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# Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this  
week's  
news

global —

■ Southern Baptists to aid North Koreans. — Page 2

■ Baptist efforts gain respect of islanders. — Page 3

national —

■ Twenty-seven states set CP record. — Page 3

state —

■ Tennessee volunteers aid flood victims in Pennsylvania. — Page 3

■ Former Methodist church accepted into Duck River Association. — Page 6

■ Memphis church damaged by fire. — Page 6

■ Sparta pastor teaches young ministers in Russia. — Page 7

## Churches large and small rally around Lottie

**Editor's Note:** In the Jan. 10 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we asked for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering success stories. The response was excellent. We have tried to include every response either in this article or related articles on page 4. We realize there were many more successes, but these are just a sampling sent by our Tennessee Baptist churches.

**BRENTWOOD** — Large and small, Tennessee Baptist churches rallied around Lottie Moon this Christmas.

Members of **Bethel Church in Weakley County Association**, a small country church with an average attendance of 160 in Sunday School, set a goal of \$6,000. When the offerings were collected, they had received more than \$17,000, according to member Louise Hornbeak. The church held a "march for missions" where everyone could march down the aisle and place their offering in the plate.

In January the church voted to raise the offering total to \$35,000 in order to be in the salary range of one missionary on the field, Hornbeak said.

At **Central Church, Bearden in Knoxville**, it has been many years since the church has met its Lottie Moon goal, said Lilabeth Parrish, WMU director.

Over the years the church's giving to the offering has hovered around the \$50,000 mark. This year Central Bearden set a lofty goal of \$55,000. After focusing on the week of prayer and a guest appearance from Sheila Bailey who plays Lottie Moon in the FMB video, the church gave an offering of \$60,220, a 20 percent increase over last year, Parrish reported.



**THE THEME** of the 1995 foreign missions study was "Reshaping Our World for the 21st Century." The theme for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was similar — "Reshaping Our World View." Churches from across the state found ways to promote and raise money for the offering named after legendary missionary Lottie Moon.

A rural church, **Chinquapin Grove in Bluff City**, doubled its goal of \$5,100, said Pastor Stephen Hensley.

Hensley preached a message entitled "Why I Must Give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." "Over the several weeks of emphasis, many people told me they had never thought of some of the things I shared," Hensley said. When the final figures were tallied, the church had given \$10,360, almost double any mission offering given in the history of the church.

**Cairo Church in Alamo**, a small church with an average attendance of 25 in Sunday School, set a goal of \$1,000, said member Marie Houston. "The day we received the offering, we couldn't believe the success — \$1,634. There were no special programs, just the challenge to dig deeper than ever before," Houston related.

Jim Turner, pastor of **Enterprise Church, Morristown**, reported the con-

gregation had one of its greatest services in a long time on Dec. 24. "We had 101 in Sunday School, the most in at least 10 years, two new members joined, and the church gave \$3,238.55, its largest ever Lottie Moon offering, exceeding its goal of \$2,000," Turner said.

The pastor noted that of that amount, five Royal Ambassador boys raised \$615 through a walk-a-thon. "We are proud of these children. To God be the glory, great things he has done. May God bless our foreign missions," Turner said.

**Second Church, Memphis**, increased their Lottie Moon giving 24 percent this year, exceeding its \$18,000 goal by \$3,000. The church promoted the offering by a Wednesday evening study led by foreign missionaries on furlough in the city and in other ways.

**Rittertown Church in Hampton** has 115 resident members and is without a pastor, reported church clerk Helen Finney. Yet with the leadership of supply pastor Clifford Smith and the young people who delivered Christmas cards for 10 cents each, the church gave \$1,290, exceeding its goal of \$850.

Members of **First Church, Milan**, set a goal of \$10,300, but gave \$27,205, reported Pastor Ernest Parvin. "Even more extraordinary is that we are attempting to pay for a \$200,000 bus purchased in October. Our folks were already giving sacrificially to pay for that in six months having given \$80,000 and total budget gifts surpassed budget requirements by over \$38,000," he said.

Two couples from the church are now — See Churches, page 2

## 96 in '96 means more teamwork

For those who have given thought to subscribing to the *Baptist and Reflector*, now is the time to do it. 96 in '96!

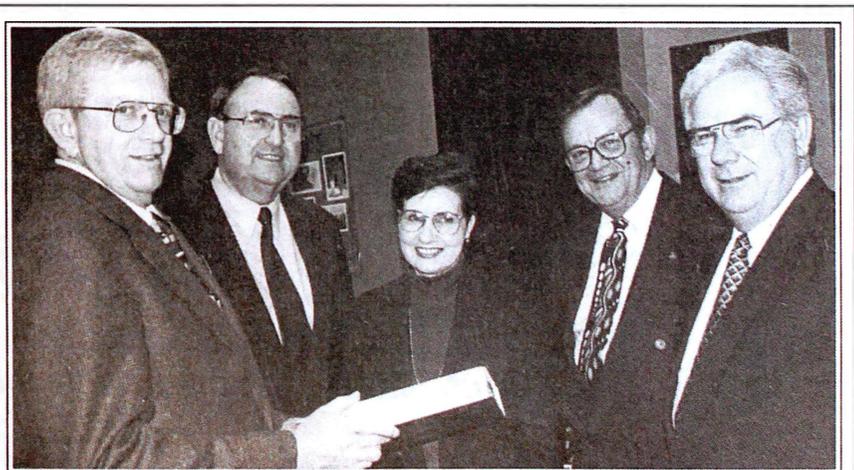
The staff of the state paper invites, encourages, even dares 96 churches to become family members in 1996.

We invite 96 (or more) Tennessee Baptist churches to be bold about providing this valuable tool to members.

The paper weekly offers news, features, and interpretations about evangelism, missions, ministries, and education. We will present news from Tennessee Baptist churches.

How about it? Want to be a part of the "96 in '96 Team?"

Call or write. We will get the information you need to you quickly, (615) 371-2003, or PO Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. □



### Will of God workshop

Discipleship Training Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, sponsored an Experiencing God training class at the Baptist Center last week, with 94 participants. They learned how to lead groups in an effective study of the Experiencing God workbook and personal discipleship. From left: David Carter, workshop leader, Sunday School Board, Nashville; Bill and Ann Robbins, Allen Church, Haywood Association where he is pastor; Johnnie Hall, Discipleship Training Department director, and W.D. Thomason, pastor of Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet.

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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# Churches large and small rally around ...

— Continued from page 1

on the mission field — Adney and Vel Cross in Africa and Victor and Jodi Morrison in Japan. Also this year Myrtice Owens, a former missionary to Africa, stirred the church by telling of her experiences, the pastor said. "Several of our people were moved to give unusually generous Lottie Moon gifts.

"Our church is not a wealthy church, being made up of hard working folk. The only answer to extraordinary giving is that God did it," Parvin said.

**West End Church in Columbia**, a two-year-old congregation comprised of a majority of older members on fixed income, takes one offering each year for Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and Golden State Missions Offering, reported Mrs. Harry C. Helm.

In 1995 the Women on Mission set a goal of \$5,000. "We were a bit skeptical since there are only about 150 active members in the church. However, faith prevailed and our receipts were \$6,283, Helm reported.

**First Church, Cleveland**, is another congregation which gives annually to one offering. Gifts are divided 50 percent for Lottie Moon, 25 percent for Annie Armstrong, 10 percent for Golden State, and 5 percent for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, reported Malcolm Jones, chairman of the church's missions committee.

This year giving was up 35.6 percent, totalling \$65,535 from the congregation which averages about 1,400 in morning worship each week.

The offering emphasis is preceded with a focus on eight missionaries for eight months to inform the congregation about missions needs, Jones said.

**Friendship Church, Fayetteville**, currently averages about 22 for Sunday School and between 27-30 in worship, said bivocational pastor Phillip L. Kemp, who joined the congregation in mid-1995.

He noted the church set a goal of \$500 which was higher than recent goals that had gone unmet.

"With prayer, the congregation marched forward," Kemp said. One of the church's newer members made a crescent moon containing 25 lights. Each time \$20 was given a light was turned on, Kemp said, observing, "Just like missions, every time someone gives a little, a new light comes on in someone's heart." On Christmas Eve the church reached and surpassed its goal with \$580.

Another small church — **Big Springs in Lebanon** — with a membership of nine people, including only six adults, far exceeded previous goals, said Pastor Terry Clapp. Members gave \$202, surpassing their goal of \$200.

In 1988 **Bethlehem Church in West Point** gave \$75 to the Lottie Moon offering, said Pastor Norman O. Baker.

Under his leadership the church's gifts have steadily risen each year, culminating to \$3,100 for 1995.

"If a church whose average weekly offering is some \$500, could not others catch the vision and take the matter seriously?" Baker asked.

Another church — **Meredian in Crossville** — had dwindled down to just a few people about four years ago. The church called a new pastor, Mike Garrett, and began climbing upward, according to WMU director Rachel Brown.

In 1992 the church set a Lottie Moon goal of \$200 and reached it. Each year since the church raised the goal "until this year when we put the congregation in shock," Brown said. The church set a goal of \$1,000 and the WMU committed to pray "over every dollar given."

God heard and answered, Brown said, noting the church met its goal with the help of an anonymous matching offering. "Praise God that \$1,000 step of courage had been stretched. What more can I say?

Only that our God is alive and well and still in business," Brown observed.

Other success stories of note:

■ **Clear Branch Church, Erwin.** Prior to 1975 the church's Lottie Moon gifts ranged from \$400 to \$600. Since then the church gradually increased its goals and for the last four years have had a yearly goal of \$4,000 which has been met each year, including \$4,175 in 1995, according to James L. Treadway, a deacon at Clear Branch. He notes the church is a small rural church with an average weekly attendance of 59 with about one-half of those retired on fixed incomes. "We feel that God is richly blessing our giving," he said.

■ **Little Hope Church, Clarksville.** The 1995 Lottie Moon goal was \$2,400, but the church gave \$3,837, said member Jeraldine Evans. She noted it was done through a series of events spread throughout the year.

■ **Oak Dale Church, Greene County.** With an average Sunday School attendance of 40, the church did not set a goal, but gave \$2,105. In addition, the church gave additional funds to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and world hunger in December as well as helping two needy families, reported Pastor Otto Giles. "If Christ had not filled the hearts and lives of his people, it would have taken a miracle to accomplish our desires for missions," he said.

■ **Gibson Church, Gibson.** This congregation with an average weekly attendance of 50 set a goal of \$1,000. "This was a very aggressive goal ... but we felt this could be reached if only the members could be informed and be reminded of the importance of this offering and the good it does," said member Barbara Morris. The church did several things to inform, including passing out Lottie Moon fortune cookies one Sunday. The goal was surpassed with an offering of \$1,616. □

## Southern Baptists to aid famine-stricken North Koreans

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — As millions of hungry North Koreans face starvation this winter from flood-induced famine, Southern Baptists will spend \$500,000 now — and perhaps more later — to send food aid.

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist overseas relief and development agency, will use the funds to start a project designed to feed up to 10,000 North Korean schoolchildren for six months, purchase low-cost rice for immediate shipment to North Korea, and ship large containers of foodstuffs provided by local Southern Baptist churches and others.

Disastrous flooding in North Korea this past summer destroyed thousands of homes and buildings and devastated the grain harvest. Even before the flooding, the food situation looked grim; North Korean harvests reportedly have fallen short of needs for the last several years.

While some nations have disputed the severity of the famine and refused to supply food, a Korean-American who has traveled to North Korea five times since November has seen the suffering.

"I saw people eating soil," reported the Korean-American, who spoke to Baptist Press Jan. 21 on the condition of anonymity.

When he visited one small North Korean hospital in December, a doctor told him 100 people die at the facility during a typical six-month period. In the previous six months, the doctor said, 1,420 people had died — mostly children and elderly patients weakened by malnutrition.

Conditions are better on the seacoast where people can eat fish and seaweed, he reported. But in the mountain villages and rural areas of the north, starvation looms as winter grows bitter.

The flooding and resulting severe food shortages have directly affected up to five million North Koreans, relief groups report. The Red Cross

said Jan. 21 that 120,000 North Koreans may die before the next harvest without immediate, concerted action.

The crisis represents a "huge opportunity" for Southern Baptists and other Christians to help suffering North Koreans in the name of Christ, said Mike Stroope, director of Cooperative Services International.

But aid must be sent now, stressed a Cooperative Services International worker, because food from the next North Korean grain harvest won't become available before June or early July.

"We can't wait," he said. "These people are starving to death." □

## Youth Reach '96 registration cutoff extended to Feb. 22

Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD — Phones in the TBC Evangelism Department have been ringing off the hook. For the past two weeks, numerous people have called about Youth Reach '96, set for March 8-9 according to Jay Austin, program associate.

Registration forms are pouring in. The

original cut-off date for registration which ensured box lunches was Feb. 2. The date has been moved to Feb. 22 in an attempt to allow churches as much time as possible to get in their registration material, Austin said. Reservations will be accepted after Feb. 22, but box lunches will not be guaranteed.

For those needing housing through the

Evangelism Department, housing forms must be received no later than Feb. 2. On Feb. 8 unused rooms will be turned back to the hotels.

For more information about Youth Reach '96, call the Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2077 or 371-2058. Fax hotel reservation forms, prior to Feb. 2, to (615) 371-2014. □



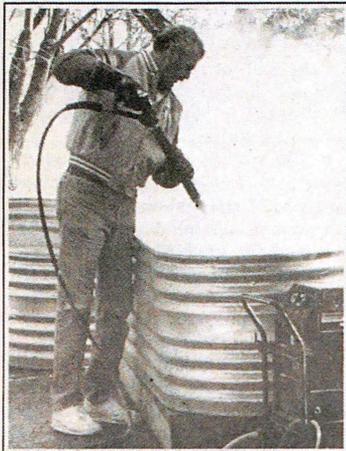
# Tennessee disaster relief volunteers minister in Pennsylvania

Baptist and Reflector

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — Answering the modern-day Macedonian call for assistance, a Tennessee Baptist Men's disaster relief team is serving meals to thousands of homeless Pennsylvanians.

Snow and cold of the recent blizzard turned into flooding and mud for hundreds of residents of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Homes, businesses, and water supplies have been overrun. Residents have moved to local shelters, as floodwaters of the Susquehanna River and tributaries poured through



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST** volunteer Tom Arnwine of Roseberry Church, Mascot, uses high pressure water to clean up containers at the feeding site.

this Harrisburg suburb in southeast Pennsylvania.

The team of 20 Tennessee men and women arrived a week ago, and some were scheduled to be relieved by other Tennesseans earlier this week.

Tim Bearden, TBC Brotherhood director visited the Tennessee volunteers last week. He reports that the Tennessee feeding unit had prepared at least 10,000 meals as of Sunday. Meals prepared by the Tennesseans are picked up by Red Cross response vehicles and delivered to needy families.

Bearden says the main difficulty is in locating the people. "There are pockets of people isolated along the river," he reported.

The Tennessee team is located at Country and Town Baptist Church in Mechanicsburg, about 15 miles from the river.

He says the church has good facilities and that some local members are working alongside the Tennessee team. Curtis Fowler of Knoxville is the on-site coordinator. Cameron Byler is the off-site coordinator in Brentwood.

The first group of Tennesseans took all the necessary equip-

ment, a motor home, two trucks with trailers with cooking equipment.

The team also took sufficient food for preparing meals for 48 hours. Then the Red Cross supply system kicked in.

The entire state has been declared a national disaster area by President Bill Clinton.

Feeding units from other states are working elsewhere in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

When the feeding units first reported, freezing weather conditions prevailed.

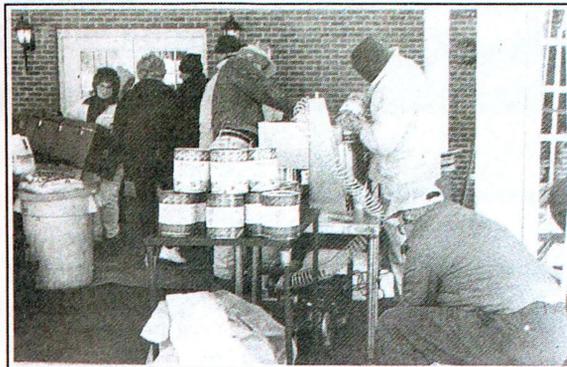
Bearden reports that the Tennessee unit will remain on the site until advised by authorities to stand down.

It is possible, he says, that Tennessee units would be asked to do "mud out" cleaning later.

There are no other needs at present beyond feeding the displaced people.

The Southern Baptist response is supported by thousands of highly trained, dependable volunteers.

The Tennesseans are working closely with the Baptist Convention of Penn-South Jersey. □



**TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS** arrived at the Country and Town Church feeding site just a few miles from the raging Susquehanna River a week ago. They prepared hot meals for displaced people in the flood-stricken area despite freezing conditions. Disaster relief is not new to Tennessee Baptist men. They have helped in many recent disasters.



**SENDING HELP** to flood victims in southern Pennsylvania are Ed Simpson, McLemoresville Church, McLemoresville; Cameron Byler, Clearview Church, Franklin; Dick Staggs, First Church, Bemis; and Pat Still, Clearview. They helped load supplies. Byler served as off-site coordinator. — Photos by Tim Bearden

## AFA challenges 'trashy talk'

Baptist Press

TUPELO, Miss. — A campaign to fight "trashy TV talk shows" entered a new phase Jan. 21 with the publication of a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*' Sunday edition.

"SHAME!" said the large headline atop the ad, which was purchased by the American Family Association, based in Tupelo, Miss.

"Shame on you trash talk show producers who fill our children's mind with moral rot, on you TV stations which bring their programs into our communities, (and) on you greedy advertisers who sponsor trash talk shows simply to fill your coffers with money," the ad read.

The AFA board of directors voted in October to launch the campaign, which is being guided by Donald E. Wildmon, AFA president and a Methodist minister. □

## Southern Baptists win respect from relief to island

Baptist Press

MARIGOT, St. Martin — Relief efforts after the Caribbean region's bout with Hurricane Luis in September are bearing a harvest of respect for Baptists on St. Martin.

"I see it in the way people look at the church," said Mike McDaniel, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board worker on the island, which is shared by France and the Netherlands. "This has really given us an opportunity to work. The numbers in our churches have steadily grown. We're packed out each Sunday."

McDaniel and his wife, Karen, arrived on the 33-square-mile island — known as St. Martin on the French side, St.

Maarten on the Dutch — in mid-December to begin a two-year stint as FMB International Service Corps workers. That was just before career missionaries Tom and Patti Higginbotham, who lost all their household furnishings in the hurricane, left on a furlough to Louisiana.

McDaniel, of Roanoke, Va., is reaping the benefits of Higginbotham's work as pastor of the St. Maarten International Baptist Church. After the storm, the church was a distribution center for Baptist aid to hurricane victims.

The FMB provided \$214,500 in disaster aid for St. Maarten and the nearby island of Antigua, also hit hard by Luis. The board also sent another \$5,000 to the French West Indian island of Guadeloupe

for aid after a later hurricane, Marilyn.

In the wake of Luis, about 130 Southern Baptist volunteers roofed houses and helped with water purification projects on St. Maarten and Antigua. The FMB sent food and building materials. The project was sponsored by the FMB and Brotherhood Commission.

About 40 volunteers worked on St. Maarten, where all three Baptist churches sustained damages.

Veteran construction worker Herb Adams of First Church, Alamo, who led the volunteer crew on St. Maarten, began repairing the Higginbotham's home which was destroyed by the hurricane. He hopes to return to St. Maarten soon to finish the project. □

## Cooperative Program records celebrated in several states

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Commitment to the Cooperative Program has yielded celebration in Georgia and other states where Southern Baptists set records last year.

"With joy, we continue to celebrate with our Southern Baptist family in reaching the world

for Jesus Christ," said John Yarbrough, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. In all, 27 state conventions reported record CP giving last year.

Included among those state conventions were Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, attributed the record giving to "trust and confidence. Our churches believe in what is happening in Florida and the Southern Baptist Convention as we seek to evangelize the lost."

In Tennessee where gifts exceeded the budget for the

first time in several years. James Porch, executive director of the state convention, noted that "each gift from every participating church made this record giving possible."

The SBC at large ended its 1994-95 fiscal year with a record \$145,739,489 in CP gifts. □

## Other ways also used to raise funds for Lottie Moon

# Missions organizations play key role in reaching LMCO goals

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee churches found many unique ways to raise funds to meet their goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

From RA and GA post offices to floats in Christmas parades, church leaders used numerous tools to create interest in the Lottie Moon offering. And, in many of the churches, mission organizations played vital roles.

The youth of **South Madisonville Church, Madisonville**, set the standard for their congregation. They built a float which they entered in the Christmas parades of four towns in Monroe County. The float won three first place awards and one third place, earning \$600 in prize money. The youth also operated a post office for Christmas cards as well. The church, which has an average attendance of 100 in worship had an offering goal of \$2,000, but gave more than \$3,000.

**Oak Grove Church in Covington** used a Lottie Moon Mail Box built by church member M.B. Howard, according to WMU director Becky Bringle.

Church members send cards to each other in the church and use what they normally would have spent on postage as donations to the LMCO. The church's goal was \$3,100 but they gave \$4,051.07.

The Acteens of **Highland Park Church, Columbia**, sponsored a post office there. Through their effort they raised \$392 for the offering.

RAs and GAs both were involved in the success of the offering at **Englewood Church, Jackson**, according to Rebecca Dedmon, chairman of the church's missions committee.

The RAs sponsored a pancake breakfast and the GAs prepared a Christmas Greetings Newsletter and made banks to save their money for the offering. Other ways to promote the offering was a sermon by Pastor Philip Jett and a testimony from member Pat Glenn, a former foreign missionary. The church's goal was \$15,000 and mem-

bers gave \$19,733.04. "Our church knows that the Lottie Moon offering is the very heartbeat of foreign missions," Dedmon reported.

At **First Church, Church Hill**, the RA post office raised \$1,464 for the LMCO, said Pastor Gary Gerhardt. The church also held a Lottie Moon Auction in which members made or bought nice craft items and donated them to the auction. This is usually done the first Saturday evening in December and 1995's effort raised \$4,901.30, Gerhardt said, noting the auction has raised \$31,513.01 for foreign missions over the last nine years. In all, the church gave \$14,966.45 to the Lottie Moon offering in 1995, exceeding its \$14,000 goal.

The Mission Friends of **Ridgecrest Church, Chattanooga**, played a major part in helping their church exceed their offering goal of \$1,000, said member Marylyn Smith.

They sponsored a "Hallelujah Party" in October which included a country store in which church members donated crafts or garage sale items, collected aluminum cans and delivered Christmas cards within the church. In all, the Mission Friends raised \$700 of the total \$1,459 given.

Children played a prominent role in the offering at **First Church, Paris**. They were given offering boxes and challenged to give to the Lottie Moon offering, according to Emily Daniel Cox, prayer ministry coordinator.

"To help us focus our hearts and minds they gathered at the front of the church and sang "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The joy and faith that can be shown so clearly on children's faces touched each one present," Cox said.

Even though the church was nearing the end of the first year of giving to-

ward a \$2 million Family Life Center, the church set a goal of \$20,000 for the offering and exceeded it by more than \$5,000. The offering from just the Mission Friends was over \$250, Cox added.

At **First Church, Dover**, members increased their 1995 goal 74 percent from the previous year to \$3,000. With the help of Acteens, who headed the post office; the Girls in Action who collected "spare" change and raked leaves in the fall; the RAs who also raked leaves; and the youth who held a "alley rally," a bowling party in which pledges were taken for downed pins, the church exceeded its goal by \$115.15.

Members of **Fellowship Church, Knoxville**, held a "March to the Manger for Lottie Moon" on Dec. 10, said Pastor Chris Francis.

Each family came to the front of the auditorium to bring their Lottie Moon offering to drop in a manger which was filled with straw and covered with purple cloth to represent the baby king who was born in Bethlehem, Francis said. "This was a very meaningful time," Francis said, noting the offering amount that day was \$3,999. At the end of the month the church had exceeded its \$6,700 goal by giving \$8,186.85. "We give all the praise and glory to God who allowed us to win this victory," the pastor said.

The "40 and Above Couple's" Sunday School class at **North Jackson Church, Jackson**, held a unique auction at their Christmas party to kick off the church's offering, said WMU director Belinda Richardson. Each couple brought in a wrapped present to be auctioned and that couple had to give a detailed description of the article to tell what it was used for and why people should bid on their item.

"The auction was great fun and fel-

lowship and achieved more than 50 percent of our goal on that one night which prompted our overall success of exceeding our goal by 36 percent, she said.

Other success stories reported were:

■ The "Ambassadors for Christ" ladies class at **Sinking Creek Church, Johnson City**, comprised of 25 active members, raised \$300 for the Lottie Moon offering.

■ **Union Church, Wartburg**, exceeded 1994's offering goal by 300 percent. They set 1995's goal 15 percent over last year's offering and exceeded that by 150 percent, said Pastor Mark Caldwell. Ways in which the church met the goal included a march for missions and "Lottie's elves," a youth-sponsored event in which they delivered Christmas cards.

■ The Women on Mission set an offering goal of \$600 at **Salem Springs Church, Murfreesboro**. The church, with an average Sunday School attendance of 34, gave \$947, said Janet Smith of Salem Springs. "Our church emphasizes supporting missions. We believe the missions program is what keeps us going," she said.

■ **Parkers Creek Church, Bon Aqua**, with an average of 175 in morning worship, raised \$5,800 for the Lottie Moon offering, reported Pastor Joe Estes. He noted the church holds a march for missions and everything that day is focused on the offering and the Cooperative Program. The congregation appreciates knowing that every penny they give goes directly to missions," Estes said. "They have the joy of knowing that their gift will not be used by the local church but it will be used to spread the Gospel worldwide."

■ The Women on Mission at **Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch**, wanted a goal that was "challenging and attainable" and settled on one of \$1,400. They used an RA post office and had a drama written by one of the members based on the 1995 theme. The total offering given was \$2,133.63, the largest LMCO to date at Hickory Hollow. □



## Individuals share personal testimonies about their gifts to LMCO

### A teacher's testimony

For over 30 years I have taught Sunday School for mostly third, fourth, and fifth graders. Every Christmas we talk about the Lottie Moon offering and do an activity on her.

When it is time for our Sunday School Christmas party we have it on a Sunday morning and have snacks for the children. During this time we have our tree and play music. We tell the children to bring no gifts, only their offering in the envelopes we gave them the first Sunday. We have a prayer and put our money un-

der the tree. This has been a tradition for 30 years in our class. I pray for our missionaries every morning and use the prayer calendar each day.

Brynda Earney  
Malesus Church, Jackson

### Experiencing God

God used *Experiencing God* to help me understand what the Lord wanted to do through our church to reach people in the European countries. During the study I was praying and the Lord placed on my mind a dollar figure that he wanted me to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

I had been saving some money to go on a mission trip to the Ukraine, but when the plans were being made I could not get an answer from the Lord about going on that particular trip, so I didn't go.

I could not understand why the Lord had not given me an answer.

It soon became apparent that the Lord wanted me to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for a reason. You see, the amount the Lord had told me to give was exactly what I had saved toward a mission trip. I agreed with the Lord that I would give what he asked.

Then my heart became burdened for this offering. I challenged our church to pray and ask the Lord how much he wanted them to give. Our church goal was \$2,075 and we gave \$3,664.

Clayton Dunsmore, pastor  
Cedar Fork Church,  
Philadelphia

### Christmas bonus

My wife and I had been praying about the Lottie Moon offering ... but had not decided on an amount.

One day at work the mailman delivered an envelope to me that contained a bonus

check I had earned a few months earlier and I had forgotten that I had not received it yet.

When I went home that evening my wife said she had been praying that God would provide a certain amount that we could give to the Lottie Moon offering. The amount she mentioned was exactly what I had received in the bonus check.

We were really excited. What a wonderful and quick answer to prayer. Praise the Lord. The next Sunday we gave our Lottie Moon offering.

Bob and Diane Nichols  
First Church, Andersonville

# Teamwork helps homes, strengthens family

During the Tennessee Baptist Convention last November in Chattanooga, messengers unanimously approved a resolution concerning families and homes.

There were five points of commitment and a closing paragraph which urged TBC elected and employed leaders "to consider steps to assist in strengthening family values (God's absolutes)."

As the resolution's author, this editor appreciates the Committee on Resolutions' treatment of the resolution. He also appreciates the unanimity of the messengers.

The resolution on family values is the basis on which the *Baptist and Reflector* places its approach to news, features, and interpretations, especially during 1996.

Though all 2,900 Tennessee Baptist churches are autonomous, they comprise a team. This team, when mobilized totally for a combined effort in the name of Jesus Christ, can change their world.

To effect such changes, the churches must be tuned in to all the pertinent information available. Thus, as more churches provide the official newsjournal to the members, there will be more informed people.

We will have a network that works together without individual team members losing autonomy.

So we ask, early in this new year, for at least 96 Tennessee Baptist churches to join this team. The theme is "96 in '96."

Also we ask the team to cooperate in strengthening the spiritual and moral fiber of homes and families.

The virtues of truth, love, honesty,

sexual purity, reliability, right from wrong, and integrity, must be taught, lived, preached, and related if our nation is to survive and prosper as God-fearing people.

In previous weeks, we have offered some substantive arguments opposing gambling and profane language. These are only two realities that are detrimental to the Christ-centered home. We will discuss others here.

God's Word provides all the answers to all problems faced by families. The five points of the Home and Family Resolution are simple, specific. Messengers who approved the resolution were saying "yes" to these points.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

(1) Keep Christian family values one of our highest priorities.

(2) Assist churches and associations in making this priority highly visible on a continual basis.

(3) Relate to our civic authorities the desperate need for Christian family values in all levels of government and law-making.

(4) Find ways to help churches prevent and/or deal with broken families, divorce, estrangements, abuse of any family members.

(5) Urge regular prayer times, workshops, and retreats for families and churches.

In addition the resolution said, "We also strongly urge our Tennessee Baptist Convention elected and employed leaders to consider steps to assist in strengthening family values (God's Absolutes)."

Only a few of Tennessee Baptist churches had messengers at the annual

meeting last November in Chattanooga. Those who were there and believe in the resolutions have a responsibility to share the news with others.

The TBC needs that team that we are discussing. Is *96 in '96* too ambitious? We don't believe it is.

These 96 churches, one by one, can strengthen the network. We can strengthen marriage and the home. Pastors can give the biblical messages to drive home these truths found in his Word. Other leaders can affirm and live out the virtues of God's Absolutes.

Men and women with long and strong marriage relationships can mentor and advise engaged couples and newlyweds.

As we discuss these virtues weekly and offer suggestions on which to build, those 96 churches can make a difference. New team members add their own strengths and spice to the body. □

## Remodeling TBC board

At the December Executive Board meeting, an overview of a proposed remodeling of the Executive Board staff was presented by James Porch, executive director/treasurer.

In the proposal, departments and directors would be changed to groups and group leaders. There would be seven groups: evangelism/missions strategies, Christian growth development, church staff leadership, missions awareness and involvement, communication services, administrative services, and executive leadership. The board will vote on the plan at its May meeting. The paper will report on the plan in an upcoming issue. □

## ■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

### Paying the barber

In my long ago college days, I quickly found out that I didn't know everything.

It wasn't a shock, because after all, I had come to college for the learning experience.

I had been appropriately warned not to take any short cuts and to study hard. That is another story.

I had never seen the Furman University campus, had not even seen a photo. In fact, I had never "set foot" in Greenville.

There were at least two things I needed to learn, and these did not give any college credit.

A short hike from that venerable old campus were two places that I visited as needed.

We found the cleaners on the corner - two in fact, Thomason Brothers and Clean Cleaners. They catered to the college boys. They took care of our "church" clothes.

Around the corner from the cleaning establishments was the closest barber shop. Well, it wasn't a real barber shop. It was the barber college.

And the students earned experience on the heads of countless freshmen. After all, they cut hair for a quarter!

After gaining sophomore status, nobody who was anybody went to the barber college for a twenty-five cent haircut.

Do you wonder why?

I remember an early visit with a couple of buddies. While I winced at the nicks and scrapes and told myself I wouldn't really look *too bad*, I heard a shout from the third chair where my friend Vern sat. He had a dazed look.

Vern's barber exclaimed, "Hey, somebody come here quick; I've cut this guy's neck and it won't stop bleeding!"

Yes, I was worried. I climbed down out of my chair with a half-done haircut to check on Vern.

He was okay, but he played the role of offended customer sufficiently to get a free haircut. They stopped the bleeding.

I have thought about that experience many times. It reminds me that often we are willing to take shortcuts in our Christian walk.

Saving a little money or time is no reason for refusing the best God offers us. ☺



ALLEN

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Lady to pastor: "I don't know which church to try next. I was a Baptist but became dissatisfied and joined the Methodists. Then I joined the Presbyterians. Now I'm an Episcopalian." Pastor: "I wouldn't worry about it. The label doesn't really matter when it's on an empty bottle."

### Take this truth

Long before President Kennedy made his famous statement about "our country," Southern Baptists were saying it this way: "Ask not what your church can do for you but rather what you can do for your church."

### Memorize this Scripture

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Matthew 20:28).

### Pray this prayer

Lord help me to realize service to others is the rent we pay for living on this planet. □

# Affirmations for another year

From David Drumel, vice president of pastoral care for Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis, I have learned nine affirmations for this year. I want to share them.

I think they are timely for every family. The Scripture verses I place with each of the affirmations remind me of the truth as expressed in God's Word.

1. **Today is a precious gift from God.** The psalmist leads us to say, "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." - Psalm 118:24.

2. **Respect the past, but don't live there.** The apostle Paul reminds us, "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:13-14.

3. **If it is right, do it; if it is wrong, avoid it.** Paul also reminds us, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." - Philippians 4:8.

Then James tells us to "resist the devil and he will flee from you." - James 4:7.

4. **And remember, every person you meet is carrying a heavy load.** Paul admonished the Galatian Christians to "bear one another's burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2.

5. **The only things that last are spiritual realities.** The Bible declares that "until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished." - Matthew 5:18.

6. **God really loves you.** No greater expression of this is found anywhere than in John 3:16: "For God so loved

the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

7. **Look forward in faith.** Paul warned the Corinthian church that "we walk by faith and not by sight." - II Corinthians 5:7.

8. **Take yourself less seriously.** Paul also warns us along with the Roman Christians, that we should "not think more highly of (ourselves) than we ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has

allotted to each a measure of faith." - Romans 12:3.

9. **Take God more seriously and you will not take yourself as seriously.** The apostle Paul says to us that if we "walk by the Spirit" we "will not carry out the desire of the flesh." - Galatians 5:25.

Then let us take these nine affirmations as we walk through this new year. Make them part of personal life. □



BARKLEY

## In Gaza Strip

### Belmont nursing professors work to improve neonatal care

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — In an area roughly twice the size of Washington, D.C., three hospitals serve neonatal needs in Gaza.

The coastal city bordering the Mediterranean Sea between Egypt and Israel has a high infant mortality rate and thus neonatal care has become a priority of the government. The infant mortality rate in Gaza is 36.9 per 1,000, compared to 7.9 per 1,000 in the United States.

But neonatal care givers in Gaza are challenged by limited resources and training.

With the help of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Paul Lawrence of the Gaza Institute for Nursing arranged for two Belmont University nursing professors to visit the Gaza Strip.

Shortly after their arrival Cathy Rozmus and Debra Wollaber met with

the Palestinian Minister of Health for a briefing. He asked them to report on their findings of the care given in area hospitals and to make recommendations for improvements of neonatal care in Gaza.

"He made us feel that we were part of a developing nation and that we were there to help and become a part of history," Rozmus said.

While in Gaza the Belmont professors worked with neonatal intensive care nurses in order to improve the care given to preterm and sick infants and became the first volunteers to do continuing education in that region.

During their trip they assisted in the nurseries and aided the Gaza nurses in their roles and duties.

Rozmus and Wollaber also conducted nursing seminars on nursing care related to infants with heart defects, problems with thermoregulation, respiratory distress, and the immediate nursing care needed by sick infants.

The seminars were attended by ap-

proximately 60 nurses from the three hospitals.

"The qualified nurses, nurses educated predominantly at what was formerly the Baptist School of Nursing, were able to speak English fairly well," Wollaber said. "However, the seminars were offered to all neonatal nurses, including practical nurses, who did not speak English as well so we worked with an interpreter as we taught," she added.

The two nurses found the hospitals old but clean and discovered the equipment was less than adequate. For example, they had only two arterial blood gas analyzers to use for the three nurseries.

Also, they discovered the political atmosphere makes working in Gaza difficult.

Although resources were scarce, the Belmont professors found nursing care there comparable to that given in the United States in the 1970s.

They also discovered the Gaza nurs-

es were eager to learn and able to make immediate application of the information to their nursing care.

The two nurses took current neonatal textbooks to donate to the neonatal units and the "nurses and physicians thought they were priceless gifts," Wollaber said.

Despite the handicaps faced by the Gaza nurses, the two Belmont professors were inspired by their quest for more knowledge. Working with the nurses there was a wonderful experience, the two Belmont nurses agreed.

"They all were welcoming and enthusiastic about learning more about caring for their babies," Wollaber said.

Since returning to Belmont, Wollaber and Rozmus have been passing along professional journals and other materials to the nurses in Gaza.

They hope to be able to secure funds in the future for journal subscriptions to be used in continuing education for the nurses in the neonatal units in Gaza. □

## Former Methodist congregation joins family of Duck River churches

For Baptist and Reflector

WINCHESTER — Duck River Association has voted to include a "Methodist" church into its fellowship. Oops, better said as former Methodist church.

Marble Plains Church has a pre-1860 history, but that was the year the first church-house was constructed.

Marble Plains, located at Tims Ford State Park with a Winchester mailing address, voted Jan. 1, 1995, to become a Southern Baptist church.

Duck River Association assisted the church in constituting a few weeks later.

Last April, the church voted unanimously to petition Duck River to join the association of churches. That request was granted by the association's executive board last August and the association concurred at the annual meeting in the fall.

So Marble Plains, which served faithfully as a Methodist church for more than a century, has become a Southern Baptist church.

Records show that Bob Parks donated two and a half acres for the church site prior to 1860, and Andrew Wiseman paid the dime to have the deed recorded. A brush arbor was then built, and soon thereafter a log cabin was constructed on the site to be used for school and church.

The building that now exists was built in 1913.

The records say that farmers and other people in the community worked hard to cut, haul, and dress the limber donated for that first building.

In 1922 J.N. Weaver donated another acre to the site.

In the 1970s a dam was built on Tims Ford and many church families gave up their farms and moved away. The small congregation hired and paid their ministers, kept the Sunday School going, and paid for necessities.

In June 1993, the church was released from the Methodist Conference. The building is located on the shores of the state park lake.

Church life is growing stronger now with 50 to 65

members present on Sundays. Jack Hice of Tullahoma is pastor. The building has been renovated. A rededication service was held in November 1994.

Hice, noting that the people had been determined to hold on to this special piece of history, believes that "great things are in store for this old church once more.

"The people did not give up, and now we are on the brink of a miracle."

Marble Plains Church indeed is on the move again. □ — Wm. Fletcher Allen

## Fire damages Memphis church

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — On Jan. 15 a fire burned the house in which Zoe Church has met for three years. The source of the fire has been traced to a hot water heater.

Pastor James Henderson reported parts of the ceiling, attic, and roof of the 1,700-square-foot building were damaged. The congregation is now meeting at Parkway Village Church in Memphis.

The congregation plans to repair the damage with proceeds from insurance and focus on building the planned multi-purpose addition to the building on their one-acre site.

They are working with the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions and Brotherhood departments to secure volunteer builders to assist them, Henderson said. □

## Mt. Juliet congregation observes sanctity of human life

For Baptist and Reflector

MT. JULIET — For several years members of First Church, Mt. Juliet, and other local congregations have formed a human life chain along Mt. Juliet Road in observance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, held this year on Jan. 21.

"It's a quiet, positive protest of abortion," said Pastor Billie Friel.

This year, the church's Christian Concerns Committee came up with the idea of having a special memorial service for the 4,400 babies who are aborted daily, Friel said.

To go along with the service the church placed 4,400 white wooden crosses in its front lawn.

They bought 8000 paint sticks and members made crosses out of them and painted them white, Friel said.

Students at the church's academy helped by placing the crosses in the ground a yard apart the Friday before the Sunday observance, Friel added.

The memorial service had three parts — an emphasis on the babies, the moth-

ers, and the nation as a whole, the pastor said. Other churches attended the service and joined with FBC members to form a human life chain that stretched for a mile and a half after the memorial service,

Friel said.

The pastor said the church had been concerned that vandals would bother the display. Instead, the community showed respect for what they did, Friel said. □



FIRST CHURCH, Mt. Juliet, placed 4,400 wooden crosses in its front lawn to represent the number of babies killed daily by abortion.

## Sparta pastor teaches in Russia via Golden Gate Seminary

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

SPARTA — Dwight Guy went to Russia to teach young pastors. While there he learned a few things himself.

"We in America can learn from the passionate resolve the Russians have to care for one another and to win their country for Christ," said Guy, pastor of First Church, Sparta.

Guy has had several weeks to reflect on his experience as a volunteer professor in Rostov in late November and early December.

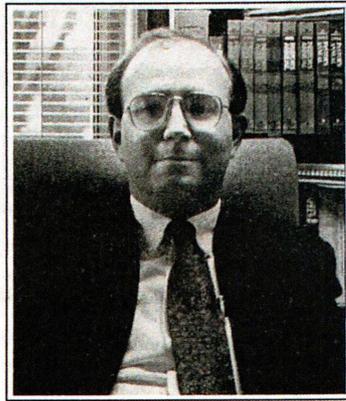
Guy taught two seminary-level courses to young Russian pastors hungry to learn how they can effectively minister in their homeland.

The effort was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. Members of First Church, Sparta, gave voluntarily to pay Guy's expenses to Russia.

The Sparta pastor taught two courses — "Spiritual Formations" and "Leadership Principles." Each class lasted only a week, but he was required to lecture 30 hours (a semester's worth of lecturing at a typical U.S. seminary). A translator was used to communicate with the students.

Guy was asked to teach in Russia in late summer so he had a few months to prepare for the courses. Fortunately, he was able to pick the courses he taught from a list provided by the seminary.

The courses are "in tune with my



DWIGHT GUY

own ministry," so that made it much easier, Guy said.

He also returned to Sparta with a deep appreciation for the students he taught in Russia.

"It's hard for us to imagine but there are whole towns and villages over there with no Christians whatsoever," Guy related.

Those young pastors over there are like "modern-day Pauls" who go into those situations.

He cited the story of one of his students, Boris Selivonov. "Boris has gone into five towns within 200 kilometers of Rostov and personally started five churches.

"He serves as pastor of all five and preaches seven times on the weekend, then returns to Rostov and takes his

seminary courses," Guy observed, noting Boris' experience is not an isolated case.

During the week the students have a "very heavy" schedule since they basically have to take a semester-long course in only five days, Guy continued. The students, who are working toward a diploma from Golden Gate Seminary, usually do not have textbooks so they have to rely solely on their notes.

"For them it is long grueling days, sitting hour after hour taking page after page of notes," Guy said. Yet, instead of complaining, they seem to be hungry for more, he added.

"It's refreshing to see the heartbeat these men have for the Lord Jesus, their fellow Russians, and each other," Guy commented.

And, Guy observed, the Russian pastors have to minister in "adverse, difficult circumstances."

The economy in Russia is extremely depressed, he said. "We have so much in America and are blessed in so many different ways. ... They live in a land of neglect and oppression," he said.

Yet, in spite of their difficult circumstances, they are so happy for what they do have, Guy observed.

He told of walking down a street with one of his students who was serving as a guide. They walked by people who were expressionless. No greetings or waves were given.

His guide noticed Guy looking at the people and noted the Russians have nothing to be happy about.

Guy said he commented that his guide

was just the opposite — smiling and always seeming happy. The guide responded: "I have Jesus in my heart."

The goal of that student and the 14 others he taught is to help their fellow countrymen come to a similar relationship with the Lord, Guy said.

"They have a fervent, passionate quest to win Russia for Jesus Christ that puts us to shame," he said.

During his classes he was constantly asked, "How can I effectively pastor, preach, and win my fellow Russians to Christ," Guy said.

Their attitudes and determination made a definite impression on the Sparta pastor. "We have the Gospel here, but seem to keep it to ourselves. That's not the case there."

Guy was impressed with the ministry opportunities that are going on in Russia now while doors are open. Numerous Christian organizations and groups in addition to Southern Baptists are making an impact. One way they are doing so is educating teachers who in turn are going into their classrooms, teaching moral values and telling their students about Christ.

And while there has been some concern that Communism would once again take over the country, Guy said he is confident doors of ministry opportunities will be open at least for the next several years.

"I was heartened that so many missions opportunities are happening there," he said.

Guy's first overseas missions experience has whetted his appetite for more. "I would love to go back," he said. □

## Bosnians adopt new home with help of Kingsport church

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSFORT — "Snow in America. Snow in Bosnia. Bosnia sent us snow," said Mirzet Tarakcija to new friends. "My family is happy."

Tarakcija is one of the few adults in Kingsport who was glad to see the snow from recent snow storms. It reminded him of his home in Bosnia, which he left Dec. 6 with his wife and two children for assylum in the United States.

The family's arrival in Kingsport the next day was the end of "four years of being on the run" for Tarakcija, 29, and his family who as Muslims had been targeted by Bosnian Serbs for ethnic cleansing, said Mitch Whisnant of First Church, Kingsport. They had been living in a refugee camp.

The church sponsored the Tarakcijas with just seven days notice, but it has been "a wonderful experience," said Whisnant, minister of education at the church.

The church learned about the family from Bridge Refugee and Sponsorship Services based in Knoxville. The original sponsor had pulled out and an emergency situation was developing. The missions committee and staff at First, Kingsport, responded by presenting the need to the church during the next Sunday evening worship service. The congregation decided to help the family.

After seven weeks of relating to the Tarakcijas, church members have decided they have received a special family, said Whisnant. The Tarakcijas are working hard at their new life, he said.

Mirzet and his wife, Jasminka, can hold conversations in English, which is amazing for the short time

they have been studying the language. Communication is still assisted by a translator recommended by Bridge. The former Bosnian who works at Tennessee Eastman volunteers this service.

Mirzet, a stone mason, is working at a vending machine company, repairing machines. Jasminka, 26, cares for their children who are four years and eight months old. And the family attends activities at First Church, although that is not a requirement of the relationship, noted Whisnant. They follow Scripture reading in a Serbo-Croatian Bible, as their language is known. He understands the couple weren't active in their Muslim faith.

The Tarakcijas aren't the only ones who have been learning. Church members have learned some Serbo-Croatian words and phrases. And they have learned about the Bosnian culture. New friends of the family were appalled to learn after leaving the family to celebrate New Year's Eve alone that it is a holiday for large gatherings of friends in Bosnia.

Church members have learned to appreciate Bosnian cooking since the family is very hospitable and likes to show their thanks by sharing food. Jasminka has cooked. Baklava has become a favorite. And Tennesseans have compiled anecdotes which naturally arise when two languages and cultures try to meld.

A bag of wet clothes which needed drying nearly got delivered to a thrift store by one church member when communication broke down, recalled Whisnant. And he's sure the Tarakcijas have some experiences they will share as they learn the language better.

Mirzet has kept a journal of his experiences. To keep all church members informed, the church has planned a dialogue with Mirzet during an upcoming Wednesday evening service.

The church also has learned from other local churches who have sponsored Bosnian families. Colonial Heights Church has sponsored a family and Litz Manor Church will receive their family soon. And a Lutheran church relocated Jasminka's brother and his family. The small Bosnian community in Kingsport has made the family's transition easier.

First Church, Kingsport, hasn't sponsored a refugee family in many years, Whisnant said, but the experience has been a good one. Although many of its members are involved in missions work, this experience has "pulled missions together for this family."

The challenges of being a sponsor have been distilled by the response of church members, Whisnant explained. They formed seven committees to direct the sponsorship. They include housing, employment, English, food, health, clothing/furnishings, and transportation. In addition, members have served as coordinators and as financial advisors. Others have volunteered and many have given money to add to the \$2,000 the missions committee budgeted for the effort. Other funding came from Bridge.

Although the official relationship between the church and family can end at three months, Whisnant predicts the relationship has just begun. □

Arrival was end of 'being on the run.'

— Mitch Whisnant

**Workshop explores  
'common ground'**

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The "Common Ground" Worship Conference, sponsored by the TBC Discipleship Training and Church Music departments, will be held Feb. 26-27 at Concord Church, Chattanooga.

The two-day conference is designed for every member of the worship team including pastors, music leaders, and worship committees.

Conference leaders include Ron Blankenship, Nashville; Tom Dumser, Lewisburg; Fred Lodge, Toccoa, Ga.; Ev Robertson, Nashville; Terry York, Dallas, Texas; and Johnnie Hall, Julian Suggs, and James Porch of the TBC.

The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call (615) 371-2053 or 371-2040. □

**Secretary**

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**Prayer support needed for chaplains in Bosnia, Kirk says**

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Two Southern Baptist chaplains serving with American troops in Bosnia need prayer support from their fellow Baptists, chaplaincy leaders said.

Jeff Bruns and David Campbell, who each served in Europe, were reassigned to Bosnia. In addition, three Southern Baptist stateside chaplains were transferred to Germany to take the places of those moved from there to Bosnia.

"I pray for their strength, sensitivity, and faithfulness as they minister to their troops where they are," said Lew Burnett, recently retired Home Mission Board director of military chaplaincy.

Tennessee Air National Guard chaplain Larry Kirk observed that chaplains would probably prefer more prayer for their ministry than their safety. Kirk is director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions

Department.

In 1992 Kirk spent 10 days in Germany ministering to troops flying humanitarian aid into Bosnia. Those troops were on Bosnian ground only a few minutes to deliver supplies. Troops there today



KIRK

are in greater danger, he said, then added, "It's a golden opportunity for chaplains to give witness to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Kirk suggested United States churches should minister to soldiers' families. Experienced military families may be used to separation, but that doesn't mean they're happy about it, he said. □

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

The Boys Ranch is searching for a devoted Christian couple whose calling and commitment would find fulfillment in this ministry to abused and neglected boys.

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

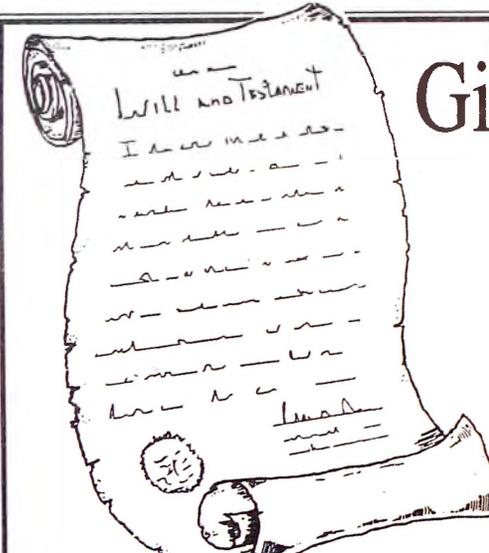
**Classified**

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**WANTED:** FBC South Pittsburg is receiving resumes for part-time minister of music and part-time minister of education. Please send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 192, South Pittsburg, TN 37380, Attn: Search Committee

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## ■ the people

■ **Ron Hooper and David Stewart** have been ordained as deacons by Allen Church, Brownsville.

■ **Central Church, Johnson City**, ordained **R. Dean Blevins** to the ministry Jan. 14.

■ **First Church, Jacksboro**, ordained **Rodney Lawson** as a deacon Jan. 14.

■ **Belmont Heights Church, Nashville**, ordained **Lee White** as a deacon Jan. 14.

## ■ the leaders

■ **First Church, Woodbury**, ordained **Brandon Buckley**, new pastor of Snow Hill Church, Liberty, to the ministry Jan. 21.

## Springfield pastor now in evangelism

Michael Duff has resigned as pastor of North Springfield Church, Springfield, to enter full-time evangelism.



DUFF

Duff served as a pastor 16 years in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky churches.

While at North Springfield, he has served as vice moderator and evangelism chairman for Robertson County Association. He has led more than 100 revivals and has worked with the Foreign Mission Board in evangelistic efforts in Argentina.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Duff and his family will continue to live in Springfield. He may be reached at (615) 384-0835. □



**LEADING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY** celebration of Four Mile Church, Maryville, recently were, from left, **Charles R. Huskey**, pastor; **Trenton Best**, deacon, who holds a plaque commemorating the occasion; and **Alvin Patton**, assistant pastor. Former pastors who participated were **James Thomas**, **Alvin Patton**, **Normal Watson**, **Joe B. Caldwell**, **Buford Albright**, and **David Allison**. **John Churchman**, director of missions, **Chilhowee Association**, presented the plaque from the **Tennessee Baptist Historical Society**.

■ **Robert McCurry** has been called as a bivocational pastor of Washburn Church, Washburn.

■ **Paul Byrd** has been called as minister of students, Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville.

■ **Rick Talley** has been called as minister of music, Munford Church, Munford.

■ **Jody Winstead**, a member of Puncheon Camp Church, Washburn, has been called as pastor of Locust Grove Church, Washburn. He was ordained to

the ministry by Puncheon Camp on Jan. 20.

■ **Martin Roach**, pastor, Mitchell Springs Church, Rutledge, for four years has resigned and is available for supply or interim work. He can be reached at (423) 828-4275.

■ **Randall Runions**, chaplain, South Central Correctional Center, Clifton, has been called as interim pastor, Calvary Church, Waynesboro.



**PLANTING A TREE IN MEMORY** of the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing last year are the youth Sunday School class of **Saulsbury Church, Lebanon**, the teacher, **Grace Midgett**, center, and **Marvin Nail**, pastor, fourth from left.



**RECEIVING A WATCH FOR 20 YEARS** of service as pastor of Indian Hills Church, Gallatin, is **Jack H. Goodwin**, left, from **Harlin Wims**, chairman of deacons, and his wife, **Linda**. The recent recognition was a surprise to Goodwin. Guests included **J.C. Lewis**, retired director of missions, **Bledsoe Association**; members of **Buffalo Trail Church, Morristown**, where Goodwin served as pastor from 1953-1960; and members of **Eastland Heights Church, Springfield**, where he served from 1967-73.

## ■ the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold its ninth annual Ministry Leadership Conference Feb. 23-24. It is entitled "Wanted: Dead and Alive." Speakers are from a seminary, Baptist convention, Baptist Sunday School Board,

and the sheriff's department. Call (901) 661-5270 for more information.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Lawrenceburg**, opened its Christian Life Center Jan. 21.



**BREAKING GROUND** for an addition to **Royce Church, Oak Ridge**, on Jan. 21 are, from left, front row. **Jim Millsaps**, pastor; **Jack Johnson**, **Dan Skidmore**; **Kathleen Moore**, mayor of Oak Ridge; **Leon Williams**, contractor; **Diane and Ronnie Jackson**; and **Gene Phillips**. The \$593,000 addition will include a family life center and foyer and portico for present building. The center will include a gymnasium, kitchen, nursery, classrooms, offices, and large meeting room.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Life's span

By **Buddy Strickland**, director of missions Sequatchie Valley Association

Isn't it strange how we look at life? Each year brings many joys and maybe some sorrow, and for sure if we live, another birthday. To some, life is exciting and every day is begun with expectation and anticipation. To others, life is a bore, full of misery and woe, and every morning a dread.

Jesus said, "I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly" John 10:10. Keeping in mind the above statement, which is the abundant life? Which one best describes you?

Attitudes are often formed in how we view our lives. If we live with expectation and anticipation, we will bring joy to others. If our lives are full of misery and woe, if we dread to awaken with the morning, we will be ill-tempered, critical, and bitter toward others and bring them sadness. Again, which is your life?

Isn't it strange how we look at life? The young can't wait until they're old enough to get their driver's license, finish school, and get a job, etc. Those of us who are within the senior category wish "sometimes" we were young again.

I remember a retired school teacher saying, "you are as old as you feel." I read where someone wrote "one grows old in three ways: physiological, psy-

chological, and chronological." The writer went on to say, "We have many old people psychologically."

Some don't like to tell their age. It is almost as if they are ashamed of the years God has allowed them to attain. When many have a birthday, they complain of getting older instead of rejoicing. To some, life is too long or too short at any age.

I read with amazement a statement made by Jacob to the Pharaoh of Egypt. "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are 130 years, few and evil have the days of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the day of their pilgrimage" Genesis 47:9.

James asked the question, "For what

is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little while, then vanisheth away" James 4:14.

Isn't it strange how we look at life? I hope your new year will be a life filled with obedience to the will of God; that yours will be an exciting and exhilarating life, one that brings joy to others, one that Jesus Christ gives abundantly. □

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

# Southern Baptist presence felt at National Affairs Briefing

By Herb Hollinger  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — It was a mix of God and country, religion and politics. And prominent Southern Baptists were key figures at the National Affairs Briefing Jan. 19-20 at The Pyramid in Memphis.

The briefing was sponsored by The Roundtable, a nationwide group of conservative organizations, churches, and individuals.

Its purpose was "... to set the agenda for the presidential candidates to discuss the social issues and spiritual values that are shaping our country."

Ed McAteer, a member of Bellevue Church, Cordova, chaired the two-day session. A similar NAB in 1980 was widely credited with helping Ronald Reagan become president. Another NAB was held in Dallas in 1992. Attendance estimates ranged from fewer than 5,000 to 7,500, far below the 20,000 who attended the first briefing in 1980.

Every candidate for the 1996 election was invited to the Memphis sessions, although President Bill Clinton, himself a Southern Baptist, and three top Republicans — former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, *Forbes* magazine CEO Steve Forbes, and the front-runner U.S. Senator Bob Dole — did not attend. Still, there were plenty of can-

didates and lots of talk about Christian activism.

Candidates speaking to the conservative evangelical audience were commentator Pat Buchanan, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, former diplomat Alan Keyes of Maryland, Congressman Robert Dorman of California, businessman Charles Collins of Florida, and Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's candidate from Franklin.

But the presidential candidates had to share the podium with a host of conservative activists and religious speakers, including Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition, Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women for America, Don Wildmon of the American Family Association, and Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus.

The meeting included an interesting mix of politics and conservative social activism.

But a prominent Southern Baptist pastor, in a sermon, gave participants a "word from the Lord."

Adrian Rogers, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellevue Church, said America is number one — in homosexuality, radical feminism, divorce, destructive family issues, abortion, the occult, New Age religion, crime, and violence.

"The nation born in 1776 must be born again or it will join the graveyard of nations," Rogers said.

Giving politicians a warning, Rogers said, "America today is more concerned about a balanced budget than righteousness. We need to get right with God. Government alone cannot make us good, only God can do it," Rogers said.

Speaking from II Chronicles 7:14, Rogers said there is hope

for America — "absolutely."

It will come as God's people seek renewal through repentance and confession of sin and return to God, Rogers said.

Other Southern Baptists on

the program included Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and Georgia pastors James Merritt of Snellville and Richard Lee of Atlanta. □

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- Feb. 14, Baptist Center, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
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## Living with integrity

By Charles Parker

An American general captured by the Communists during the Korean War wrote home to his son before he was executed: "Tell Bill the word is integrity." This is still the word, and still the conduct that America needs, perhaps American Christians most of all. Today's lesson implies that we are tempted to cheat, end our marriages, and lie in order to fulfill our desires. Such actions destroy integrity.

### Integrity in sexual conduct — vv. 27-30

In evaluating the behavior of the people of his time, Jesus gave two commands that relate to the family, one relating to adultery and the other to divorce. Dale Bruner, in *The Christbook*, states that the Lord's "Commands stand like lions before the door of the home."

Jesus moves beneath the surface action to the inward attitude. He wants us to remember whatever is in a person's heart is the source of outward actions. While outward acts of adultery are still generally condemned by society, only the Gospel has power to change the human heart. Often this is a lifelong process. Jesus calls for drastic actions to control illicit desires. He is calling upon his disciples to remove from their lives anything that nourishes lustful thoughts.

*Christianity Today* magazine conducted surveys a few years ago on the problem of marital indiscretion. 12% of the pastors surveyed said they had had sexual intercourse with someone other than their spouse since they had been in local-church ministry. Another 11% felt that they had done something else that was inappropriate sexually. However, lest stones start flying, the figures among Christian lay people surveyed were nearly doubled in each category. Clearly we need to change in this area. We desperately need integrity.

### Integrity in marriage relationships — vv. 31-32

In a male-dominated society some of the rabbis were interpreting Deuteronomy 24:1-4 to mean that the least excuse could give a husband an occasion to divorce his wife. They could justify their action to some extent by giving her a "certificate of divorce" testifying that she had been a basically good wife who was worthy of coming under the protection of a new husband. Jesus leaps over the rabbinic arguments to get to the original intention of God in marriage.

Interpreted legalistically, Jesus' words may not be helpful. Sincere Christians do not agree on how to interpret this teaching. One translation of verse 32 renders "causeth her to commit adultery" as "victimized with respect to adultery." An innocent wife, in order to survive in that society, was forced to remarry, thus repudiating her marriage vows. The application to today is that divorce must be the last resort of a stormy marriage, instead of the first refuge.

### Integrity of speech — vv. 33-37

Jerry Clower likes to say that "Newgene Ledbetter would climb a tree to tell a lie when he could stand on the ground and tell you the truth." Jesus addresses a word to people who enjoyed tricky talk. The swearing was not what we call profanity today, nor does this prohibit legal oaths in court. Jesus' word relates to people who made a claim to be right with God but who talked so one could not trust them.

The modern application is to political trickery, business dishonesty, Medicare fraud, tax coverups, couples who make marriage vows with their fingers crossed, and preachers who lie "speaking ministerially." □ — Charles Parker is pastor of First Church, Jacksboro.

## Jonah flees from God

By Kim Allen

The message is the relationship Jonah had with God and why he was angry with God. The point is God's people sometimes resist his loving purpose. We need to understand the reason and results of Jonah's flight.

### God's call and Jonah's rebellion — ch. 1:1-5

Jonah is mentioned in II Kings 14:23-25 as a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II, King of Israel. The book begins with the words "now the word of the Lord" coming to the prophet. Jonah's call or command was simple — "arise," "go," and "cry." He was instructed to go to Ninevah, the capital of the brutal Assyrians.

Jonah was told to arise and go one direction; he arose and went the opposite direction. Surely he knew he could not escape the presence of God.

Why did he run from God? Here at this time of the story we might assume he was afraid of the Assyrians but we find later he was a man of courage.

### God's response to Jonah's rebellion —

#### Isaiah 1:4-16

Notice the word "but" at the beginning of verses 3-4. God called Jonah but he fled. It is interesting God chose to send a "mighty tempest" to deal with Jonah and while he slept the other men on board prayed to their gods. Jonah was awakened by the captain and instructed to call on his God.

The men on the ship believed the storm was caused by a god for the offense of someone on board, so they cast lots for that person's identity and the lot fell on Jonah. Jonah explained his God was the creator of the earth and seas.

Already frightened by the storm the sailors were now afraid of Jonah because his God was creator. Putting

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Jonah 1:1-4, 10-15, 17;  
2:1, 10**

two and two together they realized that Jonah's great God had caused the storm because of Jonah's rebellion.

Even with that knowledge, the sailors were reluctant to harm him. They asked him what they should do. He told them to cast him into the sea and the sea would grow calm. Why? In giving his life others would not lose theirs because of him.

In verses 13-14, we see them rowing for their lives and soon realizing it was a lost cause they concluded God himself had determined Jonah's fate. Before tossing Jonah overboard, they prayed to the Lord God. They asked him not to hold Jonah's death against them.

With no other choice Jonah was tossed overboard and the tempest stopped. In awe of God they feared him and offered a sacrifice and vows to him (v. 16).

### Jonah's prayer and deliverance —

#### Jonah 1:17; 2:1, 10

If God created the heavens and the earth, he could prepare a great fish to swallow Jonah; and he could keep Jonah alive inside the fish. From Jonah's prayer later and his obedience to the Lord's call, God used the fish to discipline and correct the prophet.

Trouble has a way of teaching people to pray. In the belly of the fish God heard Jonah calling with a contrite spirit and God answered and delivered him from the jaws of death.

Imagine if you will of being on dry land, leaving dry land to run from God, finding yourself in the belly of a fish, being vomited out on to dry land again and you will see why Jonah obeyed God's call when it came again. I believe we need to realize running from God offers no escape. We need to accept God's call on our lives. □ —

Kim Allen is pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

## The glorious Gospel

By Phil Lovelace

Timothy wanted to resign, and Paul's first burden was to encourage him to stay on and finish the task. Almost every Christian worker has wanted to quit at one time or another. Paul encourages young Timothy in this chapter by reminding him of his position before God and of the fact that God would see him through to victory.

### The steward — vv. 1-11

Timothy was at Ephesus because God entrusted him with the ministry in that important church. Just as God had committed a ministry to Paul's trust, he had given Timothy a special stewardship, and he expected him to be faithful. The false teachers at Ephesus were ministering their own program, not a stewardship that God had given them.

A steward's first responsibility is to be faithful to his master. There were false teachers at Ephesus who were trying to make a name for themselves as teachers of the law, but who did not know what they were talking about. They had turned away from the truth of the Word and were listening to fables (myths) and endless genealogies, raising more questions than they could answer. What a picture of the cultists today! Their "ministries" do not build up Christians or the local church but instead foster arguments and divisions. In verse 5, Paul contrasts the false teachers and their ministry with that of the

**Bible Book Series for February 4  
Focal Passage: I Timothy 1:3-17**

true steward of God's grace. The object of God's steward is to see people love one another, a love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

Paul explains to Timothy the significance of the law. "God did not give the law to save people," he points out, "but to show people how much they need to be saved." God had entrusted Paul and Timothy with a glorious Gospel, not a system of laws!

### The servant — vv. 12-17

Here Paul cites himself as an example of one whom God enables, by grace, to serve effectively. The word ministry in verse 12 is diakonia in the Greek, from which we get our English word deacon, meaning "a servant."

Timothy was apparently disturbed because of his youthfulness and lack of qualifications for the ministry. "Look at me!" says the apostle. "I was a blasphemer and murderer before God saved me! And if the grace of God can make a missionary out of a murderer, then it can make a success out of you!" Paul was always careful to give God the glory for his life and ministry (I Corinthians 15:10). Anyone who serves the Lord (and all believers ought to be servants) needs to depend on the grace of God. We are

saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we also serve through grace (Romans 12:3-6). In verse 14, Paul lists the three motivations in his life: grace, faith, and love. His love for Christ and lost men constrained him to labor (II Corinthians 5:14ff); his faith in Christ empowered him (Ephesians 1:19); and the grace of God worked in his life, enabling him to serve God (Hebrews 12:28).

Paul considered his salvation a pattern (example) of what God would do for lost sinners, especially his beloved Israel. Unbelievers today are not saved in just the fashion Paul was, seeing a light, hearing a voice, etc.; but we are saved by grace, through faith, in spite of our sins. Israel will be saved one day in the future as Paul was saved on the Damascus Road: they will see Christ, repent, believe, and be saved.

In verse 15, we have the first of several "faithful sayings" that Paul quotes (see 3:1, 4:9, II Timothy 2:11, Titus 3:8). These are thought to be "prophetic sayings" by the New Testament prophets in the early church, sayings quoted by them as authoritative statements of faith — truly a glorious Gospel, so let's preach and teach the truth. □ — Phil Lovelace is pastor of First Church, Somerville.

## Cashion to lead FMB human needs area

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Missionary Bill Cashion, a church planter known for his innovative baseball ministry in Venezuela, has been tapped to lead the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's human needs program.

Cashion, 47, replaces Slater, S.C., replaces Jimmy Foster who left the board last summer to work in Colleyville, Texas.



CASHION

Cashion, 47, begins his new role Feb. 7. He currently is pastor of First Church, Marietta, S.C., while on leave from his assignment in Venezuela.

Cashion brings to his new position "a practical insight of where human needs fit into the big picture of planting and developing churches overseas," said his former missionary supervisor, John Murphy, who now leads the board's furlough and study program for missionaries.

During their 10 years in Venezuela, Cashion and his wife, Kathy, started churches through sports and medical projects. □

## Trustees revise RTVC budget, affirm staff facing transition

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A budget revision and staff affirmation resolution were approved by Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees during their January meeting.

The operating budget was revised from \$8,020,000 to \$9,007,000, an increase of \$987,000. The major increase was an additional \$401,000 for television program acquisition. Funding also was provided for a church consulting office to be directed by Stan Grubb and a multimedia emphasis to be directed by John McGlothlin. Both are already on the RTVC staff in other positions.

"The staff affirmation resolution was prepared at the request of trustees who wanted to pledge support for the staff during the transition to the North American Mission Board," said RTVC President Jack Johnson.

He said a copy of the resolution was given to every staff member, along with a list of trustee prayer requests devel-

oped to identify specific concerns board members want to express."

Under the SBC restructuring plan adopted by messengers last June, the RTVC will join with the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission to form the NAMB to be based in Atlanta. □

## Oklahoma convention names new executive

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Anthony Jordan, 46, was elected executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma during a special called meeting Jan. 19.

Jordan is pastor of North-west Church, Oklahoma City, and is a past president of the state convention. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jordan will begin work May 1 but must still be approved by messengers to the BGCO annual meeting in November.

He succeeds Bill Tanner who is retiring June 30 after 10 years in the position. □

## Christian recreators launch organization

Baptist Press

LAKE YALE, Fla. — A geographically and denominationally diverse group of Christian recreators has taken the first steps in establishing a professional organization, thought to be the first independent organization of its kind.

Proposed during the 31st anniversary of Rec Lab, an annual week-long event sponsored by the church recreation program of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the interdenominational group would be separate from the Rec Lab event and the board.

To be named the National Association of Church Recreators, the organization is planned as a Christ-centered, biblically-based, national, ecumenical group committed to Christian ministry through sports and recreation.

A nine-member board of directors has selected Bob Sessoms, minister of recreation at First Church, Concord, Knoxville, as the association's first president. □

## Wells named to BC position

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Herschel Wells, a 24-year veteran of the Brotherhood Commission, has

been named associate director of the Southern Baptist agency's adults in missions department.

Wells will focus on matching requests for volunteers with contacts in state convention brotherhood departments, local churches, and the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, with its 15 groups centering on members' vocational skills and interests.

He has served the Brotherhood Commission in various roles including director of the graphics department and director of merchandise procurement and advertising design. □

## Support for death penalty not linked to religion, poll shows

Associated Baptist Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — Religious beliefs make little difference in whether a person supports the death penalty, according to the Gallup Poll.

A nationwide survey of American adults found that 77 percent favor the death penalty. Among those who say religion is very important in their lives, 75 percent favor the death penalty. That compares with 69 percent support for the death penalty among adults who consider religion not very important in their lives.

The group that is most likely to favor the death penalty is American adults who consider religion fairly important in their lives. Among this group, 84 percent favor the death penalty, according to the poll. □

## WMU awards \$66,000 in grants

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's executive board awarded \$66,000 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting in January at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly.

The grants, assigned to both the home and foreign fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions.

The Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment fund created by WMU during its 1988 centennial year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. □

## Baylor plans to raise \$1 billion during the next decade

Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University officials have adopted a 10-year plan that calls for raising \$1 billion for the Texas Baptist university.

Baylor regents adopted a long-range plan called "Bold Visions for a New Century" Jan. 19.

The plan includes fund-raising goals of \$720 million in endowment, \$130 million in capital projects, and \$150 million in other gift categories, for a total of \$1 billion by the year 2006. It is the largest project of its kind in Baylor's history, school officials said. □

## Family's ordained ministers stretches to sixth generation

Baptist Press

GRAND RIDGE, Fla. — For five generations, the Hall family has given their sons to Southern Baptist ministry. That tradition continued into a sixth generation Jan. 7 when Anthony Hall was ordained to the ministry by Pleasant Hill Church, Grand Ridge.

A recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Hall said he first felt called to the ministry when he was 16. He is now a staff member at North Naples Church, Naples, Fla.

Hall's father, John, has served as pastor of Pleasant Hill for 27 years. His grandfather, Roscoe, now 97, is legally blind but continues to preach on the radio.

Roscoe Hall's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather — all named John Hall — served Southern Baptist churches along the Cumberland Gap in Kentucky. □

## Chaplains sought

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Air Force Reserves needs 25 to 40 new chaplains, according to Pat Davis of the SBC Home Mission Board. For more information, call (770) 410-6490. □

## Seniors recycle for worldwide ministry

Volunteers Willard Stephens and Hubert Motesenbocker of Village Church, Oklahoma City, pack used Bible study literature for shipment to Africa. In 1992 the church began a ministry sending recycled Sunday School literature, Bibles, tracts, and magazines to Christians in Africa. In addition to recycling used literature, "Project Africa — a Ministry with a Heart," is recycling senior adults who are finding new meaning in life by collecting literature, soliciting funds for postage, and packing boxes for the foreign mission field. By the end of 1995, about one million pieces of literature had been shipped to several African countries through the three-year-old project. More than 300 churches of different denominations are providing used literature along with money for postage. — Photo by Kent Harville

