

# Baptist and Reflector

May 3, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Tennessee Baptist leads effort

# Baptist medical volunteers reap harvest in Venezuela

By Linda Fisher  
For Baptist Press

VALENCIA, Venezuela — Eighty-nine Southern Baptist medical volunteers, including several from Tennessee, recently treated 14,245 patients in clinics near here, leaving in their wake 2,295 new Christians. Venezuela is a former Tennessee Baptist Convention partnership country.

The volunteers provided free, basic medical care in poor communities in and around Valencia. They served in 22 locations, chosen by Venezuelan Baptists as potential church planting sites. Volunteers worked with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Venezuelan Baptist translators, who provided patients spiritual counseling and an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

The nearly 2,300 people who accepted Christ included a 112-year-old Venezuelan, the oldest patient treated. Volunteers worked in diverse facilities — government medical clinics, houses with no running

water, and even a barn.

Such medical campaigns have had "a significant impact" on opening doors for Christian witness in Venezuela, said Dickie Nelson, administrator of the organization of FMB missionaries in Venezuela.

Besides those who became Christians in the Valencia project, hundreds more said they wanted to participate in Bible study groups or get more information about the Gospel.

Follow-up — through evangelistic visitation and home Bible studies — is the key to using medical clinics in church planting, Nelson added.

A cycle of spring medical clinics, coupled with summer evangelistic campaigns, forms the core of "Open New Works 2000," a Venezuelan Baptist church starting plan. Its first three-year phase was completed last fall around Caracas, resulting in 38 new Baptist works. The Valencia clinics are the first step in a new three-year emphasis on church starts in central and southern Venezuela.

The sparkplug of the plan's

medical projects is Dewey Dunn, a veteran Southern Baptist medical volunteer. The Nashville physician first came to Venezuela in 1987 as part of the TBC's partnership with the country. During that trip he visited a Venezuelan hospital, and from that experience grew a vision for health care projects in the country.

"Baptist visibility increases with the evangelistic campaigns, but credibility increases with a medical project," observed Dunn, who led the recent trip.

Dunn, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, saw that happen when he brought his first volunteer medical team to Venezuela in 1988. That team faced obstacles, including a prohibition from the Venezuelan government from bringing medicine and supplies into the country. That first campaign built bridges with government officials, who now welcome the U.S. volunteers.

Dunn said he firmly believes in the clinics' spiritual as well as physical value. "Health care (volunteers)

know all our work is only temporary, but the spiritual work is eternal," Dunn said.

Fifty-five of the 89-member team had previous experience in Venezuela. Volunteer John Chapman of Kingsport marked his eighth mission trip. During the Valencia project he fitted more than 1,000 patients with eyeglasses.

"I don't believe anyone has more fun or has been more blessed than I've been on these trips, added retired Nashville pharmacist Larry Poston, 71, who has worked on 10 other medical mission trips.

Dunn called this trip "one of the most prayed-for projects we have ever done." Much of that prayer support came after his wife, Bobbie, was diagnosed with lymphoma just a few weeks before the team left for Venezuela.

In closing ceremonies for the project, Venezuelan Baptists and FMB missionaries gave Dunn a plaque symbolizing the prayers of the Venezuelans for his wife, who had just undergone a round of chemotherapy back in Nashville. □

## Tennessee House of Representatives endorses Ten Commandments

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee House of Representatives approved a resolution April 27 encouraging "every citizen of Tennessee to observe the Ten Commandments."

Introduced by Rep. James Peach Sr., a member of First Church, Camden, the resolution also encourages citizens to "teach them (the Ten Commandments) to their children, and display them in their homes, businesses, schools, places of worship, and that 10 days" beginning May 7 be "set aside particularly to honor these Commandments."

TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates of Jackson said he was not surprised by the resolution which passed without a dissenting vote.

"I think this is another effort in the right direction to try to help us get back on the

right track morally and spiritually," Bates said.

The resolution notes that "the foundation of any government is law and morality" and that "moral decline in society constitutes a threat to the welfare of any state."

The resolution also points out that "the Founding Fathers of our Republic respected the place that the Ten Commandments occupy in the history of law and government; and whereas, we have seen a breakdown in our own culture due to a neglect of these basic standards ... a return to these standards would greatly benefit all people now."

Bates cited the recent bombing of an Oklahoma City federal building as getting people's attention. The resolution is indicative of the interest some lawmakers have in helping to make a better world, he said. □



### National Disaster Relief Roundtable

The Baptist Center at Brentwood hosted the annual National Disaster Relief Roundtable April 25-27 which drew about 65 people from the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, and state convention Brotherhood departments. Tennesseans pausing during the meeting are, from left, Mickey Caison, national disaster relief director for the commission; Cameron Byler, Tennessee Brotherhood director; and M.B. Howard of Covington. Debriefing was held for projects done during the past year and planning was done.

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

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901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
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- **Office - Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027**
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## Restructuring plan receives endorsement

# FMB trustees commission 58 missionaries

By Marty Croll  
For Baptist Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A widely discussed proposal to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention won a nod of approval from Foreign Mission Board trustees during their April 27-29 meeting here.

The trustees also asked "all Southern Baptist entities, ... especially our historic partner Woman's Missionary Union," to help promote the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Trustees appointed 58 missionaries in a vibrant, colorful service of about 8,000 Baptists from Alabama and neighboring states during the meeting. Among the appointees were a Chinese woman, Korean and American couples, and a Palestinian man.

Trustees elected officers for the coming year, including **Bill Blanchard, pastor, First Church, Soddy-Daisy**, as first vice chairman, approved a special appropriation of \$1.2 million to update the board's computer technology, and heard directors of mission work tell story after story evidencing a new movement of God's love among far-flung people groups.

In a unanimous recommendation to the convention's Executive Committee, trustees expressed "approval and appreciation" for a study committee's convention restructure plan as it relates to the Foreign Mission Board. They commended the study committee for "courage in facing difficult issues and making wise decisions that will result in greater efficiency and better coordination of our work."

The proposal, which must pass two successive votes at annual SBC meetings, makes a number of proposals for changes throughout the SBC.

Recommendations for the FMB include renaming it the International Mission Board and shifting its work in Canada to the new North American Mission Board. It would also link the IMB and the NAMB (which would be comprised of the current Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission) by creating a Great Commission Council to coordinate the two functions.

And it would place the burden of promoting foreign missions squarely on the shoulders of the new IMB. Trustees expressed approval for a proposal to assign the board the primary responsibility for promoting the Lottie Moon offering.

In a separate action, trustees recommended they be allowed to use the name "International Board" when they face situations overseas where the word "missions" creates resistance and the appearance of Western colonialism.

The April 28 appointment service highlighted the meeting for trustees and the Alabama Baptists who hosted it in the Von Braun Civic Center. A parade of hundreds of Christian banners and flags of nations around the world opened the service, along with music by a 43-piece orchestra and some 900 choir members.

During the anthem, the voices of about 140 children rang out alone as part of a special arrangement. At the invitation, 34 people walked the aisles to indicate they were willing to become missionaries.

Board President Jerry Rankin told the

newly-appointed missionaries God has called them to emerge as victorious witnesses to Jesus.

"Many things are going to come against you. Some of you will find nationalism so intense that your American identity will be a barrier. Some of you will feel the government and all of society is conspiring against you, and you'll experience spiritual warfare like you've never known before."

But, he said, "Nothing can separate you from God's prevailing love. The battle has been won."

The appointee group was the largest in recent years, bringing the total missionary count to 4,187.

The board's officers were all elected by acclamation. In addition to Blanchard, other officers are Leon Hyatt, Pineville, La., chairman; Bob Oxford, Denver, Colo., second vice chairman; and Reed Lyon, Shawnee, Okla., secretary.

In other action, the board:

- appointed two committees, one to study possible new policies that need to be set up regarding foreign mission work and another to study the effectiveness of their own committee structure;

- heard of staff plans to orient new missionary training more around soul-winning and church starting and use more missionary experience in the curriculum; and

- voted to release to Ruschlikon Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland eight trust funds totaling about \$180,000 that the seminary had earlier asked them to manage, after direction is received from the donors who set up the funds. □

## Graham, Clinton lead service

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — If terrorists thought they could break the spirit of Oklahoma and the United States, they were wrong, according to Billy Graham and President Bill Clinton.

Those sentiments were expressed at a prayer service, dubbed "A Time to Heal," held here at the State Fair Arena April 23. Terrorists bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City April 19. At last count, more than 100 people lost their lives in the blast.

The ecumenical prayer service, which also featured local religious leaders, drew more than 8,000 people.

The service was completely non-partisan, with Clinton warmly received in a state that voted mostly Republican in 1994.

"Hillary and I also come as parents, as husband and wife, and as people who were your neighbors for some of the best years of our lives," the former Arkansas governor said. "We pledge to do all we can to help you heal the injured, to rebuild this city, and to bring to justice those who did this evil."

Graham said the "terrible and senseless tragedy" runs contrary to what Americans hold dear. That blast was like a violent explosion ripping at the very heart of America.

Graham issued a warning to those behind the bombing. "But to those who masterminded this cruel plot and to those who carried it out: The spirit of this city and this nation will not be defeated." Some day the wounds will heal and the perpetrators will be brought to justice, he said.

Graham said many people have asked why God allows such tragedies to happen. "I want to assure you that God understands those feelings. Why does God allow it? I don't know. I have to accept by faith that God is a God of love and mercy and compassion, even in the midst of suffering. The Bible says God is not the author of evil."

Individuals wishing to assist hurting families affected by the blast may send funds, made payable to: Oklahoma City Baptist Relief Fund, Account No. 2201-335.05 to: Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Baptist Building, 3800 North May Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla., 73112. □

## FMB focuses Albania efforts on starting new churches

Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania — Foreign Mission Board missionaries have withdrawn from European Baptists' Albania team to pursue a more focused strategy of starting churches in this nation reeling from a history of brutal atheism.

Europe mission officials for the board announced their intentions in late March. They said their aim is to use Southern Baptist Convention resources more effectively to help the team create a union of Baptist churches that can relate to the European Baptist Federation (EBF). The EBF is an alliance of Baptist unions

from various countries in Europe.

"All we want to do is start churches," said John Floyd, who directs FMB work in Europe. "The program in Albania has moved far enough now that we feel individual agencies on the team need to be free to do what they can do best."

Floyd praised the EBF effort, which began in 1992, for its value as a springboard into Albania and for offering an umbrella of identity under which mission agencies could work.

But, he added, the EBF does not consider itself a missionary agency. □

## SBTS chapel service kindles prayer

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Although students say the conflict over Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's social work school has overshadowed an emotionally charged April 13 revival service, they express hope that lasting revival will come to the seminary.

"I felt a great move of the Spirit," said Chuck Fanning, a social work major from Mis-

souri. Like other recent services where John Avant, pastor of Coggin Avenue Church, Brownwood, Texas, has spoken, dozens streamed to the altar when he finished.

Prayers, confessions, and impromptu Scripture readings and singing continued for more than 90 minutes after Avant's description of a January revival at his church that has spread across the nation. □

## Over SBC restructuring plan

# Southern Baptist agency trustees express reservations

## Brotherhood trustees decline to 'embrace' plan

By Trennis Henderson  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Unanimously adopting a detailed "statement of concern" about the proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, trustees of the SBC Brotherhood Commission concluded, "We do not embrace or support the recommendation in its current form."

Trustees also instructed Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams to "gracefully decline" to appear on a promotional video about the proposed "Covenant for a New Century." The video, being produced by the SBC Executive Committee, is scheduled to be shown to SBC messengers in June prior to their initial vote on the proposal.

The trustees' actions came at the conclusion of their board meeting April 21-22. The meeting was dominated by discussion of the restructuring proposal which includes plans to merge the Brotherhood and Radio and Television commissions, and the Home Mission Board into a new North American Mission Board (NAMB) to be located in Atlanta. The overall proposal calls for reducing the number of national SBC entities from 19 to 12.

Commending the Program and Structure Study Committee "for their commitment to a massive and challenging task," trustees also affirmed the proposed SBC mission statement and commended the committee "for developing a statement that propels the Great Com-

mission into the 21st century and focuses on getting the Gospel to everybody, everywhere."

Primary concerns expressed by the trustees included the proposed structure of the initial NAMB board of trustees. The plan calls for a 75-member board to include 15 Brotherhood trustees, 15 RTVC trustees, 44 HMB trustees, and the SBC president. Brotherhood trustees suggested the board "be composed of an equal number of trustees" from each of the three entities, with the remainder of the board to be filled by newly elected trustees.

"We believe the board should represent an appropriate cross-section of SBC life including laity, clergy, ethnicity, geographical location, and gender," the statement of concern added. "We believe that such composition affirms the spirit of the Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC) proposing the consolidation of the three agencies into one, and promotes the partnership necessary to the beginning steps of such a consolidation."

Trustees also voiced concern "that exclusive placement of men's ministries with the Baptist Sunday School Board and missions education with the North American Mission Board breaks the linkage that is critical to the success of both."

The third area of concern focused on the current leadership and ministry of the Brotherhood Commission. "We are concerned that the current en-

trepreneurial and progressive approach to missions education and involvement by the Brotherhood Commission will be diminished, that the Brotherhood Commission president will lose his empowerment for leadership, and that a significant number of key staff members will be lost in a relocation of offices to Atlanta."

They requested current Brotherhood Commission leadership "be retained and integrated into the North American Mission Board to provide a continuity of effective leadership and staff network."

Williams said the trustees' action "does not in any way indicate the Brotherhood trustees are angry. They are concerned and they are calling on Southern Baptists to correct what they perceive to be weaknesses in the proposal."

The trustees were given the opportunity for a question-and-answer session with Bob Sorrell of Cordova, who served on the PSSC. "I know I stand before you representing change — at least potential change. Change never leaves us the same, for good or bad.

... One of the biggest problems we had was in determining how far we could go in making recommendations. I don't think there is any one right answer."

Sorrell addressed several of the trustees' concerns, including the relocation to Atlanta. Suggesting that with retirements and other attrition, the relocation "would not be as massive as an upheaval as you might think." □

## Stewardship trustees cautious, Chandler opposed to dissolution

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An official statement from the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, approved recently by trustees, stops short of directly opposing a proposal to eliminate the agency and reassign its duties. But the response to the report of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC) notes, "Stewardship Commission trustees and staff are eager to assist Southern Baptists in stewardship development, Cooperative Program promotion, and endowment and capital giving as we move forward into the 21st century."

However, Ron Chandler, president of the Nashville-based agency, expressed without reservation his conviction dissolving the commission "is not in the best interest of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The PSSC proposal not only would reassign but would split the Stewardship Commission's work. Cooperative Program promotion would become the responsibility of the SBC Executive Committee, while the Baptist Sunday School Board would be responsible for stewardship education and assisting churches in capital fund-raising.

The trustees' formal response followed a lengthy discussion during which Missouri trustee Kenneth Hull made — and subsequently withdrew — a motion trustees go on record as opposing the PSSC proposal. Hull withdrew the motion after a recommendation that a four-member committee be appointed to draft an official response was approved.

There was lengthy discussion about how to word the statement, said trustee Jason Mori of Alexandria, Va., who helped draft the statement. "The intent was not to come out blatantly negative," he said, noting it could be perceived as "sour grapes or protectionism."

What the trustees wanted to accomplish, Mori said, was to call attention to a need to "think this thing through" and make sure that services currently being rendered by the convention would not be lost in the name of efficiency.

Mori said trustees also were concerned dividing the responsibilities of the commission between two other agencies would result in "breaking up the longstanding expertise and a great deal of synergy that currently exists."

The statement noted "trustees are vitally concerned the convention's decision with regard to the recommendation of a 'Covenant for a New Century' strengthen the ministry of stewardship education and Cooperative Program promotion resulting in personal spiritual growth and the spread of world missions." □

## 150th birthday party planned for Southern Baptist Convention

By Martin King  
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — They say the world is coming to Atlanta in June 1996 to observe the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic games. Southern Baptists are coming to Atlanta in June 1995 to celebrate 150 years of sharing Christ with that world.

Celebration and inspiration are key words for the sesquicentennial convention, according to Marshall Walker who chairs the group planning the observance.

"We will celebrate the rich heritage of this marvelous people called Southern Baptists," Walker said. "But our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will inspire our people anew to the task of proclaiming the Gospel to a lost world."

Both aspects are encompassed in the sesquicentennial theme, "Empowered for the Un-

finished Task," according to Walker. "This theme statement will serve as a constant reminder that Southern Baptists have served mightily for 150 years, however, the tasks of missions and evangelism are yet unfinished."

Walker said the highlight of the birthday celebration will be Tuesday and Wednesday evening presentations. "Dramatic and musical pageantry the last two years have renewed interest in non-business sessions of the annual meeting. This year will continue that trend."

"Tuesday evening, June 20, we will focus on our history — early struggles, significant accomplishments, and the men and women whose dedication and commitment made the SBC a reality," Walker said. "We will tell the Southern Baptist story in one fast-moving hour of dra-

ma, music, and inspiration featuring the sanctuary choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, as well as the SBC Heritage Youth Choir."

Wednesday evening's program includes reports from the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and the Home and Foreign Mission boards. "The reports will be followed by a one-hour pageant focused on the unfinished task which is missions," Walker said.

"Wednesday night will feature dramatic depictions of the human needs across our nation and around the world as our missionaries give inspiring testimonies of meeting those needs every day." The adult choir and orchestra from Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., will provide music for the Wednesday evening program.

Walker said the planning

group has worked with the Committee on Order of Business to provide brief historical theme interpretations during each convention business session.

"We are so very fortunate that some of the wonderful Southern Baptist statesmen past and present will be with us to address the great distinctives of our denomination," Walker said. Those scheduled during Tuesday sessions are Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee; Robert Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Herschell Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; and James L. Sullivan, retired president, Baptist Sunday

School Board.

Wednesday morning's historical vignette will be provided by Roy J. Fish, Southwestern Seminary evangelism professor, while Alma Hunt, former executive secretary of WMU, will speak Wednesday night. A layman from Simpsonville, S.C., Greg Horton, and Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. are scheduled to speak Thursday morning.

The Sesquicentennial Committee and the Historical Commission will have a booth in the exhibit hall. Archival items from SBC agencies will be displayed including, the original minutes from the SBC's 1845 organizational meeting. Historical figures, real and dramatic, are also scheduled for appearances at the exhibit. □

## ■ 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. □

### WMU in jeopardy

In light of the "Covenant for a New Century" the place for WMU is in jeopardy. There appears to be wide-spread acceptance of the report except its treatment or non-treatment of the WMU matter.

Top Executive Committee and WMU leadership must get together and lead the way or the SBC will be further splintered and divided. This is the time for a new paradigm. The auxiliary model has served its day. WMU has nurtured SBC missions too long and too effectively to be left out of the "Covenant for a New Century." Let's ask the Lord to guide us and let our top executive leadership know that we expect them to lead us not into further polarization and gridlock, but truly into a "Covenant for a New Century."

*John B. McBride  
Director of Missions  
Shelby Association  
Germantown, 38138*

### DOM needed

Greater Cleveland Association in Ohio is looking for a director of missions. The population of the area is about 3.5 million. The association is made up of 30 con-

gregations. Please send resume with a letter of recommendation to Jim Mayes, Search Committee Chairman; Painesville Baptist Church, 140 Park Road Ext., Painesville, Ohio 44077 or to Tim Ellis, Moderator; Greater Cleveland Association, 23210 Emory Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44128.

*Will Pollard  
Columbus, Ohio 43203*

### Not proper

After reading the article entitled "Bryan says restructure plan ignores WMU," it is with the utmost urgency that I write this letter as associational WMU director of New River Association.

We are much concerned over the recent restructuring proposal of the SBC. We feel that the Woman's Missionary Union was ignored in that document. It failed to acknowledge the work of those thousands of women who have taught missions, who have led this denomination to give more than a billion dollars through the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and the Annie Armstrong Easter offering, and who have modeled servanthood in thousands of Southern Baptist churches.

The document fails to recog-

nize the potential of this auxiliary to the SBC in accomplishing our mission tasks, rather it reassigns missions education and the promotion of the offerings to other entities. We do not feel like this is the proper thing to do.

*Rose Krahn  
Helenwood, 37755*

### Heritage of uniqueness

Over the last several months, we have been inundated with articles explaining and clarifying the true roots of the Southern Baptist faith. We have discovered, as expected, that Baptists differ in their theological understanding of the Bible, and the role of certain individuals who have supposedly shaped the last 300 years or so of Southern Baptist history. This should not be surprising; congregational uniqueness and diversity is our heritage.

Every Baptist congregation and individual, under the auspices of Baptist polity and "the priesthood of the believer," has the expressed right to disagree and be unique as long as they base their arguments solely and honestly on Scriptures. Our faith, unlike other ecclesiastical bodies, does not adhere to an-

cient creeds and confessions, or give supreme authority to a ruling council of bishops or elders that dictate specific theological, social, and political beliefs.

Historically, this has been our heritage. Some individual congregations, due to their geographical location or constituency, have been influenced by the teachings of such reformers as John Calvin, Jacob Arminius, or John Wesley, but this is acceptable. In all of these Southern Baptist congregations, the Word of God reigns supreme. Truly, this is our heritage — a heritage of uniqueness, diversity, and cooperation undergirded by our indefatigable faith in the Holy Scriptures.

*Andy Brasher  
Parsons, 38363*

### Doesn't like plan

Several of us do not fear change but we do not agree with the reorganization plan for the SBC called "Covenant for a New Century" and the overwhelming consequences for WMU.

It challenges the existence of this organization which has thrived for over a century.

*Mildred Dowdy  
Ripley, 38063*

### Through television

## Hixson church's ministry expands evangelistic outreach

By C.C. Risenhoover  
For Baptist Press

HIXSON — The woman was sitting on the bed in the master bedroom of her home in Dallas, contemplating suicide.

For some reason, which she did not understand, she has the remote control for the television set in her other hand and was channel surfing.

A statement made by a man on one channel caused her to stop. That man was Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson. He was saying there was no darkness in life that could not be penetrated by the light of God's love in Jesus Christ.

She wondered. She was the wife of a successful doctor, materially living the American dream. But her husband's request for a divorce, the scorn she faced in the community, and constant stalking throughout the ordeal had become intolerable.

She looked at the gun and listened to the preacher. Finally, what he was saying gave her a hope that had long been dormant in her life. She laid the gun aside, got down on her knees, and asked God to take away the darkness. He did.

After the woman's divorce was final, she took a job with a company. Through God's providence she was transferred to Chattanooga. That enabled her to walk the aisle of Central Church in Hixson, a suburb of

Chattanooga, and meet the messenger who had been God's instrument the night she was contemplating suicide. She now sings in Central's choir and is a testimony for the church's medial ministry.

Phillips has been a pastor since 1967 and has had a media ministry for 25 years.

"I started with radio and publications," said the former Tennessee Baptist Convention president. "But 10 years ago the church here moved into television and we're head over heels into it."

"The Central Message," the church's Sunday morning worship service edited into a 30-minute format, is seen weekly on ACTS and FamilyNet. The program also is carried by the Inspirational Network and several independent stations.

The church also is on the local ABC affiliate in Chattanooga and is the top rated religious program in the area, according to Phillips.

He added Nielson ratings show the church broadcast is reaching between 11,000-13,000 people age 18 or over.

"People really know us through television," Phillips said. "I'd estimate that 50 percent of our new members have their first contact with us through TV. And that's a

modest estimate. Television is our No. 1 outreach."

Phillips said he did not think a church could really move forward without using media.

"I call it artillery," he said. "It softens the ground for Christ's foot soldiers. Almost every week we have at least one person call our 800 number to accept Christ. People call us for all sorts of reasons, of course, most asking for prayer."

Phillips observed the "Gospel is media. We're here to communicate Christ to people. And when you consider what is spent to reach so many people with the message of salvation, there is not a better buy."

The Hixson pastor noted Central members give more than \$200,000 annually to support its television ministry. "Our people support the media ministry above their tithes and offerings. They understand its importance in the total outreach of our church," said Phillips, pastor for almost 15 years at Central.

He emphasized the church does not ask for money on the air. "People give but we don't ask. We don't have time to make an appeal on a 30-minute program.

"And we wouldn't if we had more time because that's not our focus. Our focus is to introduce people to Jesus Christ. That is the only reason we are involved in media ministry," he said. □



PHILLIPS

### TENNESSEE BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS



CANADA • MICHIGAN • POLAND

### Daily Partnership Prayer Requests May

- 4 — Pray for Newygo Community Church as volunteers will build a new church this summer in Michigan.
- 5 — Pray for Third Baptist Church in Warsaw, Poland.
- 6 — Pray for Canadian pastors and churches.
- 7 — Pray for Ewa Gutkowska of Poland as she continues to recover from recent surgery.
- 8 — Pray for North Bay Chapel in Linwood, Mich.
- 9 — Pray for the pastors and their families throughout Poland.
- 10 — Pray for preparations for Poland's GA/Acteen Camp June 24-30 and July 10-14.

## Senate to consider bill which would allow lottery in state

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Senate will consider a bill, possibly this week, that would amend the state constitution to allow for a lottery in Tennessee.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, passed Senate Bill 004 which "proposes by action of two successive general assemblies to amend Article 11 of state constitution by deleting Section 5, which prohibits general assembly from authorizing a lottery

and from allowing lottery ticket sales, according to TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates. The bill passed by a 5-3-1 vote, Bates said.

Earlier this year the House passed HJR 106, which basically calls for the same thing.

Bates said it is likely the two legislative bodies would reconcile the two bills into one bill.

Bates emphasized the bill would have to be approved by the 99th and 100th Congress before it could be put on the governor's ballot in 1998 for a vote. □

# Special day of prayer on national scale

Tomorrow, May 4, is the United States' annual National Day of Prayer. In fact, it marks the 44th consecutive day of prayer on the national calendar.

What is the importance of the National Day of Prayer?

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

J. Gordon Henry, Tennessee's coordinator for the nationwide prayer emphasis, suggests that everyone join in praying for at least five minutes at noon on May 4.

He says, "Take five at 12."

The five minutes could be spent in (1) acknowledging dependence on God, (2) giving thanks for the blessings the nation has received from God through the years, (3) recognizing the need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values, and (4) interceding for the healing of the nation and for the guidance of government leaders.

On page one of last week's issue, we asked for evidences renewing grace among Tennessee Baptist churches, the fresh breezes of spiritual awakening.

If there are prayers for that awakening across the nation, there also must be awareness and acknowledgement of spiritual slumber.

America has been beset by more than dozing for a moment. We have been engulfed in a deep and lengthy sleep. It will take prolonged and vigorous shaking to awaken the sleeper.

The national habit of sleep can be attributed to a lifestyle of sleepwalking.

In an address at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Nashville recently, Charles Swindoll remarked that, "We have lost our absolutes."

Because of that and because of notorious moral wandering, Swindoll said the United States has much in common with Israel of the Old Testament. He said the nation is in need, as were God's chosen people. Clear-thinking godly leadership is essential, and the job for turning the nation around is "too big for one man."

Personal courage is in short supply. It does take courage to use strength and wisdom to face the icy blasts of worldliness.

Of course the abandoned absolutes mentioned by Swindoll originated in the Bible. A short list would include

courage, wisdom, honor, truth, integrity, love of God and man, humility, loyalty.

Amidst the abandonment and weak-kneed Christianity, we have let the world erode the best plans, the deepest desires, commitment of character, the willingness to work, priorities of prayer.

National Day of Prayer, May 4, affords an enormous opportunity for Tennessee Baptist churches (and individuals) to band together in prayer.

The focus can be on those points already mentioned here, in addition to prayer for all elected leaders, denominational leaders, family life and especially children, all moral concerns, a Great Spiritual Awakening, and discernment to seek God's plan for Southern Baptists and to join him in his work.

God's Word tells us to pray, and great things happen when we obey. □

one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## Frantic nesting

They chose the wrong spot for building a house that could become a home for a busy family.

Oh, the neighborhood was fine, the house itself was just right — not too large, not too small. It was near food and water sources, schools, shopping centers, a church, and good road system — and plenty of open space all around.

Papa and Mama, because of personal reasons, eventually gave up the idea and moved on. They were not willing to sacrifice.

By now you may have guessed that I

am writing about Papa and Mama Robin. Last week I was involved in a World Missions Conference headquartered in Jackson. We stayed in a nice motel just off the busy thoroughfare.

On a ledge on the back side of the motel, the robins had built an admirable nest and were busy hatching.

Probably no one had disturbed them, but the constant passing of busy people kept them in a tizzy, flitting and sitting. Before the week was over, I noticed they had given up and perhaps began again some other place.

Have you ever noticed that some Christians, some church people, are like the robin family?

They flit around from church to church, moving at the slightest provocation or presumption of cause.

Sometimes they are easily offended — or perhaps lost their choice when the church voted. Often, they are gone before we know it — giving up without giving "them" a chance to explain a difference of opinion.

In most churches there is room for diversity — or at least there should be. Probably we should pay more attention to the way little children manage to get along despite differences. They may slug it out at Sunday School and forget about it before Sunday night.

Funny thing about "doing" church. I get the impression that Jesus Christ, the Owner and Provider, expects us to respect the opinions of fellow believers and to give up grudges.

Churches that pray and praise together can find good reasons to stay together. □



ALLEN

## Southern needs stable environment

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for many years has been one of the mainstays for Southern Baptists.

Since its founding, Southern has been one of the guiding lights in Southern Baptist theological education.

News stories in recent issues of the *Baptist and Reflector* have described the turmoil at Southern relating to differences between administration and faculty, firing of the dean of Southern's Carver School of Church Social Work, and disenchantment of many students.

The news has been disquieting, and to some extent, disturbing. Depending on personal loyalty and/or understanding, the facts could be deplored or approved.

The entire seminary needs a stable environment — student body, faculty, administration, alumni, and friends. This means that everyone involved must make efforts toward securing that environment.

Teaching is difficult when there is conflict and controversy; learning is almost impossible. Southern Baptists need a strong and stable Southern Seminary. □

just for today  
By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

## Early childhood abuse issues

There is much discussion today about the effects of early childhood abuse.

For this reason, I want to point out some guidelines for dealing with family members who might be going through the process.

*Making Peace with Your Past* is a good resource for churches to use which I recommend regularly.

There are at least 10 guidelines that family members will find helpful in assisting survivors in dealing with their memories.

1. The survivor needs to feel "safe." The trauma of the abuse in early childhood taught them that the world is not safe and they are always in danger.

2. The survivor should be allowed to "recreate" or "re-live" the memory in order to be able to experience catharsis of the feelings.

This by no means should be forced on the survivor, but simply allowed if the survivor desires to do so.

3. It is also important to "process" the effect by naming the feelings and dealing honestly with them rather than stuffing or denying them. In an effort to protect their perpetrator the survivor usually ei-

families matter  
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

ther denies or minimizes personal feelings.

4. Recognize that there will be conflicting emotions, some of which will appear mature and some childlike.

This comes from fixated emotional states that were arrested at the time of the abuse.

5. Encourage the forgiveness of self. It is the normal process of this type of life experience that the one who is victimized at an early age begins to believe that "it must be my fault."

This seems to arise out of the kind of logic used by Job's friends who told him he must have done something wrong to deserve the terrible kind of experiences he was going through.

6. Encourage an awareness of the presence of God. It is not unusual for those who have experienced such trauma to blame God, if not for causing the abuse, at least for not protecting them from it as a child and preventing the abuse.

I think it is also important to be alert to distortions of

their concept of God.

7. Help them to receive the forgiveness of God.

Since they blame themselves and this kind of activity is against the taboos of most societies, these survivors usually have a hard time believing that God could forgive them.

8. Another common symptom of this type of trauma is called dissociation.

This is a process of awareness where the person loses part of his sense of identity.

They split into another partial identity. It is important to be supportive during these episodes.

9. Help these hurting people experience the healing that only comes from the infilling of the Spirit of God.

There are experiences in all our lives that we will never be able to handle without the Spirit of God in us to accomplish it for us. It is not a "do-it-yourself" project.

10. Encourage them to move on in life with these new insights which will enable them to cope better with the memories and relate to people who remind them of their perpetrators. □



BARKLEY

### Start with a smile

Tim: "Hi, Steve, what are you doing on crutches?" Steve: "I was in an accident six months ago..." Tim: "And you're still on crutches. You must have been hurt bad." Steve: "Not really. My doctor says I could get off them, but my lawyer says I can't."

### Take this truth

Many people love to give other people advice and with an angle. Be keen enough to know what it is. Always listen, it might be good, but you should make up your own mind. It's your decision and your choice!

### Memorize this Scripture

"Do not conform ... to the pattern of this world ... be transformed ... Then you will be able to test and approve" (Romans 12:2 NIV).

### Pray this prayer

Dear Lord, help me to develop the ability to discriminate what is best for me, but, most of all, what is pleasing to you. □

## Belmont administrator selected as Anderson College president

Baptist Press

ANDERSON, S.C. — Tennessee educator Lee Gardner Royce was elected April 18 as the 11th president of Anderson College, a South Carolina Baptist Convention-related school.



ROYCE

Royce, 43, has served for the past 10 years as vice president for university relations at Belmont University, Nashville.

Royce was recommended unanimously by the search committee and received an affirmative vote of all the 18 trustees present.

It was the trustees' second try in two weeks. They met

April 4 to elect Gary Parker, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, Mo. But an objection flared over that church's handling of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship gifts from members, and Parker withdrew his name without appearing before the board. The CBF is an organization of moderate Baptists critical of Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

Ironically, First Church, Nashville, where Royce is finance committee chairman and a deacon and Sunday School teacher, has a similar practice, but the board did not discuss it.

The Florida native holds three degrees from Vanderbilt University, Nashville. During his tenure at Belmont, the school has received more than \$50 million in gifts. □

## Judge halts prayers over school intercom

Baptist Press

PONTOTOC, Miss. — A federal judge ruled April 18 that a north Mississippi school must stop its practice of prayers and morning devotionals over its intercom system.

In a 25-page preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. ruled the Pontotoc County school district wrongly advanced religion by permitting prayers and Scripture reading at North Pontotoc Attendance Center.

"It has the effect of endorsing or placing the governmental institution's seal of approval on these religious practices," Biggers wrote, according to an April 19 news story in *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Miss.

The rural district "has ex-

cessively involved itself with religion and crossed the line drawn between church and state," according to Biggers, addressing a school prayer fight that has gained attention on CBS' "60 Minutes," NBC's "Today's Show," and other national news programs.

"We may not like the court decision, but we will obey it," Pontotoc County School Superintendent Jerry Horton was quoted by *The Clarion-Ledger* as saying. School prayers on the intercom ceased April 19, Horton said.

Biggers sided with plaintiff Lisa Herdahl, 34, of Ecru, whose lawsuit in December contended the constitutional

rights of her five children at the school were violated by the practice. She argued that her children, who were baptized as Lutherans, suffer undue embarrassment for not participating in Bible classes or prayers at the school.

The judge did not end all prayers at the school, noting voluntary devotions could be held before or after school. □

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# Sunday School lesson commentary

## Life and Work Series for May 7

Focal Passages:  
Acts 15:36-41; 16:6-10,  
12a

### Changing directions

By Chuck McElhannon

God's word reminds us that he has entrusted his perfect purpose to imperfect humans. "For we have this treasure in earthen vessels" (II Corinthians 4:7). God is able to reach people with the Gospel in spite of what he has to work with! Even the great leaders of the early church like Paul and Barnabas had faults that God had to overcome.

#### Conflicts arise — ch. 15:36 - 39a

Paul reveals an appreciation for a complete ministry. He is not content to simply win converts to Jesus. He also desires to see them disciplined and brought to Christian maturity in the context of a local church. It was for this purpose that he proposed a second mission trip with Barnabas. Barnabas was open to the idea, but wanted to take along his cousin, Mark. Paul objected because Mark had deserted them at a crucial point during

the first mission trip. There are many young, untested future ministers today who, like Mark, could benefit from the tutelage of an encouraging mentor like Barnabas. God is willing to offer us a second chance, and one mistake in ministry should not cancel a lifetime of future service.

#### Plans change — vv. 39b - 41

God has a way of bringing good out of bad situations. Instead of one mission trip, the conflict between Paul and Barnabas resulted in two teams. Paul chose Silas to be his partner with good reason: (1) It was to Paul's advantage to have an official member of the Jerusalem church as his partner; and (2) Silas was, like Paul, a Roman citizen, and would be able to enjoy the protections and rights of a Roman citizen should any unforeseen troubles arise during the mission trip.

#### Doors close — ch. 16:6-8

Paul and Silas exhibit a sensitivity to God's leadership. Notice that God provided direction through "the Holy Spirit" (v. 6) and through "the Spirit of Jesus" (v. 7). The third member of the Trinity, God the Father, is mentioned as a guiding force in verse 10. Our plans for following and serving God in mission work must strike a balance between thoughtful itinerary planning and flexibility. There is a difference between being flexible in adjusting to God's leadership and compromise.

God's leadership may often come in a negative form — prohibitions and closed doors. Yet, as is always the case, when God closes a door, another opens. When one opportunity is removed, a greater one takes its place. And sometimes, when God says "No" to an opportunity, it's not because the idea is wrong, but the timing isn't right. God had plans for a ministry in Asia, but the timing wasn't right. God would eventually allow Paul to preach in Asia (Acts 19).

#### Opportunities abound — vv. 9-10, 12a

Now God's leadership takes the positive form of a vision in the night — an open door. Strong arguments exist for concluding that Luke (the author of Acts) was the Macedonian of verse 9. Ancient writers commonly assumed anonymity in their own writings. Also, Luke conclusively joins the mission team at this point. In verse 8, "they" is used. All of a sudden, in verse 10, the pronoun becomes "we."

The open door God provided into Macedonia proved fruitful. God used Paul and Silas to establish churches in Thessalonica, Philippi, and Corinth, among other places. We owe a good portion of our New Testament to the planting and nurturing of these churches. Once again, God proves that conflict can be overcome positively, and good can come out of bad. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville.

## Living in Christian freedom

By Brian Courtney

In a previous Bible study on I Corinthians 8, Paul addresses the issue of eating food offered to idols. Some in the Christian church thought it was alright to eat



COURTNEY

such food, but some did not. Paul concludes his discussion with a principle directed to those who saw nothing wrong with the practice. The principle states that each Christian needs to be concerned about their opinions and behavior upon the spiritual life of other Christians (see I Corinthians 8:9-13). On the surface, this principle seems too much. Maybe Paul senses that the Corinthians upon hearing the letter would say, "That's not fair. Paul says there's nothing wrong with eating meat offered to idols, but we have to give in." So he continues his thought in I Corinthians 9. Maybe modern Christians are saying the same thing, "It's not fair. We're right, but we have to give in."

#### Paul defends his apostleship — vv. 1-2

Having argued that one can forego one's rights for the good of others, Paul proceeds to illustrate the point by example from his own ministry. He begins by asking, "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?" By this he means that as an apostle he is free to claim the rights of an apostle. Why? He gives two defenses: his seeing the risen Lord, and the Corinthian church's existence.

Why does Paul defend his apostleship? Evidently, the Corinthians believe that a real apostle would use his authority for privileges that other Christians did not enjoy. However, Paul limits his apostolic freedom out of concern for others. Therefore, in the Corinthian's thinking, Paul could not be a real apostle. How tragic when power, authority, and rights determine authentic leadership!

## The authority of Jesus

By Thomas Vinson

A.W. Tozier compares the authority of Christ to that of a King/Queen in a Constitutional Monarchy. It is mostly pomp with little reality. His inference is that we allow Jesus, dressed in royal regalia, to come before our churches to deliver a tame, colorless speech, but everyone knows that He is not really directing the operation. What an indictment! Is it true? Today we will consider how Jesus exercised his authority over storms, spirits, and sickness.

#### Power over storms — ch. 4:35-41



VINSON

The many details of Mark's account necessitate an eye witness. Jesus sleeping! What a picture of humanity. Jesus commanding the sea to "be muzzled!" What a picture of his Deity.

The narrative focuses on how the disciples had misplaced their faith. They trusted in themselves, for, after all, they were seasoned fishermen. They trusted in the peaceful waters. "Other little boats" (v. 36) went along indicating no one suspected the ensuing storm. How true this is of life. Jesus allowed their incomplete faith to be tested in three ways. First, there was a delay.

#### Paul's apostolic rights — vv. 3-7

Having defended his apostleship and self-limited freedom, Paul answers his critics by asserting his rights. He states three: the right to food and drink, the right to be accompanied by a wife, and the right to refrain from self-support. Paul's answer demonstrates that to forego his apostolic rights out of concern for others was no proof that he did not have such rights. On the contrary, he had the right to expect support from the churches.

## Convention Uniform Series for May 7 Focal Passage I Corinthians 9:1-7, 19-27

To make a case for ministerial support Paul gives three analogies in verse 7: (1) soldier, (2) farmer, and (3) herdsman. The meaning is clear: just as a soldier deserves pay, or a farmer and herdsman can share the fruits of their labor, so the minister has a right to expect support from the church. Churches who have little concern for their staff's financial situation find little help in this text. Ministers are to be supported!

#### Paul's apostolic freedom — vv. 19-23

Even though Paul has a right to support, he states in verses 15-18 that he waives this right. "Though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more," (v. 19). Paul establishes a fundamental principle: Christian freedom limits itself in order to win other people to the Gospel. It's not a question of fairness or rights.

#### Exhortation and warning — vv. 24-27

Paul discusses the need for discipline. He reminds them that in the stadium, all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize. Is Paul suggesting works salvation? No! He knows that faith is responsible and obedience demands perseverance (Philippians 3:14). The point is if Paul fails to exercise discipline, he, like the undisciplined athlete, may be disqualified. If Paul thought this could happen to him, what about undisciplined Christians in every age? □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

## Bible Book Series for May 7 Focal Passage: Mark 4:35-41; 5:35-42a

God let the storm rage on until they saw their own evil hearts of unbelief. Secondly, God tested their faith through difficulty. Lastly, the ultimate test was death. They fully expected to die. Thankfully, their incomplete faith was replaced. They turned to God at the right time, before they sank. They came to the right person, Jesus Christ. They came the right way, out of desperation. No doubt this story was a source of great encouragement to the persecuted Roman Church to which Mark was writing. This account would assure them that the strong Son of God would go with them through the trial.

#### Power over spirits — ch. 5:1-20

This night time incursion into the demon infested gentile territory was designed to show Jesus' authority over the spiritual realm of the demonic. Here Jesus illustrates what he had previously taught in chapter 3:27. He enters "the strong man's house, binds him, and spoils his goods." This event foreshadows the impending judgment under which all demons abide (Jude 6; Revelation 20:10). Sadly, this was not the last group to prefer their sins, spirits, and swine to the

Savior. The one who was delivered was given the assignment of returning to his home and telling his family what the Lord had done for him. This is our commission too.

#### Power over sickness — vv. 21-43

Both Jairus and the unnamed woman cast all social and ecclesiastical deterrents to the wind. Their one consuming passion was to expose their great need to Jesus. Here man's extremity becomes God's opportunity. In both incidents the physical healing is parabolic to a deeper and greater spiritual deliverance. Two lessons are obvious: there is help and healing for the hopeless; Jesus is Lord over death.

In the first five chapters we see the Kingdom of God beginning to break in on human history. Jesus has exerted his authority over devastating storms, devilish spirits and debilitating sickness. This authority, for the most part, has been resisted and rejected, but we should take heart. Paul wrote to the Philippian believers of a day when, "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:10, 11. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leewood Church, Memphis.

## ■ the work

■ **Dean Haun**, pastor, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, and his wife, Pam, worked in Russia April 17-29. The work was organized by a group from Ridgcrest Church, Birmingham, Ala.

■ The youth of **Calvary Church, Kingsport**, will work in Myrtle Beach, S.C., July 23-29.

■ **Inglewood Church**, Nashville, will work at Sherwood Church, Albany, Ga. July 9-14.

■ **Gum Stand Church**, Sevierville, held a fundraising walk for missions at Cades Cove in the Smoky Mountain National Park. Forty-two people participated and 25 finished the 11 mile route. They raised \$3,160 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

■ The youth of **First Church, Humboldt**, held an AWOL Mission Trip to Dallas April 28-29.

■ **First Church, Jackson**, will work in Minas Gerais, Brazil, beginning June 15.

■ **Indian Springs Church**, Kingsport, will work in West Branch, Mich., June 16-24 to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

## ■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **First Church, Erwin**, held its revival April 23-26. Reece Harris spoke.

■ **First Church, White Pine**, will hold its revival May 7-10. Bill Edmonds, evangelist, will speak and Bruce Gouge,

minister of music, Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, will lead the music.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Morristown**, will hold a one-day revival May 7. Tim Lee, evangelist from Garland, Texas, will speak. Lee is a Vietnam veteran who lost both legs during the war. The church also will hold a "Master Your Money" family financial seminar hosted by the Atlanta-based Ronald W. Blue and Company May 19-20.

■ **Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville**, will hold a "Fresh Encounter With God" Revival May 7-10.

■ **First Church, Petros**, will celebrate homecoming May 28. Boyd Dickey will speak and a fellowship luncheon will be held followed by a program of singing.

■ A DivorceCare seminar and support group meets at **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. For more information call the church at (615) 889-3950, ext. 129.

■ **Gum Springs Church, Cunningham**, held a youth revival in March. Brian Parker, a Baptist Student Union member and student, University of South Florida, Tampa, spoke. Results include 31 professions of faith, two additions by letter, and over 100 youth in attendance the first three nights. Another result is that youth have begun a Bible study before school.

■ **Sand Ridge Church, Lexington**, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Bap-

tist Convention May 7. A brush arbor and old-fashioned dress will be features of the event, along with Fletcher Allen, editor, *Baptist and Reflector*, who will speak.

■ **Red Bank Church, Chattanooga**, promoted a week for families to turn off their TV April 23-29. The church media library led the promotion and offered books as an alternative.

■ **Charles Robinson**, pastor, Clear Creek Church, Dayton, will speak at the May 7-10 revival of **Walden's Ridge Church, Dayton**.

■ **Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol**, will hold a Mother's Day Banquet for Single Mothers May 14.

■ **Blessed Hope Church, Troy**, has started a Sunday School class for deaf people and have six enrolled. The church also has two new deaf members.

■ **Macedonia Church, Kenton**, will hold revival May 24-28 with Wayne Rowan preaching.

■ **Paw Paw Hollow Church, Strawberry Plains**, will hold revival May 14. Dallas Gibson will speak.

■ From May 7-10 Brady Weldon will speak at the revival of **First Church, Union City**.

## ■ the people

■ **Earl Kinslow** was ordained into the ministry March 19 by West Cheatham Church, Nashville, where his father, Bob is pastor.

■ **R.A. and Adeline Collier**, members of First Church, Martin, celebrated their 50th



**PASTOR WADE DARBY** of Trinity Church, Hendersonville, is shown with deacons, from left, *Richard Randolph, John Hewgley, Ernie Janco, Gary Falkner, Steve Murdock, Harold Frakes, Johnny Hart, Rick Vinson, and Harold Creekmore* as they break ground for the church's new \$1.3 million worship and educational facility.

wedding anniversary April 23.

First Church, Gallatin.

■ **Pierce McIntyre**, pastor of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, has resigned, effective April 30.

## ■ the leaders

■ **Jim Woods** has been called as pastor of Lakeview Church, Clinton.

■ **Richard Schumpert** has been called as pastor of Central Church, Spring City, effective June 4.

■ **Bill Brasfield** has resigned as minister of music of Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis.

■ **Plateau Church, Crossville**, has called **Cecil Cordell** of Fayetteville, Ga., as pastor, effective April 16.

■ **Pine Eden Church, Crossville**, has called **Randall Kirby**, interim pastor, Bailey Spring Church, Baxter, as associate pastor of children and administration, effective May 1.

■ **John Bender**, minister of education, Everett Hills Church, Maryville, has been called as minister of education,

## ■ the associations

■ **Sevier County Association** is looking for camp workers in July at its Camp Smoky.

■ **Beulah Association** still has openings for its Reelfoot Lake Ministry held during the summer. The association provides a worship service for campers. May 7, June 25, July 9, and the Sundays in August are open.

## ■ the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold "Lunch and Learn," a quarterly program for senior adults May 16. For more information, call (901) 661-5162.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## In contrast to Oklahoma

By Larry Fields, pastor Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville

It is unlikely that any member of our family will ever be world famous. That is unfortunate. We are prolific picture takers. We have regular prints, Polaroid prints, old Super 8 movie film converted to VCR tapes and current VCR tapes. A producer doing a documentary on any of us would not need to search for material, but simply work his way through the mountain of resources.

We did it again recently as we snapped 36 35mm pictures of my brother, Bruce, and his family as they visited during spring break. We took pictures of them at the UT football complex and some shots inside Neyland Stadium.

We had Michael with his fiancée and John with his girl friend spend the Easter holidays with us. We had some fantastic shots of all of us dressed in our Easter Sunday clothes and numerous other candid shots that are the kind memories are made of.

Sandy opened the camera this week to have the film developed, and there was no film in the camera. We were heartsick. Of all the times we take pictures why did it have to be this time? This was such a special roll of film. The only problem was that we were shooting with an empty camera. I had plans to send Bruce several enlargements of his family. Both grandmothers were in line for some 5 x 7s and 8 x 10s of all six of us from Easter Sunday. It was a supreme disappointment that we lost the opportunity. Then I mentioned that we have to thank God for our blessings

and go on. It could have been a much greater loss.

I think of Edye Smith who dropped her sons, Chase, 3, and Colton, 2, off at the day care center in the Federal Building in Oklahoma City just before the terrorist bomb blast. Several hours later her brother, Daniel Coss, an officer with the Oklahoma City police department, found one of his nephews in the debris and identified the other in a temporary morgue.

Edye Smith said she used to scold her boys about slamming doors while playing. She said she wished she could hear a door slam today. When asked what other parents should learn from her experience, she replied, "Just hug them and tell them you love them." Her father, a Christian minister, conducted the funeral for his two grandsons who were buried together in the same casket.

Yes, you and I have disappointments, setbacks, and losses, but how great was the loss? Our sons are 25 and 20. It would have been nice to have pictures of that Easter Sunday with Leslie and Sally. We have a right to be disappointed, but we must put it in perspective. We can still hug our sons and say, "I love you." I wouldn't give that up for all the pictures in the world. □

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