, right, visits with 'Christy' actor Randall Batinkoff who played the role of minister David Grantland. The family-oriented show aired on Easter Sunday night.

we want," Rockwell said.

Franklin said the movie became a "ministry tool" as several actors and executive producer Ken Wales attend Bethel Church when they are in Townsend. □

Write CBS president regarding 'Christy'

People who viewed the movie "Christy" and are interested in more wholesome, family entertainment on television are encouraged to write the president of CBS, thanking them for showing "Christy" and encouraging them to produce more shows of this type.

Letters may be addressed to: Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment, % CBS TV City, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90036. □

Alcohol advertising bill may be near first vote

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A bill requiring warning messages in alcohol advertisements is expected to be voted on soon for the first time by a congressional committee.

The Senate Commerce Committee may consider the Sensi-

ble Advertising and Family Education (SAFE) Act shortly after Congress reconvenes April 11. Congress began a two-week recess March 25.

The SAFE Act will require health and safety warnings to be in all alcohol ads broadcast on radio and television or printed in newspapers, magazines, or promotional displays.

The print warnings contain more information than the broadcast ones and also include a toll-free telephone number providing more details on alcohol use.

The messages warn against drinking while pregnant and note that alcohol may cause mental retardation and other birth defects; remind people it

is illegal to buy alcohol under the age of 21; warn that alcohol is a drug and may be addictive; warn against mixing alcohol and other drugs; and more. — See Alcohol, page 2

Tolar named acting president at Southwestern

By Toby Druin
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas — Emphasizing he neither concurs with the firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr. nor the manner in which it was done, William B. Tolar accepted the job as acting president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary March 29.

Tolar, 65, vice president for



TOLAR

academic affairs, who has been provost of the seminary since 1990 and a faculty member since 1965, said his immediate goals will be to focus on the internal affairs of the seminary, preserving a "meaningful experience" for the students the rest of this semester and bolstering faculty morale.

He would not have accepted the position, he emphasized, without insisting the acceptance not be construed as condoning the trustees' dismissal of Dilday. He made that point when he informed trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley he would take the position, Tolar said.

Tolar, who said he has been a friend of Dilday for 46 years, was endorsed for the acting presidency by the other four vice presidents and four deans of the seminary.

Speaking for them, Bruce Corley, dean of the school of theology, said they believed Tolar "to be the best person to lead the seminary now through these troubled days."

Corley reiterated, however, the resolution passed by the general faculty March 10 which said they did not concur with the trustees' action or "the manner in which the action was carried out." □

Jerry King has second heart attack

Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department Director Jerry King suffered his second heart attack in a month on Easter Sunday.

As of April 4, King was listed in stable condition in the Intensive Care Unit at Donelson Hospital. King had his first heart attack March 5.

The State Evangelism Conference set for April 21-22 at First Church, Hendersonville, will proceed.

Another Baptist Center worker, J. L. "Pete" Ford, director of Adult Homes, is recovering from triple bypass surgery. He was scheduled to be released from the hospital this week. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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Killing leaves Mexico 'in shock,' worker says

By Mary E. Speidel
For Baptist Press

MEXICO CITY — Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico felt the nation's shock March 24 in the wake of Mexico's first political assassination since 1928.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, expected to become Mexico's next president, was shot in the head and abdomen March 23 while campaigning in Tijuana, just across the U.S.-Mexico border from San Diego. Colosio, presidential candidate of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, died three hours later while undergoing emergency surgery. A 23-year-old Mexican confessed to the killing.

Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari declared a national day of mourning March 24, urging Mexicans to maintain unity and calm. Salinas had chosen Colosio as his party's presidential candidate

for the Aug. 21 election.

"We're seeing people in shock," said Larry Gay, Southern Baptist representative in Mexico City, in a phone interview March 24. "As two (Mexicans) said to me this morning, 'My whole world seems to be crumbling down around me right now.'"

No Southern Baptist workers feel directly threatened by the violence, but "some people will look over their shoulder a little more than they did in the past," said Gay, of Birmingham, Ala.

"We're affected, not to the same degree, but in the same way any Mexican is affected," he said. "It's a direct violation of our stability and security, the political process, everything that goes into the well-being of the country."

The last time a political figure was assassinated in Mexico was 1928, when Alvaro Obregon was murdered shortly after he was re-elected president.

The Colosio assassination came on the heels of a January uprising in Mexico's Chiapas state. That violence — led by guerrillas of the self-proclaimed Zapatista National Liberation Army — marked the country's first armed conflict since the 1970s.

Despite the latest violence, Gay doesn't think Mexico is plunging into political and social anarchy. "Granted, that always can happen. But I don't think that's where we're headed," he said.

Some of Mexico's unrest stems from economic conditions, Gay explained. "We're in declining inflation now, but we still have a very high cost of living here. And the standard of living for the masses is not increasing," he said, noting that about 60 percent of the population is considered poor by "Mexican standards."

Gay called on Southern Baptists to pray for peace in Mexico.

"Colosio himself said peace is not simply the cessation of violent acts. Peace has to be sought actively. We must make peace," he said. "Pray for peace on a national scale in Mexico but also pray for peace on a personal basis. The message of hope and peace Christ can give is what we have been trying to communicate in our ministries in Mexico. Pray that we and our Mexican Baptist brothers will be instruments of that peace."

Baptists in Mexico are trying to help do that through relief work among Indians who fled their homes after recent rebel violence in Chiapas. More than 200 Mexican Baptist volunteers have helped feed hundreds of refugees in relief kitchens near the combat zone.

Refugees see "here's a Mexican who is paying his own way and taking off work just to go down there and say, 'I love you and I want peace for you,'" Gay said. □

Orlando phone effort needs SBC volunteers

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Starting three congregations is the goal of a two-day telephone campaign to precede this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Volunteers will be asked to make phone calls Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12, to discover prospects for the churches.

Callers will ask residents if they are involved in a local church. If they say no, callers will tell them about the churches, said Ronnie Reynolds, home missionary and church starter strategist for the Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

A phone bank with 100 lines will be set up at First Church in Winter Park, Fla. Volunteers are asked to work one shift: Saturday 8:30 a.m.-noon, 1-4:30 p.m., 5:30-9 p.m.; or Sunday 1-4:30 p.m., 5:30-9 p.m.

Volunteers will receive 30 minutes of training before their shift begins, Reynolds said.

The three church starts will be Hispanic, African American, and Anglo English. Reynolds said he would like for people from each of those culture groups to volunteer to make the phone calls. To participate in the phone campaign, call Reynolds, (407) 293-0450.

Other pre-convention activities include door-to-door surveys, block parties, and street evangelism. To register for these, call Bobby Sunderland in the Home Mission Board evangelism office, (404) 898-7688. □



Tennessee welcome

Tennessee Baptist Foundation President Earl Wilson, left, welcomes Harry and Martha Bonner "home" to Tennessee. The Bonners formerly lived in Nashville and were members of First Church. Now retired, the couple live in California where he serves as a consultant with the California Baptist Foundation. The Bonners were in town for a meeting of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives which was hosted by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and the Southern Baptist Foundation. The group had a luncheon at the TBC Baptist Center.

Dallas-area church gives Clintons standing ovation

By Orville Scott
For Baptist Press

DALLAS — While in Dallas for the wedding of his brother, March 26, President Bill Clinton and his wife and daughter visited at First Church, Richardson, where they heard a message by his former pastor, Brian Harbour.

Harbour came to First Church, Richardson, from Emmanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., where he was pastor of then Arkansas Gov. Clinton for four and one-half years.

"He (Clinton) faithfully sang in the choir at Emmanuel, and

Chelsea was brought up in our choir program. Hillary often came over to worship with us when she was not leading Bible study at the Methodist church," Harbour said.

When the presidential family arrived at First Church, Richardson, for the 9:30 worship service, they shook hands with many of the members before entering the sanctuary to a spontaneous, standing ovation.

In his sermon, Harbour said, "The cross is the answer to the problems of mankind." The problems of alienation, emptiness, and despair can be

overcome by remembering Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, providing the world peace and hope through God, Harbour said.

In the closing prayer, Mack Hampton, a deacon, asked for wisdom for the president and for safety in his travels.

Following the service, the Clintons and Harbours chatted for several minutes beside the presidential limousine. "We talked mostly about personal matters, such as how our kids are progressing," said Harbour.

"The Clintons said they were impressed with our choir and how warmly they sang." □

Alcohol legislation slated for first vote

— Continued from page 1

The SAFE Act, which is S. 674 in the Senate, was introduced in two previous Congresses without receiving a committee vote.

"We have labored for four years to see the SAFE Act come to a vote, and now that time is almost at hand," said James A. Smith, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations.

"We believe we have a chance to pass the bill in the Commerce Committee, Smith said.

The alcohol and broadcasting industries have mounted strong opposition to the bill.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to write Tennessee Sen. Harlan Matthews, member of the Senate Commerce Committee. His Washington, D.C., address is U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. □

Christlike responses needed in wake of Dilday's firing: Blackaby

By John Loudat
For Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Many Southern Baptists are responding to the firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary the same way the world would respond, said Henry Blackaby in a telephone interview with the *Baptist New Mexican* March 23.



Blackaby is the director of the office of **BLACKABY** prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board, as well as prayer consultant to the Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board.

Blackaby said he was not speaking for the agencies, but only for himself, "out of my own sense of personal responsibility and obligation to my (Southern Baptist) family."

"We're not consulting with our brothers, we're just reacting," Blackaby said of that situation. "The knee-jerk reaction can be worse than the action (of the trustees)," he warned.

Our society doesn't believe

in using due process anymore, he observed. People would rather try those they disagree with in the media because they feel they have a corner on the truth — much like the lynch parties of old, he said.

"Right now, the response to the crisis is just as important as the crisis itself," Blackaby said, noting this is an opportunity for Southern Baptists to demonstrate that Christians resolve their differences differently than society does — with love and mercy.

"I deeply regret that the trustees have taken such a precipitous action and regret that they did not work it out in a Christlike way, but did it in the world's way. I would hope the friends of Dr. Dilday will respond in as Christlike a way as he (Dilday) has done thus far."

Blackaby admitted, "I don't know everything there is to know about this situation." But, he added, neither do most Southern Baptists. People must listen to both sides, instead of reacting to the first thing heard, which is usually incomplete. It is wrong to assume that everything one side says is wrong, Blackaby said. Most people do not have enough information to pass

judgment on the action of the seminary trustees, he said, and thus conclude the trustees didn't seek God's will.

Blackaby said Baptists must believe that the process in place in the SBC is adequate to resolve the problem. "We have a democratic process that has worked well in the past." It recognizes that trus-

tees are accountable to the SBC and they have to report their actions to the messengers every year during the annual meeting. The messengers can then ask the trustees to rescind any actions they don't believe are right and, if the trustees refuse, the convention can remove the trustees, Blackaby said.

The noted prayer leader concluded, "God is bigger than this problem and he can work it through for us, as he has in the past. Romans 8:28 is just as true for us as for any other time of crisis in history. We need to believe him and obey him, as he leads us to bring glory to himself and good for his people." □

Trustees answer questions about lockout

By Toby Druin
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — An "overabundance of caution" and "business world protocol" prompted Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees to order the lock on Russell Dilday's door changed and his computer access code erased, according to trustee leaders.

But if they had it to do over again, said Miles Seaborn, they might have done it differently, possibly sending someone with Dilday to his office to get his personal belongings rather than locking him out.

Seaborn, pastor of Birchman Church, Fort Worth, and Lee Weaver, a member of Birchman and newly elected

trustee vice chairman, were questioned about the events of the March 9 firing after the March 20 introduction of William B. Tolar as the seminary's acting president.

Weaver said the changing of the locks was "not a reflection on anyone personally. We didn't know what to expect."

"It was done according to protocol of the business world," said Seaborn, who insisted that Dilday hadn't been locked out of his office, but that his access had been limited. Changing the locks and computer codes were not meant to belittle Dilday or "rub salt into the wounds," Seaborn said. "But we didn't know what all he had access to through the computer. He is a computer whiz.

"We were not trying to limit (access) to his personal records. We were just saying there are certain things at this time that need to be sacred, sacred, to the institution. It was not meant to be malicious."

Seaborn said the action was taken "as much for Dilday's benefit as for anyone else. Who knows with all these kids (approximately 200-300 students who crowded outside while the trustees met) around here, that somebody could have walked in and taken a souvenir."

Seaborn said it might have been an "overabundance of caution. But misguided as it might have been, it was for his (Dilday's) protection." □

SWBTS trustees send letter to pastors; Dilday counters assertions

Compiled from Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Trustee officers of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have sent a letter to all Southern Baptist pastors and directors of associational missions explaining the trustee position in the firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr.

The four-page letter is co-signed by trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr. of Dallas;

vice chairman Lee Weaver of Fort Worth; and secretary T. Bob Davis of Dallas.

"Due to the inordinate amount of publicity which the recent action of the trustees has generated, we feel it important to speak directly to our Southern Baptist family," the officers said in the letter. There are 38,000-plus churches and 1,200-plus associations cooperating with the SBC, according to 1992 statistics. A lo-

cal printer printed the letter at no cost. Because of the bulk and sorting procedures used, the first class letters are being mailed for 27 cents each (approximately \$11,000 total mailing), seminary officials said.

The officers asked pastors to share the information in the letter with members of their congregations. After reviewing the SBC constitutional responsibility given to the seminar-

ies, giving board of trustees full authority in all matters of operation, the letter said SWBTS trustees "had no choice but to require a change in executive leadership."

An offer of early retirement, the letter said, was rejected by Dilday "out of hand with an unwillingness to read the provisions."

The trustees acknowledged in the letter there were some things in the process they might have done differently.

The letter noted armed guards were not employed from outside sources. Only campus security personnel were on site, the letter said.

The letter described "philosophical differences" between the trustees and Dilday.

The letter listed four areas Dilday was unwilling to cooperate with the board and discounted news reports Dilday had received a favorable annual performance the night before the dismissal. The trustee officers termed those reports "rumor" or "simply a misstatement of fact or it is his own interpretation of what happened."

Dilday, in an interview with the *Texas Baptist Standard*, said he was "appalled" by "inaccuracies and distortions of

truth" in the letter.

Apprised of the contents of the letter, Dilday responded to each of the points on which the trustees found fault with him.

The idea that the retirement plan offered to him was a "generous offer" is "absolutely false," Dilday said. "It was offered in a confrontational spirit, which I looked at long enough to realize while generous in total it was really a buy-out, almost an effort to bribe me to leave, and no matter how generous I could not in good faith accept it."

Regarding an impasse or gridlock cited by the trustees in the letter, Dilday said "that simply does not represent an accurate description of the actions of the board. They have approved every recommendation I have brought with one or two exceptions, and we have moved forward without slowing the process at all."

As to his pre-firing performance appraisal, Dilday said, "Not once in that appraisal on March 8 did they challenge my actions or attitudes. The only challenges were about faculty members about whom others complained." Dilday said they used terms like "you are doing a marvelous job in these areas." □

Southwestern trustee withdraws call for investigation

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The executive committee of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees offered an explanation and apology regarding the circumstances of the firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr. in a statement March 31.

In a related action, trustee Wayne Allen has decided not to call for an investigation of the firing.

Allen, pastor of First Church, Carrollton, Texas, had called for the SBC Executive Committee to investigate the March 9 dismissal of Dilday. Allen was one of seven trustees who voted against the

firing while 26 voted for it.

The executive committee of the board of trustees, in a prepared statement, acknowledged that "several things in the action of the (trustees) should have been done differently or left undone." The statement noted that in regard to changing the locks on Dilday's office was in retrospect "unnecessary and should not have been done."

Referencing the limited public response by trustees immediately after the firing, the executive committee said it agrees that "more explanation from the beginning would have been helpful and desirable."

The statement concluded with an appeal for forgiveness

"on all sides and offer a hand of reconciliation to everyone."

Allen, who met with the executive committee March 29, said he still does not agree with the firing decision or the manner in which it was done. But, he said in a news release, "I do believe that the intent of their heart was sincere and that is of utmost importance to me," he said.

In not pursuing the request of the SBC Executive Committee, Allen said he did not believe "such would accomplish any lasting good and would only bring greater damage to the seminary, to the SBC, and the Kingdom's work." □

■ about letters to the editor

- 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. □

Don't forget us

As a student, I have invested five years at Southwestern and am currently working on my doctorate. The recent events here at the seminary have affected so many, and I

bring to my home state of Tennessee, asking you, "Please don't forget us." The sadness I feel for Dr. and Mrs. Dilday does not make me conservative, moderate, or liberal ... it makes me human. The grief I experience as matters continue to unfold is an emotional response, not a statement of support or rejection of someone's doctrine or theology.

I believe we are a hurting body, regardless of where each of us may stand. Over the years before coming here to train, we have served in your churches and on your campuses, ministering alongside you there in Tennessee and in many other states. Now we are here, caught in the crossfire. Amidst all that you say and do in the coming days, please don't forget us. The prayers of the righteous will avail much.

Michele Dickenson
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Pray for us

I am a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and I write to give a student's perspective on the firing of our president, Russell H. Dilday. Students are appalled at the action of the trustees and are taking a stand against the wrong that was done. Dr. Dilday led this school in many godly ways and sought out the will of God for this school.

The allegations that were

brought against Dr. Dilday are false. The only crime Dr. Dilday is guilty of is standing against wrong.

I am proud to be a Tennessee native and a Southern Baptist. But I am not proud to be in the same convention as people like the trustees. We do not need more fighting.

What the trustees did was morally and ethically wrong and un-Christlike. Please, let's begin to come together and stop all this labeling. We are more importantly Christian. Jesus called us to be Christlike. I challenge all Southern Baptists to write to the trustees of Southwestern and let them know how you feel about their actions. Remember that Jesus took a stand and got angry, but did it out of love and still got blasted for it.

Please pray for our faculty, administration, and students as it is tough, but Jesus is in charge of this school and not the trustees.

Brian T. Phelps
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas 76122

Backs trustees

Reference your editorial on the discharge of Dr. Dilday as printed in the March 16 *Baptist and Reflector*.

The differences between the trustees of SWBTS and Dr. Dilday had been long standing. Obviously, the patience and tolerance of the board of

trustees was demonstrated by repeated attempts to resolve differences with Dr. Dilday over an extended period of time.

Apparently, their patience was finally exhausted. When Dr. Dilday ultimately rejected the guidelines of the trustees, he was discharged.

You stated that the authority of the trustees is not the question. However, you wrote, "their role is not to force out leaders whose politics may not be acceptable to them. ..." (wouldn't policies be more descriptive and more accurate than "politics"?)

It is precisely the role and responsibility of the board of trustees to establish the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies of the institution. Further, it is a necessary and inherent function of the board of trustees to require employees to meet job requirements. Otherwise, why would there be a need or use for trustees?

The tone of your editorial revealed a prejudice which refused any effort to empathize with problems encountered by the trustees. Your choice of words and phrases made a crafty and persuasive attack on the character and objectivity of the trustees.

Bill L. Pope
Hixson 37343

That the trustees affirmed Russell Dilday, told him his retirement was not being sought — and then fired him a few hours later — is reason enough

to question their actions and objectivity.
— Editor

Likes editorial

We commend you on the editorial entitled, "You bet, they are giving free rides to Tunica."

God bless you, my brother.
Wayman E. Jones
United Tennessee League
Nashville 37204

Had pen pals

The *Baptist and Reflector* continues to be an interesting and informative paper which we enjoy reading, usually from cover to cover.

While I personally did not respond to the "long-time reader request," many good memories of the paper come to mind. Aunt Polly's Page was partially instrumental in my becoming a Christian and from the page I corresponded with several pen pals at one time. (Probably when stamps were 3 cents or less.) I clipped articles for future reference, especially those on Baptist doctrine and beliefs. I collected many Children's Pages into a booklet to use with my own children as reading and activities material. For at least 51 years I have been a *Baptist and Reflector* reader.

May God continue to use you and your fellow staff members in keeping us informed.

Mrs. Jimmie Smith
Friendship 38034

Hendersonville's Bluegrass plans 'New Life' weekend

Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, is hosting a "different" type of revival April 15-17 with evangelist Richard Jackson, pastor emeritus of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church.

Instead of the traditional revival service ranging from four to seven days, the Jackson-led weekend revival will consist of a leadership banquet for church leaders, a soul-winning clinic,

outreach visits in the community, an evangelism service, and an evangelism/encouragement service.

The reason for this type of revival, according to Jackson, is "the number of

professions of faith is consistently higher and the long-lasting results are greater because the church members become more aware of and enthusiastic about soul winning." □

O'Brien, McCullough headline Baptist Women's get-together

"Choose Ye This Day," is the theme of the Get-together for Baptist Women, April 29-May 1 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The weekend event is sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Through special speakers, conferences, music, and worship experiences, conferees will have opportunity to evaluate their choices as they consider their roles as daughter, sister, wife, and mother, and their personal image.

Conferences will offer insights and suggestions for growing as an individual, family member, spouse, and in one's faith.



O'BRIEN



McCULLOUGH

Featured speakers are Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., and Mamie McCullough of Dallas.

McCullough, a member of Dallas' Prestonwood Church, is author of *I Can, You Can Too* and *Get It Together* and

Remember Where You Put It.

Registration begins at 2 p.m. on April 29 with "early bird" conferences beginning at 3 p.m.

Saturday night's program features "An Evening with the Missionaries." Missionaries scheduled are Kay Bennett, La.; Mike Rouse, Texas; Carolyn Barkley, Japan; Caroline Jones, Chile; Carla Roy, Uruguay; and Pamela Mungo, Home Mission Board. The get-together ends after a worship and praise service on Sunday.

Registration fee is \$15. For more information, call Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



April -

- 7 — Missionary Marilyn Graves is working to help organize Bible study groups for nurses in various cities of Chile.
- 8 — Missionary Phyllis Walker is planning to offer piano lessons as an outreach to members of Nunoa.
- 9 — Our Tennessee medical team will be in Puerto Montt through April 18, attempting to meet physical and spiritual needs. As team members empty themselves of self pray they will allow the Holy Spirit to have his way in every area of their lives.
- 10 — The salvation of Manuel Sanchez in Temuco
- 11 — Again our medical team in Puerto Montt. Our team leader is Dewey Dunn. The team moves to the large island for further ministry today.
- 12 — Birthday blessings on retired missionary Margaret Mitchell
- 13 — Praise the Lord for enabling the Betania Church in Antofagasta to become financially independent.

Influential, effective people make a difference

Baptists are a peculiar people. There is enough uniqueness to go around, but Southern Baptists, Tennessee Baptists are unique.

While the state convention and the denomination have accomplished great things for God for many years, we must also acknowledge our failures.

The record will show that thousands of missionaries have gone out in the Lord's name, doing his work all across the world, as Southern Baptists. Other thousands have worked faithfully in the homeland. Souls have been saved, bodies healed, and minds educated by Southern Baptists. People have been evangelized and churches and homes built as Tennessee Baptists have "partnered" with four nations, Michigan, and individually with countless others.

The benefits have been reciprocal. For every person who "missioned," their testimonies back home influenced many others to go, to pray, and to give.

Though these do not add up to the sum of what Baptists do in the name of Christ, it is a mighty undertaking. The Gospel has been preached, souls saved. Physical needs have been determined and workers have gone out to apply the Gospel message in action. The down side

of all this is simply that when Christians get off track, there is trouble.

The glory of the Resurrection, which Baptists celebrated Sunday along with other Christians, should be reminder enough to God's people that past victories won't carry today.

The glory of the Resurrection shines brightly in hearts, but is there warmth and power enough to win over evil?

God's best gift to mankind is a Savior whose power and love is sufficient for all problems, all misgivings, all inadequacies, all weaknesses.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Somehow Baptists have to realize that truth, and grasp it, to know it and to live it.

Baptists must not lose sight of God's assignment of going into all the world. Which way should the convention go? Who are the grass roots people? Who believes more "thoroughly" in the Bible? Who wants to be in charge? Who has a direct line to God? Who determines the guidelines for being a part of the family?

The reality of the Resurrection gives impetus to all that is good. In an incredible way, Resurrection Day mobilizes Christianity to face Satan. Forgetting the mundane, once the resurrection truth is realized, Baptists are enabled to move to the frontier. Able to move past

whatever encumbers, God's people can see his certain victory.

Yes, Baptists are unique. But the leadership role may be passing. It is almost too late to get on course again. Resurrection always is a reminder of the possibilities of life in Christ.

For that miracle to occur, everyone has to sacrifice self, even leaders. True resurrection comes when that is done. □

Lottery not wanted here

Probably only two weeks remain in the current Tennessee state legislative session. Citizens want their legislators to be honest and courageous on key issues.

A group of senators have done that in not falling for the lottery trap. During these two weeks, there will be tremendous political and media pressure put on those senators who have said publicly they will not support a referendum for removing the constitutional ban on a lottery. It may yet be brought to a vote. If you don't want a lottery, tell your senator.

Who benefits from lotteries? — gambling interests, those who sell advertising, and very few others. The state doesn't, despite claims about tax income. Thanks are due to those who protect Tennessee's interests with their political lives. Call them and thank them now. They are heroes. □

one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

Only a name?

Our names don't always stay with us. Sometimes we may tire of an identification that doesn't suit, or seems to be too bland.

Aspiring actors may think the road to fame follows behind a name with more zing, or has a flair to it.

William Sidney Porter became O. Henry, who in turn became one of America's favorite writers. Mark Twain was born Samuel Clemens.

The French woman author who used the pseudonym of George Sand was, in fact, named Amandine Aurore-Lucie Dupin.



ALLEN

We all probably have nicknames —

I was called Scoop in collegiate days. Names don't always suit the character, especially when its long, multiple, or from the distant past.

Followers of Christ were called Christians in Antioch, possibly because it was considered a title of derision. My good friend Ken Lyle, prefers to substitute Christ-ones.

Whatever we are called, God's name for each follower is Saved. However that translates, it identifies with power, love, compassion, grace, mercy, caring. It means that we share in the bounty of his creation — here and beyond.

It means we are Christ-ones, made for praising, honoring, serving, praying, giving, going, witnessing.

I am glad I have a name chosen by my parents out of love and concern. But more than that, I am eternally blessed with the names of Son, Brother, Follower of the Way, Saved One.

Once in an episode of the favorite television show "MASH," the weary medical team conspired to invent some excitement.

They invented a person. They called him O'Toole, made up "official" records, put his name on duty rosters, told about his debonair antics, answered for him at roll call. But when the general wanted to reward O'Toole for his heroism, the doctors had let him die in another heroic act.

I'm glad I am not O'Toole. No one answers for me. And God has my records. □

Divorce: obstacle or opportunity

families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

The church faces a serious crisis in the family. Like any problem we face, it presents

us with an obstacle or an opportunity. The problem is divorce and its effects on the family. I don't know of any family that has not been touched in some way by divorce.

The Bible is clear on the subject. "I hate divorce says the Lord God of Israel," says the prophet Malachi. Jesus acknowledged that God in his permissive will allowed divorce as an accommodation to the fall of man. God's intention for the family has been one man and one woman committed to a covenant together as companions for life. Anything less is sin, short of the mark. All those I know who have experienced family breakup agree.

However, our gracious God, holy and loathing sin, is merciful and loves sinners. God hates sin for what it does to his creation. He loves his creation and seeks to re-

deem them.

Herein lies the dilemma for the church. How do we take a strong stand against divorce without turning our backs on divorcees? How do we show acceptance for divorced people without appearing to be soft on divorce?

Let's reframe the question. Will the divorced person be an obstacle to or an opportunity for the church to express the grace of God?

When I was a college student, I dated a girl whose father was a deacon in the church I attended. I had a close friend who came from a strong Christian home but had strayed into alcohol abuse. He had come to me and



BARKLEY

asked that I pray with him about his drinking. We did. Less than two hours later I got word that he was back

at his favorite bar and drinking heavily. I decided to try to talk him into leaving the bar, and he did. As we walked out of that

bar with my friend leaning all over me, the girl and her mother drove by. I am not sure they ever believed my story.

As Christians we face similar decisions in the area of divorce. I know there are serious and sincere differences of opinion about how the church should respond to the divorce problem. I also know the Bible admonishes us to shun even the appearance of evil. I do not claim to have the answer to this divisive debate. I simply want to look through the eyes of Jesus. I am sure there are times when Jesus would judge situations with the severity he used as he drove the

money changers from the temple.

But I am also sure there are others where he would offer the grace he gave the woman at the well of Sychar, who had five husbands and was living with a man then who was not her husband. May Jesus help us to see with his eyes and love with his heart. □

Dr. Barkley may be contacted at his office or at Baptist hospital campus: The Counseling Center, 6385 Stage Rd. Suite 1, Bartlett 38134; or Union University, BMH Campus, 999 Monroe, Memphis 38104.

just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile:

Doctor to lawyer: "Joe, at parties, people ask me medical advice. Could I bill them?"

Lawyer: "Sure, Jim, send the next one a statement for \$50 for professional service rendered."

Doctor: "Thanks, I will."

So the lawyer sent the doctor a bill for \$100 for professional service rendered.

Take this thought:

Do unto others as you would like for them to do to you. Dale Carnegie said, "If I were in your shoes, I probably would do exactly what you did." Paul's exhortation, "Owe no man anything" does not mean don't borrow money. It means don't get yourself obligated to anyone by expecting him to do something for you for nothing.

Memorize this Scripture:

"Be of the same mind one toward another" (Romans 12:16).

Pray this prayer:

Lord, help me to ask no one to do anything for me that I would not gladly do and more for that person. □

Two Alabama Baptist churches added to last week's tornado toll

Baptist Press

PIEDMONT, Ala. — The tornado which took the lives of 19 United Methodist worshippers March 27 here, also destroyed two Baptist churches nearby.

The storm, which struck the Ten Island and Mt Gilead churches while worshippers sang, left several members of each congregation with minor injuries.

Tornado drills, conducted the previous week in a local school, may have been responsible for the lack of fatalities and serious injuries at Mt. Gilead Church.

"The children had just practiced tornado drills, so when it hit, they immediately dived under the pews," said Don Carroll, director of missions,

Calhoun Association, to which both churches belong.

"The roof came straight down, but by then everyone had crawled beneath the pews — and the pews were the only thing that held the roof off them," Carroll said. "Some of the light fixtures fell between the pews and weren't even broken," he added.

About 60 worshippers at each church had little warning of

the approaching tornado.

At Ten Island Church, worshippers had just finished singing happy birthday to a member of the congregation when the minister of music remarked about the sound of the wind outside, Carroll said.

The pastor told everyone to go to the basement, Carroll said, adding that no one was injured seriously. □

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RONNIE FLOYD
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JERRY FALWELL
Friday Morning

Butler's Gap pastor Henry Colvard dies
Pastor Henry E. Colvard of Baker's Gap Church, Butler, died March 17. He was 74.
The North Carolina native formerly was pastor of Hunter First Church for 29 years. Both churches are in Watauga Association.
The Elizabethton resident's 51-year ministry also included service in Virginia and North Carolina churches.
Colvard is survived by his wife, Kathleen, two children, and four grandchildren. □

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To register (or for a conference brochure) call Dr. Eddie Hatfield, LBC Coordinator, toll free at 1-800-626-5525.

Sunday School lesson commentary

Jesus raises Lazarus — Bible Book Series for April 10

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

Death is usually the last thing we want to talk about. It makes us feel uncomfortable, awkward. We recoil when someone brings the subject up. But ignoring death cannot postpone, will not tame it. Death is waiting for us just as it was for Lazarus.

Sickness of Lazarus — vv. 1-4

About two miles outside of Jerusalem lay the sleepy little village of Bethany, a parenthesis of peace where Jesus would go to find rest and relaxation at the home of Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. They were close friends and their companionship was special to him. But on this day all is not peaceful in the home of Mary and Martha. Lazarus is deathly ill, and in desperation the sisters send for Jesus.

God's delay — vv. 5-14

Verse 5 reveals that "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." In light of that, you would expect Jesus to drop

Focal Passages John 11:1-57

everything and come running to their side. But curiously, Jesus delays for two days. Was he too busy? Was he attending to other matters of greater importance? Did he not care?

Sometimes you may think that God just doesn't care about you. The circumstances of your life don't seem to allow for any other explanation. When you are being tossed to and fro by the events of your life, it is very difficult to believe that God's silences and delays are really evidences of his love.

In times of crisis it is essential that we understand some important facts about time and perspective.

Regarding time, our Lord is never late. He often delays his response, but he is never late.

Regarding perspective, we can adopt a human or a divine outlook. The human perspective

focuses on the urgent and blurs the important. It concentrates on our immediate welfare rather than our ultimate welfare, on our temporary good instead of God's eternal glory. The human perspective pleads, "My will be done, now!" The divine perspective makes its request, but patiently adds "Nevertheless, not my will be done, but thine."

How is your vision and sense of divine timing during trials? Do you see only the crisis or do you see Christ's hand behind, below, and within the crisis? Have you checked your spiritual watch lately? It is keeping God's time or your own?

A family's grief — vv. 17-37

By the time Jesus finally comes to Bethany, Lazarus has died and has been in the tomb for four days. Christ's arrival sparks reactions in Mary and Martha. Their reactions are both similar and dissimilar (vv. 20-21, 32). Although their words

are the same, their posture is not. Martha runs to him erect; Mary falls at his feet prostrate. Angry, hurt, confused, and crushed, Martha engages Jesus in theological debate (vv. 22-26). Jesus answers with what is one of the greatest theological statements in all of Scripture (vv. 25-26). This statement by Jesus softens Martha, and she responds, grasping the truth. Martha's intellectual needs were met, but Mary needed something else — emotional support (vv. 33-36). Martha needed to know Jesus was in control. Jesus met each sister where she was.

Maybe you are like Martha and are saying to God, "If only you had been here" (v. 21). What are your "if only's?" Won't you take them to Jesus, like these sisters did? Let him assure you that he is in control and that he cares.

Jesus responds — vv. 38-45

We have seen in verse 33

Life in the Spirit — Convention Uniform Series for April 10

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

It has been said that if all the Holy Scripture were a ring and the Epistle to the Romans its precious stone, chapter 8 would be the sparkling point of the jewel. It certainly is a bright point in Paul's doctrinal dissertation to the church at Rome. In this passage he speaks to the newness that is a part of *Life in the Spirit*.

There is a *New Law* (v. 2) for the one who lives in the Spirit. It is the law of the Spirit. Ever since Sinai, righteous men have tried to live according to the law given there. It has proven to be a law of sin and death, for no one has kept it completely. It was not that one couldn't, but rather that one wouldn't. We are weak in the flesh, and each of us has chosen to sin. When we do, we become guilty under

the law. The punishment for disobeying the law has always been spiritual death.

Christ made it possible for us to live under the law of grace which was the law of life. By enduring the punishment for us, He made it possible for us to be redeemed (paroled).

There is also a *New Mind* (v. 6) that comes to us through the Spirit. Under the old way, our mind was fixed on this world and its things. We planned and hoped for possessions, power, and/or positions. Our attention was on ourselves. But with life in the Spirit comes a mind that is set on the things of the Spirit. We can now focus on the things of God.

We all know what it means to have a mind-set. When children get their minds set on having a

new toy, nothing will satisfy but that toy. As adults we may also get our minds set on having something and that something is usually our own way. In these cases it is hard to settle for anything else. These are earthly mind-sets.

Paul says the mind set on the flesh leads to death. But the mind set on the Spirit leads to life and peace. The fleshly mind is hostile toward God, the Spirit-filled mind seeks out God. As believers with life in the Spirit, we are to set our minds on letting God have his way.

I once was surprised by a college student who told me she didn't like it when I spoke of being servants of God. As she put it "I'm not anybody's servant." This is not a godly mind set. Since then I have learned

Focal Passage Romans 8:1-11

not to be so surprised by this attitude for there are many who have it, even among the church members. Our new law gives us life. We ought to seek a new mind to use that life in service to God.

There is also here reference to a *New Spirit*. We have already spoken of this Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit. In verses 9 and 10 Paul reminds his readers that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in each believer when he accepts Christ. It is a package deal, when you make Christ your Lord, he gives you the Holy Spirit. Paul makes it very clear, "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him." This Spirit is our

guide to the will of God, our guard against the ways of Satan, and our guarantee of eternal life in heaven.

Finally, Paul also speaks of a *New Body* (v. 11). We have just celebrated the Easter season. What joy there is in being reminded of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He received a new body. It was a resurrected, heavenly body.

For each of us in whom the Spirit dwells, there will be a time when we receive a similar body. At our physical death or at the return of Christ we will be changed. In a moment in the twinkling of an eye we will receive our resurrected body. It will be immortal and imperishable. And in it we will reside for the rest of eternity with our Lord and Savior. □

Experiencing the living Lord — Life and Work Series for April 10

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

The news of the resurrection of Jesus was extraordinary and exciting news.

Perhaps the men on the road to Emmaus wondered if some folks had gotten excited and stretched the truth just a little.

Personal experience — vv. 13-16

Cleopas and his friend walked the dusty road north west from Jerusalem with troubled minds. Jesus had been captured in the garden of Gethsemane, tried before Herod and Pilot, beaten and crucified. Yet today's news was the most unsettling. As they talked a man seemed to be listening in on their conversation. How could he not know what had happened?

How could they not have recognized this stranger as Jesus, the one about whom they were

talking? But how many times are we preoccupied with things going on around us and fail to see Jesus? Yet Jesus is near, waiting for us to seek his will and allow him to answer our questions.

Prophecy explained — v. 27

The disciples as well as Cleopas and his friend had misunderstood Jesus as he taught. They had let their own preconceived ideas of the Messiah keep them from seeing who Jesus really was. The Jews had for centuries honed their misconception of the Messiah from misunderstanding of Scripture.

Many of us do that. We choose a "proof text" and even a direct contradiction in the passage from which we have chosen our crutch cannot change our minds. But Jesus is just as patient with us as he was with these early disci-

Focal Passages Luke 24:13-16, 27-35

ples. He teaches us and reteaches us each time we are willing to turn aside and allow his Holy Spirit to speak to us.

Jesus began with the Old Testament and worked his way through the prophets and writings to show the true interpretation of the Messianic passages.

A young preacher was concerned that he would run out of preaching material. "What will I do after I have preached through the Bible," he asked. Surely after he had preached through once, he discovered what a wonderful treasure house the Bible is. It is important that we read it and study it. Jesus will reveal himself to us in his Word.

Privilege exposed — vv. 28-32

When the little group came to the village of Emmaus, Jesus did not ask for a place to rest. Cleopas and his companion asked Jesus to come home with them. Jesus never imposes on us. He makes himself available, but we must invite him into our lives. Perhaps the Spirit of God is gently prodding you to ask Jesus into your life. He will bring you peace with yourself, with others, and most of all with God. He will be your Messiah.

How do you think the men recognized Jesus? He did something that his followers had seen him do time after time. This was the risen Lord!

We usually think of miracles as something out of the ordinary and in so doing we miss the everyday miracles that Jesus does in our lives. We come to

worship expecting a glorious experience and miss Jesus who comes to meet us in the normal things that happen at church. Look for him. The maker of the universe has chosen to have fellowship with you.

Proclamation enthusiastic — vv. 33-35

Can you believe that these two got so excited they forgot about supper and went back to Jerusalem at nightfall to tell what had happened? When they did, they found people with the same experience they had. It was a time of mutual rejoicing. When we open our hearts to Jesus, he opens our eyes to occasions to share, both with the lost and with fellow believers. He wants to open our understanding and to build a relationship with us as we open his Word in serious study. □

■ the people

■ **Calvary Church, Wartburg**, ordained **Jimmy Lloyd, Lindon Jackson, Lonnie Jones, and Larry Blakney** as deacons March 20. About 40 ordained men were present for the ordination.

■ **New Blackwell Church, Rutledge**, ordained **Greg Greer** as a deacon Feb. 27.

■ **Kirkwood Church, Clarksville**, ordained **James Desmond Byrd and David Lynn Thompson** as deacons March 20.

■ the leaders

■ **Ansell Baker**, retired pastor, **First Church, Athens**, began serving as interim pastor of **Oakwood Church, Chattanooga**, March 6.

■ **Curtis N. Price**, pastor of **Calvary Church, Lebanon**, for almost two years will begin serving April 5 as Protestant Command Chaplain for the **Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, S.C.** Price, an endorsed Southern Baptist chaplain, formerly served in the United States Navy from 1982-86. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, Lynchburg, Va.



PRICE

■ **Greg O'Guin**, minister of music and youth, **Springhill Church, Dyersburg**, has accepted the call to **Bellview Church, Paducah, Ky.**, as minister of music and youth.

■ **Huron Church, Huron**, has called **James Chumney** as bivocational pastor. He was ordained to the ministry by **Calvary Fundamental Church, Lexington**, on March 27. **Doyle Neal**, director of missions, **Beech River Association**, has served as interim pastor.

■ **Don Mitchell** of **Carson-Newman College**, has been called as interim pastor of **Blue Springs Church, Rutledge**.

■ **Lon Chenowith** began serving as pastor of **Bethlehem Church, Oneida**, Feb. 20. He was pastor of a congregation in West Virginia. He also has served as a pastor in Florida and did missions work among American Indians in Texas and Oklahoma. Chenowith is a graduate of **Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee**; **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas**; and **Luther Rice Theological Seminary**.

■ the churches

■ **Ramer Church, Ramer**, will hold revival April 24-27. **Kenny Digby of Fulton, Miss.**, will lead it.

■ The new sanctuary of **Raleigh Church, Memphis**, will be dedicated March 27. **Don Hustad**, senior professor of church music at **Southern Seminary** and former organist

for the **Billy Graham crusades**, will help dedicate the new organ and piano. Also the church's choir will perform from the "Messiah."

■ **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, will hold its 40th anniversary celebration May 15 with a worship service, catered lunch, and special program.

■ **Avondale Church, Rutledge**, will hold revival beginning March 27. **Bill Carroll, pastor, Adriel Church, Bean Station**, will lead it.

■ **First Church, Bean Station**, will hold revival April 21-24. **Tom Smith, missionary to the Philippines**, will lead it.

■ The centennial observance of **First Church, Bean Station**, will be held during the month of May.

■ **Bob Agee**, president, **Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.**, will lead revival at **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, April 17-20.

■ From April 4-9 **New Blackwell Church, Rutledge**, will be led in revival by **Marvin Phillips, pastor, Central Point Church, Rutledge**.

■ Beginning April 10 **Buffalo Church, Rutledge**, will hold revival. **Robert Spradlin, pastor, Block Springs Church, Blaine**, will lead it.

■ the schools

■ **Radnor Baptist Academy**, which is associated with

Radnor Church, Nashville, will hold its annual Spring Festival with **Craft Fair and Flea Market** April 16. Booth space is available for \$20 per space. All proceeds go to meet needs of students.

■ the associations

■ **Nashville Baptist Association** will hold a youth retreat April 22-23 at **Ridley 4-H Camp** in Columbia. **Phil Wilson**, youth minister, **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, will speak. It will include leadership training for youth ministers, drama presentations by the **Baptist Student Union** drama team of **Belmont University, Nashville**, and music and recreation by **Jamie and Jennifer Lyons** of Belmont.

■ the missionaries

■ **Elton and Dottie Gray**, missionaries to Japan, are on the field and can be reached at P.O. Box 31, **Koza City, Okinawa 904, Japan**. He is a native of Loretto.

■ **Clifton and Mary Sue Minor Jones**, missionaries to Southern Africa, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. They can be reached at **Private Bag A-356, Maseru 100, Lesotho**. He is a native of Memphis and she considers Memphis her hometown.

■ **David and Laura Moench**, Baptist representatives to the United Kingdom, are on the field and can be reached at **28 Elgin Gardens, Dundee DD3, 8NJ, Scotland**. His home is Nashville.



AN ABC-TV NEWS TEAM from New York City poses with **James Hickey, right, pastor, East Commerce Church, Lewisburg**, after filming a service in which 65 teenagers from the community made commitments to **True Love Waits, a sexual abstinence program**. The coverage, which featured several youth from the church, aired on the cable TV program, "Lifetime Magazine."

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

'Love without labels'

Todd Wilson, pastor
Munford Church, Munford

The recent Winter Olympics reminds me of the legendary diving abilities of former gold medalist **Greg Louganis**. Greg recorded an unprecedented double /double in Olympic diving. He won gold medals in the men's 3-meter springboard and platform competition in both the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympics.

The most impressive thing about Greg was his incredible comeback in the '88 games. In the springboard event he missed one dive and smacked the board with his head. Physicians stitched his cut and he went on to win the gold.

In the platform diving he won the gold medal on his final performance with a breath-taking reverse 3 1/2 somersault tuck. It was the same dive that clinched the gold for Louganis in the '84 games. When reporters asked him

what he was thinking in '84 as he prepared for his final dive he gave them a very unusual response. Maybe they were referring to the pressure or the fact that the dive he performed was extremely dangerous and had actually killed a Soviet diver in 1983. The simple answer given by Greg Louganis was that no matter what happened, his mother would still love him.

When Greg was just 11 he became very frustrated at his diving performance in an early but very important meet. Francis Louganis took her son aside and told him she did not come to see him win. Instead, she said, she came to see him dive and that she would love him no matter what.

That unconditional love carried Greg Louganis to 43 national diving titles, six Pan American gold medals, five world championships, one Olympic silver medal, and four Olympic gold medals. Unconditional love is a very powerful motivation and brings out the best in all who experience it.

Children and young people today

need to know that kind of love from their parents and grandparents. In a day when we attach so much emphasis on success, being number one, and winning at any price, it is so easy to forget the important things.

"Love without labels!" That is the kind of love Jesus has for you and me. □

Make life a 'launch pad'

Tom Suiter, pastor
Indian Springs Church, Kingsport

When the Apollo space program was operating, we all witnessed by television the awesome power of the rockets used to lift millions of pounds into space. That powerful thrust had to have a strong "launch pad" in order to get the rocket airborne. The launch pad was vital to the success of the mission.

So it is with God's work. God wants to lift us to new heights by his powerful thrust, but he needs a "launch pad"

from which to operate.

That pad is faith. If God ever does anything with us it will be when we have faith. That faith will be expectant. We will not only desire God to do something, but we will expect him to do so! We need a faith that moves mountains. Actually, God moves the mountains, but faith is the launch pad in our lives that allows him to do so!

In days of decline we need to exercise faith. Let's begin to call on God like we never have before. Let's trust him to lift us beyond the realm of the possible into his world of greatness. □

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