

# Baptist and Reflector

April 3, 1996

VOL. 162 ■ NO. 14

STATEWIDE EDITION

■ this  
week's  
news

**national —**

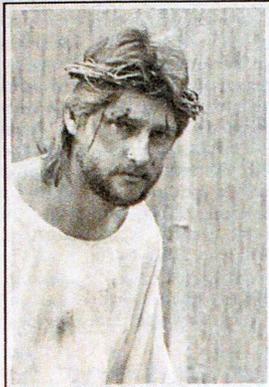
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MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

## Easter 'lives dramatically' at church



**JESUS PAUSES** after being accused by the Pharisees and sentenced by Pilate. He is portrayed by Kenny Settles.

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

CLARKSVILLE — When the people come, the Easter Marketplace at Cumberland Drive Church, Clarksville, becomes real — a visit to Israel almost 2,000 years ago.

The transformation is nearly metaphysical, several actors explained. Every year it causes "goosebumps" to spring up on Gene Newman and tears to



**JESUS IS LED BY ROMAN GUARDS** through the streets of Jerusalem to his crucifixion while Simon, a Cyrenian, tries to pick up the cross. Jesus is portrayed by Wayne Stewart, the guards are Daniel Scott, left, and Ronald Grizzard. Simon is Jared Worley.

well up in the eyes of Debbie Greene. The first year Devin Fillingham, 9, got involved, the events portrayed seemed real, he said.

The members also see the transformation in the expres-

sions of those who view the walk-through drama. Some visitors get misty-eyed. This year several were in wheelchairs and at least one used a walker.

Almost 600 viewed the dra-

ma. About 150 people made spiritual decisions, of which approximately 40 were professions of faith, reported Joel Worley, pastor associate of music/activities at the church. — See Easter, page 4

## Gambling issue to surface in Senate this week

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Gambling, an issue that has been conspicuously absent on the Senate calendar this year, is expected to raise its ugly head this week.

The bill follows an agenda which last week saw the defeat of an evolution bill and a "watering down" of a resolution on the Ten Commandments.

Tennessee Baptist Public Affairs consultant Bill Bates said SJR 004 has been placed on the Senate calendar and was to have been discussed on Monday, April 1.

The bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives last year, would delete the word "lottery" from the state Constitution.

An amendment to the bill has been added by sponsor Steve Cohen of Memphis. It reads:

"The Legislature may authorize a state lottery if the net proceeds of the lottery's revenues are allocated to a college scholarship fund for Tennessee residents to attend the colleges and universities of the state of Tennessee and to fund public elementary and secondary education.

"The Legislature may authorize and

regulate bingo and raffles if such bingos and raffles are conducted for not-for-profit organizations for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, and that such is regulated by a non-political board or authority.

"The Legislature shall have no authority to authorize and regulate casinos, except in the city of Memphis if the voters of such municipality by referendum approve the establishment of such."

For the bill to pass this year it would have to gain at least 17, 17, and 22 votes on three different ballots, Bates said.

Beginning this week the legislature only had eight more working days (to be spread over four weeks) during this session.

Last week the controversial evolution bill, which would have placed legal sanctions, including firing, on teachers who teach evolution as fact rather than theory was defeated by a 20-13 vote.

Voting for the bill were Senators Ben Atchley, Tommy Burks, Bobby Carter, Gene Elsea, Milton Hamilton, Tommy Haun, Jim Holcomb, Tom Leatherwood, Jeff Miller, Curtis Person Jr., Carol Rice, Pete Springer, and Danny Wallace.

The negative votes came from Steve Cohen, Jerry Cooper, Rusty Crowe, Ward Crutchfield, Roscoe Dixon, John Ford, David Fowler, Bud Gilbert, Thelma Harper, Joe Haynes, Doug Henry, Keith Jordan, Carl Koella, James Kyle, Randy McNally, Anna O'Brien, Robert Rochelle, Andy Womack, Donald Wright, and Speaker John Wilder.

Because 17 or more senators voted against the bill, bills on the same subject cannot be considered until voters choose a new General Assembly in November, according to the state Constitution.

In another action, a committee of the Tennessee House of Representatives drastically changed a resolution on the Ten Commandments.

The resolution, passed earlier this year by the Senate, urged every citizen to honor the Ten Commandments, teach them to their children, and post copies of them in their homes, businesses, schools, and places of worship during a 10-day period beginning May 5.

The House version as changed by the committee recognizes the "historical importance" of the Ten Commandments, but does not recommend they be displayed. □

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

# NAMB 'incorporators' plan accepted

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Implementation Task Force approved a process by which the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will be brought into legal and organizational existence and received the endorsement of the presidents and trustee leadership of the Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission.

Under the restructuring plan approved by the Southern Baptist Convention last year, the North American board is assigned the work of those three agencies which will be dissolved.

The ITF is a 10-member group appointed last fall by the SBC Executive Committee to assist the various SBC agencies in the transition required by the convention's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring.

In a special meeting at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport March 28, ITF representatives met with trustee leaders and heads of the affected entities. ITF officials presented the proposal and invited discussion and participation of agency leadership.

The process, which involves the use of "incorporators" in the establishment of the NAMB, is expected to be voted upon at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans,

June 11-13. Provided the SBC approves amendments to SBC Bylaw 15 for the second time, the recommendation will be one of several presented by the ITF and the SBC Executive Committee as a part of the transition plan restructuring the denomination.

The recommendation is for 13 incorporators as follows: two people each nominated by the HMB, RTVC and Brotherhood Commission; six at-large members from the SBC to be nominated by the ITF; and a chairman to be nominated by the ITF from among its members. The at-large members could be anyone in the SBC but participants agreed no more than two of the incorporators would come from any of the three agencies or the Executive Committee.

The leadership from the three agencies agreed to ask their respective boards to nominate two of their current trustees, who are eligible to be elected to the initial NAMB trustee board, to be part of the incorporators. The NAMB charter calls for those trustees currently serving on the Brotherhood Commission, RTVC and HMB whose second term expires in the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to be elected to the initial NAMB board.

Each of the three boards has a scheduled board meeting in April, at which time

the question is expected to be considered. The ITF will add its nominations to these and recommend them to the SBC Executive Committee in its June meeting for inclusion in the charter.

Among the more significant duties of the incorporators of the NAMB will be to conduct a search for the first president and nominate trustee officers of the board. The ITF intends to ask the incorporators to be prepared to offer a presidential nominee to the NAMB trustees at their organizational meeting at the end of the SBC annual meeting in 1997.

The recommendation also will instruct the incorporators to perform all necessary legal duties to incorporate the NAMB, such as filing the articles of incorporation with the secretary of state in Georgia and reserving the name, "The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Additional responsibilities of the incorporators will include suggesting bylaws, resolutions and other documents, prepared under the direction of the ITF, to the NAMB trustees which need to be acted upon in the organizational meeting.

"It is important to remember," said Bob Record, ITF chairman, "that the final decision on the election of a president for NAMB resides with its board of trustees." □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
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## New SS lesson writers chosen for Spring quarter

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two pastors and a retired minister have been chosen to write Sunday School lessons for the Spring quarter.

L. Joseph Rosas III will write the Life and Work Series.

Rosas is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis. Other pastorates in the state include Fairlawn and Calvary churches in Memphis, and Rossville Church, Rossville.

He also has served churches in Kentucky.

Prior to coming to Union Avenue in 1990, he was assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Union University, Jackson.

Rosas is a graduate of Union and Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he holds both the doctor of philosophy and doctor of ministry degrees.

He is active

in the denomination at both the association and state levels. Rosas serves on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Rosas and his wife, Pamela, have two children.

Writing the Convention Uniform Series will be B. Kevin Goza, pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

Prior to coming to Lebanon, Goza was pastor of First Church, Woodbury. He also has been pastor of Northside



GOZA



MONCRIEF



ROSAS

Church, McMinnville, and Ferry Pass Church, Pensacola, Fla.

Goza is a graduate of the University of West Florida, Pensacola, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He has served in various capacities on the associational level and currently serves on the TBC Executive Board.

Goza and his wife, Karen, have two children.

Thomas S. Moncrief will

write the Bible Book Series.

Moncrief has served as pastor of churches in Tennessee, Louisiana, and Indiana. He was appointed as a missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in 1980 and served as associational director of missions for Western Connecticut Baptist Association and Southeastern New England Baptist Association from 1980-84.

He served as missions division director/associate executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England from 1984-92.

He retired to Cleveland in 1992 and served Tasso Church for two years.

Moncrief now teaches an adult Sunday School class at First Church, Cleveland. □

### Daily Partnership Prayer Requests April



- 3 — Pray for the basketball team from Belmont University who will be witnessing and holding clinics in Warsaw and possibly other cities from May 16-28.
- 4 — Pray for someone to come to Warsaw to conduct an engineering study at the Polish Baptist Seminary.
- 5 — Pray for the dentist and ophthalmologist who will hold a free dental and eye clinic in Narewka, Poland, May 18-24.
- 6 — Pray for Pastor Adam Gutsche and the mission church in Torun, Poland, and for their proposed camp facility.
- 7 — Pray for a computer for the Tennessee partnership coordinators. It is needed to facilitate correspondence with the TBC.
- 8 — Pray for Doug and Marcie Shaw, newly appointed missionaries who will be arriving in Warsaw in May as church planters.
- 9 — Pray for Betty Henry and her team of 10 Tennessee volunteers who will be doing a variety of ministries in Tarnow in May.

## Union trustees elect Duduit

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Trustees of Union University have elected Michael Duduit as executive vice president, effective June 1.

Duduit is director of public relations and adjunct professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also is editor of *Preaching* magazine and executive director of the American Academy of Ministry, an interdenominational professional association and scholarly society for ministers. He has a Ph.D. and is the author of two books and editor of several other volumes.

At Union Duduit will have management responsibility for the university's administrative divisions, including institutional

advancement, business services, and student services.

In other actions trustees named Howard Newell, vice president for academic affairs, to the newly created position of provost, also effective June 1.

Four other administrators also will receive new titles June 1: Gary Carter, vice president, business and financial services; John Adams, vice president, campus ministries and church services; Charles Fowler, vice president, student services; and Jimmy Davis, executive director, institutional research. □



DUDIUIT

# Beware — gambling advocates organize for counterattack

By Jon Walker  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It's a sure sign of success for Christian groups trying to stop the spread of gambling: Gaming advocates are organizing for a counterattack.

In an article called, "The Moral Politics of Gaming," published in the trade magazine *International Gaming and Wagering Business*, industry experts outline steps for "turning the tables" on anti-gaming groups. The steps include attacking arguments that gambling hurts the economy and causes increased crime, pushing for limited-stakes riverboat and casino gambling (presumably easier to pass among voters) and uniting the industry for additional political clout.

The article, written by Paul Doocey in December, also suggests the economy could "push gaming back into the forefront," particularly if a recession "creates a sudden need for taxes and economic renewal ...," that government decentralization could help the gambling interests if states are forced to find other methods for funding programs abandoned by Washington; and that some gaming victories could be helped by dissension among Republicans caused by the tension between belief in a free market and the government controls typically im-

posed on gambling.

Although the article acknowledges the moral arguments made by many opponents to gambling, it suggests even those opponents are beginning to de-emphasize the morality aspects of gaming, focusing instead on the economy and crime. This, according to the article, is exactly the "window of opportunity" needed by gaming interests "to score some much needed public relations points."

Arguing that gambling improves the economy of an area is just not factual, said Lamar Cooper, a Southern Baptist expert on gambling.

"It's really a question of whose economy you're improving, perhaps the gamblers?" Cooper said. "Atlantic City is not a model for a rebuilt, restructured community, based on the influence of gambling. Before gaming came to Atlantic City, there were over 2,000 businesses. At one point, they were down to around 300."

The pro-gambling article also claims law enforcement studies "show few incidents of organized crime infiltration or rises in other social crimes associated with casinos." Evidently, these statistics do not include Gulfport, Miss., where crime increased 300 percent in some categories after gambling was introduced to the area, said Cooper, currently faculty

## Don't let gamblers frame the questions, Jones urges

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE.— "The gambling cartel cannot be allowed to frame the questions of the gambling debate," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Jones offered four questions that should be answered before government-operated gambling, such as lotteries, are allowed into the community.

(1) Is it a function of government to make losers out of its citizens? State-operated lotteries guarantee that most citizens will become losers, and seemingly, has one government agency working to hurt citizens when other agencies are working to help them.

(2) Is it a function of government to compete with legitimate businesses? State-operated lotteries place the state in competition for the same dollars being spent for goods and services elsewhere.

(3) Is it a function of government to advertise that which is known and demonstrated to be addictive? The American Psychiatric Association lists gambling as a compulsive disorder, Jones noted.

(4) Is it a function of government to conflict with its own consumer protection laws? Truth in advertising laws would not allow a grocery store to make outrageous claims, such as, "Buy our food and live to be 100!" Yet, lotteries promote false hope, advertising that a few dollars can lead to millions, Jones said. □

dean at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

"Crimes have gone up in many states where gambling has been introduced," Cooper said. "Because gambling is an addiction, people will steal to satisfy that addiction."

The addictive argument is the one gambling interests should be most concerned about, cautions the pro-gambling article. "The compulsive gambling argument is the one opponents of gambling are beginning to latch on to, and to be quite honest, it is a legitimate concern," said Randolph Baker, a professor of gaming studies at the University of Nevada Reno's Institute for

the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming who was quoted in the article.

"Due to the addictive element, we have not yet seen, and we cannot document the social cost of gambling on our society," said Paul Jones, executive director of Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Commission.

"Gambling has been seen as a moral and social problem for 200 years, one that creates problems for individuals and institutions. Suddenly, we're trying to ignore all that!"

Speaking of government-operated lotteries, Jones asked, "Is it ever a legitimate function of government to promote that which is known and demon-

strated to be addictive, destructive, and harmful to individuals, families and society?"

Cooper said this "facelift" of gambling is simply a reaction to the success anti-gambling groups have had in stopping its spread.

"It's going to be incredibly difficult for gambling elements to sell their claims to state and local governments because the facts are just not there to support them. The longer the track record, the easier it will be to demonstrate gambling's destructiveness."

And that destructiveness, the moral element, is at the core of any Christian argument against gambling, said Cooper. □

## President's veto expected on abortion ban

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The fate of a ban on a gruesome, late-term abortion procedure rests with President Bill Clinton.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the prohibition March 27, sending it to the White House; which has promised a veto from the president. The 286-129 vote on the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act completed a successful effort by pro-lifers in Congress to outlaw a specific procedure for the first time since abortion was legalized by the Supreme Court in 1973.

While the margin of passage in the House meets the requirement for a two-thirds vote to override a veto, the Senate passed the bill only by a 55-44 vote in early December. □

## Southern students given graduation options

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Church social work students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have been presented three options to meet requirements for the master of social work degree.

The seminary's board of trustees voted last October to close the Carver School of Church Social Work in May 1997.

The trustee action followed the recommendation of a special trustee study committee which concluded it would "not

be feasible" to offer the M.S.W. degree "in light of the expressed mission and purpose of the seminary." The committee reported that "considerable differences exist in the structures, processes, and issues of social work education and theological studies."

Following this May's commencement, about 25 social work students will remain in the program.

In a March 21 letter to first-year social work students, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. offered three "tracks" for degree completion.

(1) Students who can complete M.S.W. requirements by May 1997 may remain in their current program. The seminary will help students accelerate progress toward degrees by raising the maximum number of credit hours that can be taken per term. The seminary will also offer financial assistance because a heavier academic load would decrease available hours for job-producing income. Presently, the seminary is recruiting faculty and an interim dean in order to satisfy accreditation standards through next May.

(2) Students may transfer to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The seminary will provide \$1,000 for moving and miscellaneous expenses and will pay the difference between the LSU tuition and matriculation charges at Southern Seminary. (Currently, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has a partnership agreement with the LSU social work program.)

(3) Students can transfer to a school other than LSU. The seminary will consider student-initiated proposals on a case-by-case basis. □

## Virginia Baptists approve new policy on designated gifts

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Baptist General Association of Virginia will let churches channel contributions to tax-exempt Christian organizations not in the state association's budget, including a break-away conservative group that complains the BGAV is too liberal.

The Virginia Baptist executive committee approved the new policy unanimously in mid-March.

The change was made after several Vir-

ginia Baptists asked the BGAV's treasurer's office to forward money to other organizations, including Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, a group dissatisfied with what they call the liberal direction of the BGAV.

The previous policy allowed BGAV treasurer Nathaniel Kellum to forward funds only to organizations listed in the state budget.

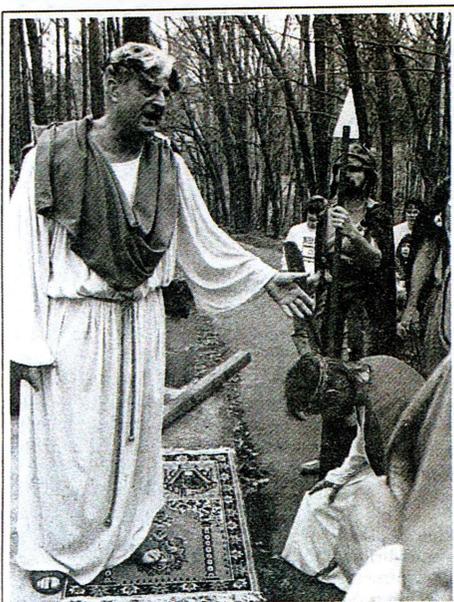
Rather than endorsing a list of approved recipients, the new policy allows Kellum to forward money to any organiza-

tion which "has been granted 501(c) 3 status by the Internal Revenue Service along with a tax-exempt number," and has "a stated Christian mission that is compatible with the mission of the General Association." The new policy is "a convenience to churches," Kellum said.

"This is an open policy that seeks to serve churches," said Reginald McDonough, executive director for Virginia Baptists. He noted the plan is "in keeping with Virginia Baptist character of openness." □

## ■ Tennessee features

# Easter 'lives dramatically' in Clarksville



**PILATE CONDEMNS Jesus.** Pilate is portrayed by Dean Grigsby and Jesus by Kenny Settles.



**JOSEPH, THE CARPENTER,** explains the tools of his trade to visitors. Joseph, who is Bill Sanders, made all the tools, which are representative of the time, with friend Jack Simmons.

— Continued from page 1  
who directed the two-day event last weekend.

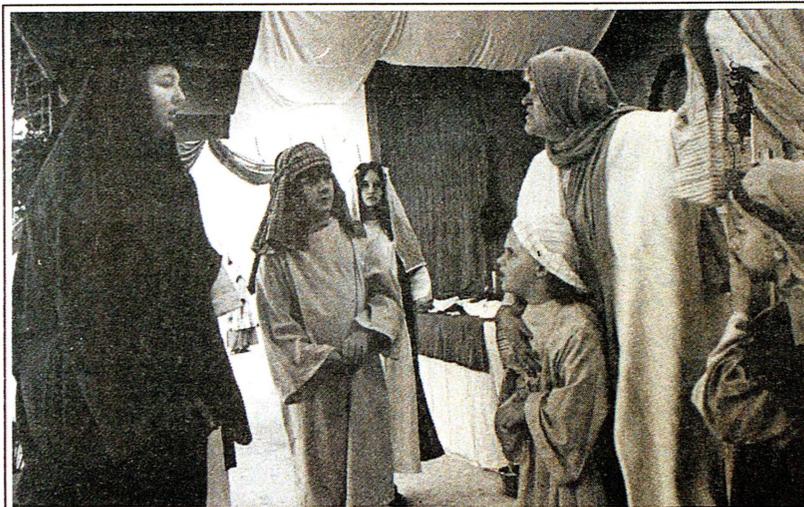
The entire church also is transformed by the event, reported Pastor Gary Shockley, into witnesses who will be better witnesses the rest of the year. It affects the entire church because nearly all of the members participate. About 125 participated this year, and the church only has 135 on average in Sunday School.

Many prepare during the entire year, doing research such as reading commentaries, building props, and preparing items representative of Bible times. In the marketplace bread, candy, spices, medicines like aloe, and clothing are available. Homemade pottery and woodworking tools also are displayed. Each child is given a top as a token of their visit to the marketplace.

Worley adapted the idea from a similar event held by a church at Christmas. He acknowledged the leadership of Pam Wall, who wrote the scripts, and Barbara Wall, who coordinated the costumes. It was the third Easter Marketplace held by the church. □



**SELLING DRIED FLOWERS** is Vick Stephans.



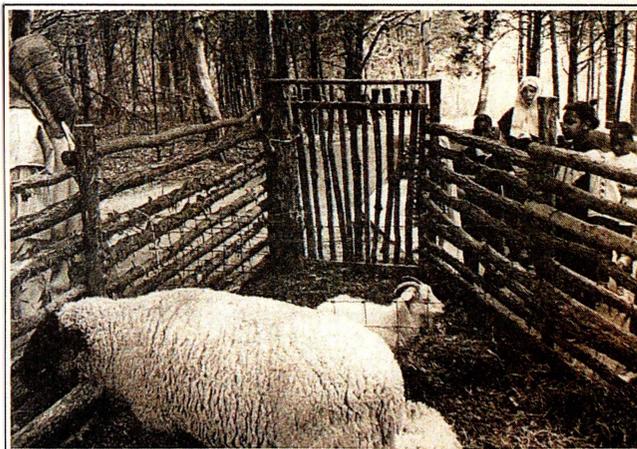
**ARGUING OVER WHETHER JESUS** is really the King of the Jews are two women with their children in the marketplace. The actors are, from left, Debbie Worley, Jeremiah Edgin, Jenna Hollis, Debbie Greene, and Jackson Stewart.



**MAKING POTTERY** is Christy Stephans.



**DISCOVERING THE EMPTY TOMB** and the angel are Mary Magdalene and Mary. Portraying them are Mary Williams, left, Koko Scott, and Jeremiah Hodges as the angel.



**A FOLLOWER OF JESUS,** portrayed by Gene Newman, left, explains to visitors how goats, like the one in the pen with the sheep, were used as sacrifices by the Israelites to pay for sins. When Jesus died, Newman said, Jesus became the scapegoat for the sins of people.

# Tomb cannot keep the Son from shining

The saga of Resurrection Day is the only story in the history of the world that has a perfect ending.

The magnificence of that one Perfect Life is wrapped up in Resurrection Day. Drama it is, as well as truth and fact.

Marching along the world's pathways from earth's birth until the Savior conquered death, history breathes a sigh of sweet relief. Resurrection Day!

It means that Christ nailed on his cross the sins of all the sinners.

By Wm.

Fletcher

Allen,

editor

It means that he became sin and suffered the penalty for each sin that each person committed.

It means that his perfect life lived in total obedience to the Father earned forgiveness and redemption for sinners who accepted his saving grace.

It means that death is not the dreaded conqueror after all; death is the simpering tool of the Great Liar.

We like to have flowers bursting from winter's icy grasp, and warm sun blanket the awakening earth.

But Resurrection Day does not depend on springtime weather nor birds singing. It does not base its reality on whether songs are sung by flocks of birds and blue skies.

Resurrection Day is history's greatest eye-opener. To the Christian witness, it is the strong voice of love to a sinner's weeping heart. To the repentant sinner, it is the offer that still stands, the opportunity of eternity spent with the Conquering King, instead of defeated evil.

It means that death is not the dreaded conqueror after all; death is the simpering tool of the Great Liar.

As much as we would like to experience that first Easter, ours is just as exciting an adventure.

We can stand beside the amazed disciples as we read the old, old story. We can find a friend in Peter as he denied Christ three times. We can flee with the twelve not-so-brave men as they turned their backs on the Savior-Teacher. We can return to the cross and the tomb with the caring women.

We can do all that, but most of all we

can experience Resurrection Day in our lives and in our hearts on a great day in April of 1996. Celebrate the truth of Christ's coming and his going.

In our churches this Sunday, let joy reign and praises ring sufficiently to completely baffle the darkness of death.

This is truly Resurrection Day, the most important day in history. But it can also be the most ignored.

Stand up, Christians, rejoice. The King has come, and he is coming! □

## Gambling rears its ugly head again

Just as regular as monthly payments, the lottery issue again has reared up to bite Tennesseans. Be alert!

*Baptist and Reflector* readers have been warned several times this year that it would happen. Read the related stories on pages 1 and 3.

Approved by the House of Representatives last year, the bill (amended) to begin the process of legalizing a state lottery has been brought before the Senate.

An amendment has been added. Approval means the House also would have to pass the amended bill this session. This could make it more difficult.

Bringing the bill before the Senate is Senator Cohen's idea. The legislature, as of Monday, had only eight days left.

Debate on the lottery was scheduled to begin Monday. The lottery bill, to be passed, must be approved by three readings in those eight days — by 17 votes twice, and then by 22 votes. Those three hurdles would have to be cleared on three separate days.

The House last year approved the bill calling for a Constitutional Convention on a statewide vote for a lottery.

The House vote is good only for this session, and any new effort next January would have to begin from scratch.

Look for increased advertising, arm twisting, smooth talking, and some strong persuasion efforts these four weeks.

We encourage Tennessee Baptists not to fall for flimsy promises or bright but shallow pictures of easy, instant money.

There are at least three things certain about gambling: It never goes away, it appeals to people who want something for nothing, and it has no lasting benefit or redeeming value.

Don't believe claims that lottery income would solve education's needs. Look at what has happened in other states. Crime increases, communities suffer, very few get any direct benefit.

Contact your state senator. It is our opinion that gambling, especially a state-sponsored lottery, is morally wrong. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen editor

## Easter's road of joy

The road connecting Emmaus and Jerusalem is now obscure; in fact, we are not sure of its exact location.

Emmaus itself has faded from memory.

But this we know — two disciples walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus that first Resurrection Day, and Jesus walked with them.

Mark sums it up in two succinct sentences, but Luke tells us more.

He says that the two, one named Cleopas, the other unidentified, were walking the seven miles.

And as they walked toward Emmaus, they talked about "all these things that had happened." Luke says that as they walked and talked, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

He asked them about their conversation. They stopped there in the road and their sadness showed. Does that sound familiar? They reviewed the death of Christ and poignantly added, "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel, and now it is the third day."

Oh blessed third day! They did not find Jesus in the tomb, they said. Then as one who would refresh their short memories and reveal sacred truths anew to them. Jesus responded with a statement and a question. He called them foolish, slow of hearing to believe what the prophets had spoken.

"Was it not necessary," he asked them, "that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

You know the story. He walked with them, revealed truths to them, they persuaded him to eat the evening meal with them, and he did.

He broke and blessed the bread. They recognized him and he vanished.

Listen to them now. "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" O yes, yes!

And we are mournful about the affairs of that weekend. He comes, joins us at the table. He is alive! It is Resurrection Day for all believers.

Emmaus cannot be found on a map, nor at the end of a road. Our way is not the road, but the Life. ☺



ALLEN

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

History professor: "Joe, what did Frederick the Great, Attila the Hun, and Richard the Lion-hearted have in common?" Joe (arousing from a nap): "Uh, they had the same middle name."

### Take this truth

Is your role model the same person as two years ago? We may not admire someone we felt was "great." Perhaps we saw a defect in that person's character.

Don't lose faith in God because you lose respect for one of his servants. Worship God — not his servants or spokespersons.

### Memorize this Scripture

"Let no man glory in man ... Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas ... ye are Christ's" (1 Corinthians 3:21, 22).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to remember whom I worship and to be responsible for my actions. □

## Awareness is a key factor

Last week we looked at the first principle of parenting teenagers, using PARENT as an acronym. We started with P for presence. There is no absentee parenting.

The principle for this lesson also builds on the principle of presence. The second principle from the acronym is AWARENESS. The remaining principles are responsibility, empathy, nurture, and toughness.

Parental awareness in parenting teenagers demands that parents know who their children are with, where they are, and what they are doing.

In most states parents are responsible for "not yet adult" children's behavior. It is in the parents' interest, even if they are not interested in parenting, that they know what their children are doing, where, and with whom.

Studies have shown continually that the best predictor of whether children will use drugs, become sexually active, shoplift, or skip school — is whether the group they are with is participating in such activities. I see parents who can-

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

not understand how their church-going, mild-mannered, angelic children could get in legal trouble or get pregnant. I usually find that these youth, while they may attend church with their family on Sundays, had different friends the rest of the week.

Parents have a right and a responsibility to know WHO their children are with during the week and at school. Talk to your child about the friends. Learn who the parents are.

Talk to his friend's parents. I am appalled at parents who will let their children spend the night with a "friend" whom the parents have never met.

Encourage your children to participate in activities such as church, sports, band, etc., where you know with whom they will be associating. Discourage them from associating with people you think questionable. Parents must also know

WHERE their children are. You cannot assume their whereabouts. You cannot assume where your children are. Ask questions and check on them to make sure they are there. If a child knows he will be held accountable, he will think twice before going some place else.

It also is important to know WHAT your children are doing.

The frequent scenario has the child telling the parent he is going to a friend's house for a party. The parent assumes the friend's parents will chaperone the event.

The parent may not know that the parents are out of town and that alcohol and sex will be unchecked. Or parents allow their young people to go to a popular youth hangout because "everyone" goes there.

The parents have no idea of what goes on at the place.

Parents of teenagers must be aware of where their children are, who they are with, and what they are doing. All of these are important. □



BARKLEY

# Noted Nashville author helps Jimmy Allen share tragic story

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As an accomplished author, Barbara Jenkins has no problem recognizing a "good story" when she sees one.

Writing is one thing. Serving as an agent for someone else is another; however, that's what Jenkins decided to do in the case of former Southern Baptist Convention president and agency head Jimmy Allen.

Jenkins, co-author of the international bestsellers *The Walk West* and *The Road Unseen*, and author of *I Once Knew A Woman*, knew of Jimmy Allen's tragic story about his family and AIDS long before Allen approached her about helping publish his book, *Burden of a Secret: A Story of Truth and Mercy in the Face of AIDS*.

Through mutual friends, Bruce and LaJuana McIver of Dallas, Jenkins learned about the Allen family's encounter with AIDS while she was undergoing a stressful time of dealing with a divorce in her own life in 1986. Allen's daughter-in-law became HIV-infected through a blood transfusion and ultimately passed the deadly virus to her two sons at birth. All three have since died. Allen's son, Scott, a Southern Baptist pastor, was forced to resign his church because his wife had the disease, through no fault of her own. In addition, Allen has another son who confessed to being homosexual and also contracted the HIV virus. He is now dy-

ing of AIDS.

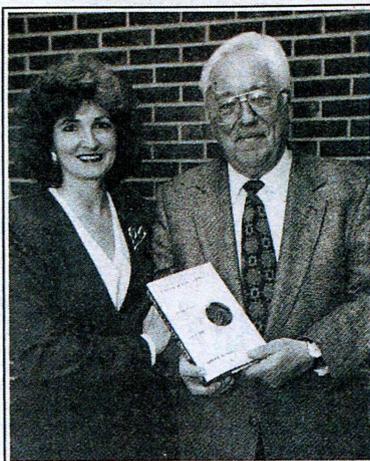
"LaJuana shared Jimmy's story with me then and we prayed for his situation and my own," Jenkins recalled. "Little did I know that six years later I would help him with his book project," she continued.

"None of us know what the future holds or how God crisscrosses our paths," added Jenkins, an active member of Woodmont Church in Nashville.

Though she had not done any "agenting" before Allen contacted her in 1992, Jenkins "knew enough about the industry and how it works" that she thought she could easily help Allen.

"Little did I know of the struggles and difficulties before us," she said of the process which took two years before she landed the first publisher.

Jenkins cited two reasons for the long delay. "The religious publishers were scared of the story because it dealt with a famous religious figure



**NOTED WRITER** turned agent Barbara Jenkins and author Jimmy Allen visited recently at Vanderbilt University where the former SBC president had a speaking engagement. — Photo by Peyton Hoge

and the failure of the institutional church to have compassion on people with AIDS."

Secondly, the "secular press saw it as a religious story and did not want to touch it," she observed.

Throughout the process "I knew this was one of the most powerful stories I had ever come across and I felt no one could tell it like Jimmy Allen because of his unique voice and position," Jenkins recalled.

She noted that Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, "has had an enormous influence on the Christian community at large."

"I was convinced this was a story that needed to be out there. My job was to convince someone else," she said.

Jenkins finally found a New York publishing house willing to take a chance on the story and signed a contract. But a series of events followed

that caused Jenkins to eventually pull the book after contractual obligations were over and search for another publisher.

Her efforts paid off when she connected with a Nashville-based publisher and eventually signed a contract with Moorings-Random House to publish Allen's story in 1994.

The book was published last November and is beginning to get national exposure, Jenkins said.

Allen recently taped an interview with "20/20." They talked about the book, she said, adding that "it is national exposure you cannot buy." Allen's story also has been shared through other television stories and numerous magazine and newspaper articles.

In addition, three major Hollywood film companies are looking at making Allen's story into a movie, Jenkins said.

"It's been a long process to get the story out," Jenkins admitted, but the efforts have paid off.

Allen's story is "more than a story about AIDS. It's a story about God's people and a wake-up call to the church."

"It's a cry for compassion," Jenkins observed.

Though she didn't write the story, Jenkins knows she fulfilled her role.

"I felt compelled (to get the book published). I felt God tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Barbara, this is something I want you to do.'"

All she could do then was to obey. □

## Jackson conference to explore 'Reaching Baby Boomers and Busters'

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — A "Reaching Baby Boomers and Busters" conference is set for April 22 at Englewood Church, Jackson.

The conference begins at 1:30 p.m. with registration and adjourns at 8 p.m.

The conference will address the questions of who are boomers and busters and leaders will give tips on how to minister to these groups. Boomers by definition are

those people born between 1943 and 1960 while busters are those born between 1961-81.

Guest speakers include Dan Francis, former pastor of First Church, Nashville, who recently announced plans to begin a seeker-targeted church in Williamson County; Rob Mul-



KRAMP

lins, minister to college at Bellevue Church, Cordova; David Apple, adult leader consultant, field service section, Baptist Sunday School Board; Frank Lewis, preaching/worship consultant, pastor-staff leadership section, BSSB; and Ron Pratt, church growth consultant, pastor-staff leadership section, BSSB.

John Kramp, author of *Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes* and also a BSSB staffer, will be the keynote speaker.

Sessions will deal with identifying and finding boomers and busters, prospecting and reaching boomers and busters, using Sunday School to reach the two groups, and preaching and worship for boomers and busters.

Registration for the conference is \$20 and includes materials, break, dinner, and a complimentary copy of Kramp's book.

The first 50 churches registering in advance will receive a

free demographic profile of their church field.

The conference is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood, Church Music, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, Missions, Student Ministries, and Sunday School departments.

Registration fees should be sent to the TBC Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Include name, position, church name, and association. □

## A youth conference story worth telling

By Kevin Shrum  
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — On March 8 Inglewood Church served as a host church for the TBC Youth Evangelism Conference.

While one-half of the 29,000 youth attended worship at Vanderbilt University, the other youth and their sponsors spread out in churches across the city.

At our first session at Inglewood, we shared youth testimonies, Scripture reading, music videos, and a clear word from the Bible. At the end of the early session I had an invitation for people to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and for rededication. Several responded.

One young man came forward and began

weeping. I was later told by Bob Mingle who counseled him that he was weeping over his failure to live with conviction his Christian life and that he had not been a good example to his sister who was an unbeliever.

Little did he know that at the same time his sister came forward to receive Christ as her Lord and Savior. Arnold and Rachel Demonbreun, a fine couple in our church, had the opportunity to lead her to the Lord.

Amazing isn't it? One renewed his relationship with Jesus while the other one was beginning a relationship with Christ. Only Jesus can take an earthly brother and sister and make them spiritual siblings. This truly is a story worth telling. □ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Church, Nashville.

## Home Mission Board appoints Gilders as missionary associates

For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Ray and Diane Gilder have been appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as missionary associates to Tennessee.

Gilder, 52, will be director of bivocational ministries in McMinnville. A graduate of Memphis Bible College, he has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi as well as Memphis and McMinnville, where he will continue to serve bivo-

ationally at Gath Church.

"My goal is to make a difference in the 48 percent of Tennessee Baptist Con-



THE GILDERS

vention churches that are bivocational," he said. Since 1992, he has served as director of church and community ministries for the TBC.

Mrs. Gilder will serve in family and church ministries. □

# Nashville church builds church furniture despite snow

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Snowfall of several inches and frigid temperatures that closed schools and businesses for several days didn't deter the senior adult group at Tusculum Hills Church in Nashville. They got some heaters for the tent that would shelter their construction project and put on a few extra layers of clothing.

The seniors, with the help of others at the south Nashville church, not only completed the project despite the weather, but they did it in record time. And some of them will continue the work where the weather may be just as extreme — in Mexico this summer.

The project was to build furniture for Iglesia Bautista Esmirus in Snagustin, Mexico. It is one of many similar projects which have been led by M.B. Howard of Covington, who serves as construction fellowship coordinator of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions for the Brotherhood Commission based in Memphis.

Working March 18-22 were about 30 senior adults and 10 other members of Tusculum Hills. Members worked on the furniture and others provided food for those working.

The group completed the work a day sooner than most groups, said Howard, who is a member of Oak Grove Church, Covington.

Of those who built furniture, none were carpenters and the age range topped out at 81, said Bill Highsmith, director of recreation/activities for the church. Most were retired professionals.

To complete the final phase of the project, a missions team from the church will deliver the furniture and build a church in that area of Mexico this summer. The overall in-

vestment of the church will be about \$10,000. The church subsidizes the expenses of each missions team member by one-half. It also will buy more construction materials for the church to be built, added Highsmith, who was Royal Ambassador director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1968-75. The summer project is coordinated through the Brotherhood Commission and the Foreign Mission Board.

The only problem caused by the weather, said Highsmith, was high winds which accompanied the storm. Several of the tent's poles had to be reset, he said. □



STANDING BY SOME SNOW DRIFTS as more sleet/snow falls are, from left, M. B. Howard of Covington, who is with the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis; Kenneth Colebank, Carl Hill, and Bill Highsmith, director of recreation/activities for Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville.



FINISHING WOOD are Amelia Dickey, left, of First Church, Selmer, and Cathryne Howard of Oak Grove Church, Covington. Dickey and her husband assisted M.B. Howard and his wife, Cathryne, in the project.



APPLYING STAIN to wood is James Ramsey, left, and Roy Ross.



SANDING A PIECE OF WOOD is Kenneth Colebank with the help of Joseph Duff, who holds the piece steady.



ADMIRING THE completed pulpit with inscription in Spanish are, from left, Bill Highsmith, Carl Hill, and Kenneth Colebank.

## Belmont Heights celebrates Missions Day

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont Heights Church celebrated Missions Day March 24 with a combined worship service involving the Cambodian and Ethiopian missions and the newly organized Nashville Chinese Baptist Church. There were 431 in attendance.

There were 11 baptized (one Chinese, two Cambodians, two Anglos, and six Ethiopians), followed by a sharing of the Lord's Supper.

Both mission groups shared special music along with the Belmont Heights choir.

Pastor Joe Stacker said it "was a thrill to see God at work in his church."

"We are seeking to live God's love, sharing Christ with all people in our community and beyond." □



STACKER

## As fund-raiser for TBCH

# Bolivar FBC sponsors wild game cooking contest

For Baptist and Reflector

BOLIVAR — First Church, Bolivar, recently held its first wild game dinner.

The church enlisted 13 cooking teams from various businesses and organizations in the community for a wild game cooking contest.

The teams entered the contest and provided the game for the dinner. The cooking teams competed against each other to win one of three categories: "taste and tenderness," "most variety and most exotic game," and "best presentation of the game to judges."

The cooks supplied more than enough food to feed the crowd of more than 400 and raised \$1,126 for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Memphis.

The most exciting thing about the event was that more than half the crowd consisted of people who do not attend FBC or any other church.

One cook and member of FBC took another cook who was not from the church and showed him through the church. Afterwards the man was sitting with head down. Concerned, the church member asked if something was wrong.

The man responded, "I am 57 years old. I have never been in



PARTICIPATING IN THE wild game dinner at First Church, Bolivar, were, from left, Paul Herron, Raymond Siler, Marshall Owens, Chris Cranford, Jeff Hammons, Ken Moore, Randy Johnson, Steve Moore, Tony Kirk, Luther Smith, George Wallace, Gene Gafford of the TBCH Memphis campus, and Pastor Ernest James. The event raised more than \$1,100 for TBCH.

side a church before, and it did something to me."

The day's event also included various displays and seminars of interest to outdoor sportsmen and women.

The dinner was followed by a presentation from Ralph Duren of Missouri, the National Champion Turkey Gobbler. His challenge to not overlook God's vital role in creation led into

his main point of neither should people overlook God's vital role in their personal lives as well.

One individual later wrote: "It was especially gratifying to learn that the National Champion Turkey Gobbler recognizes the Lordship of Christ over all of creation."

"I think his approach is an

excellent vehicle for getting the words of life into the ears of many who would not otherwise receive the witness." □

## TBC missions department needs counselors

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department needs five males, age 18 or older, to serve as counselors at All Nations Camp, an ethnic camp for children and youth.

The camp, which is spon-

sored by the convention, is held July 8-12.

A licensed camp nurse, certified in CPR, also is needed. These are seasonal staff positions.

For more information about requirements for the positions, call Gail Parrish at (615) 371-2031. □

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## ■ the leaders

■ Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville, has called **Gary Wayne McEwen** of Hermitage as pastor, effective March 10.

■ **David E. Hampton**, minister of music, Central Church, Johnson City, has announced his retirement after 24 years at the church, effective Sept. 1.

■ Georgian Hills Church, Memphis, has called **Shane Price** as associate pastor of education and youth and **Tina Price** as director of youth music and activities.

■ **Gary Anderson Jr.**, pastor, Burt Church, Woodbury, worked with a state military commander and a county executive to support the action of the Tennessee senate to set aside 10 days in May for observance of the Ten Commandments. **Harold Patrick**, executive of Cannon County, and **Maj. Gen. Jackie Woods** agreed to promote the action through their work. Anderson also is chaplain with an Armored Cavalry Regiment.

■ **Pete Tackett**, minister of youth, Antioch Church, Johnson City, has been called as co-pastor and minister of youth/education, First Church, Bluff City, effective March 17. Tackett is youth director of Holston Association.

■ **Ted Phillips**, pastor, Washburn Church, Washburn, for eight years, has been called as pastor of Mitchell Springs Church, Rutledge, effective Feb. 25. Phillips also has served as pastor of Locust Grove Church, Washburn; Helton Springs Church, Rutledge; and Indian Ridge

Church, Blaine.

■ Hornbeak Church, Hornbeak, has called **Jackie Mayo** as full-time music director.

■ Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier, has called **Rick Edwards** as pastor.

■ Union Hill Church, Goodlettsville, has called **Truman Brown Jr.** as interim pastor, effective April 7.

■ Buffalo Church, Rutledge, has called **Charles Earl**, retired director of missions, Holston Valley Association, as interim pastor, effective March 10.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Dover**, will hold revival April 21-24. **Scott Thomas**, pastor, Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville, will speak and **Bill Keith**, minister of worship and praise, First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., will lead the music.

■ **Powder Springs Church, Powder Springs**, will celebrate its 175th anniversary May 19.

■ **Main Street Church, Martin**, will hold revival April 8-12. **Bill Hazlewood**, retired director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association, will speak.

■ **Central Church, Johnson City**, will work in Flint, Mich., this summer doing construction to support the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

■ **Rock Haven Mission**, which is sponsored by **First Church, Bean Station**, reorganized March 17 and has called **Randy Morgan** as pastor.

■ A Passion Play produced by **First Church, Bluff City**, will be held April 4-7 at Viking Hall in Bristol. The presentation involves 400 people, including a 46-piece orchestra. It is directed by **Steve Davis**, minister of music of the church.

■ **Raleigh Church, Memphis**, will hold revival April 14-17. **Rob Nash** of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., will speak and **Mark Gesner** of First Church, Madison, Ala., will lead the music.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church, Martin**, will be doing missions work with Hamilton County Association April 14-18.

■ An April 14-17 revival will be held by **Blue Springs Church, Rutledge**. **Ron Coleman**, pastor, New Bethlehem Church, Dyer, will speak and **Jane Greene Johnson** of Morristown will present music.

■ **First Church, Obion**, will hold revival April 14-17. **Phil Mitchell**, pastor, Mount Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, will speak. **Fred Murphy**, Trace Creek Church, Mayfield, Ky., will lead the worship.

■ A television show produced by **Central Church, Hixson**, began airing in Quincy, Ill., on March 3 and in Lethbridge, Ontario, on March 10. The church now uses a Christian telemarketing service to answer calls to its 1-800 number 24 hours of each day.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church No. 1, Martin**, held revival March 17-20. **Brady Weldon** of Martin spoke. Four people joined the church.

■ **Sunswept Church, Union City**, will hold revival April 21-24. **Brady Weldon** will

lead the worship.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church, Rives**, will hold revival April 28 - May 3. **Tommy Pirtle** will speak.

■ **Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier**, dedicated a new building March 23.

■ **Blessed Hope Church, Troy**, will hold revival April 14-17. **Bob Norman**, pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin, will speak.

■ **Barnard's Grove Church, Bean Station**, will hold revival April 14-17. **Elmer Sharp**, interim pastor, Marbledale Church, Knoxville, will speak.

■ **Fellowship Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold a youth revival April 5-6. **Jason Groe**, pastor, Pleasant View Church, Woodbury, will speak. The church is located at 7391 N. Lamar Rd., and should not be confused with an independent Baptist church nearby.

## ■ the associations

■ **Western District Association** had its annual Evangelism Rally March 20. Over 600 attended. **John Avant**, pastor, Coggin Avenue Church, Brownwood, Texas, spoke and **Julian Suggs** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention led the music. Other music was performed by an 85-voice associational choir; men's trio from First Church, Dover; **Melissa Massey** from First Church, Paris, and a choir from First Church, Paris.

■ **Grainger Association** is planning a missions trip to Madison Heights, Mich., July 15-19. **Workers** will lead Vaca-

tion Bible School at a church.

■ **Cumberland Gap Association** is cooperating with other denominations to hold a Tri-State Crusade April 21-26. It will be held at the arena of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. **James Robison**, **David Ring**, **E.V. Hill**, and **Dave Roeber** will speak. Others include **Kellie Cash**, a former Miss America; **Peyton Manning**, football quarterback at the University of Tennessee; **Tom Lester** of the Green Acres television show; and **Aaron Saffell**.

■ **Nashville and Concord associations** are sponsoring **Jack and Phyllis Poe**, chaplains to the Oklahoma City Police Department, to speak in churches April 20-24 concerning their experiences related to the bombing last year. They will speak at **Inglewood Church, Nashville**; **Una Church, Nashville**; **First Church, Murfreesboro**; **First Church, Lavergne**; **Brentwood Church, Brentwood**; **Riverdale Church, Murfreesboro**; and **Immanuel Church, Lebanon**. The Poes also will speak April 23 at 10 a.m. at the TBC Baptist Center in Brentwood to area chaplains, police, firefighters, and disaster care givers.

## ■ the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold its 25th annual Spring Bible Conference April 15-17. **Frederick Sampson**, pastor, Tabernacle Missionary Church, Detroit, Mich., and **Bruce Corley** of **Truett Theological Seminary, Waco, Texas**, will speak. For more information, call (901) 661-5160.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Answer to boredom

By **Roger Freeman**, pastor  
First Church, Clarksville

Have you ever been bored? **Larry Walters**, long-time truck driver from San Pedro, Calif., became bored and decided to do something about it. On the Fourth of July weekend in 1982, he decided to give his neighborhood a thrill, but it was more of a thrill than he expected.

**Walters** rigged 42 helium-filled weather balloons to a Sears lawn chair. He took a pellet gun with him on his adventure because he felt he might need to shoot out the balloons if he rose too high.

**Walters** was truly shocked to reach 16,000 feet rather rapidly. He wasn't the only one. Surprised pilots reported to air traffic controllers they had seen "some guy in a law chair floating in the sky."

After about 45 minutes of absolute adventure, **Walters** decided to shoot out his balloons and descend to the ground. He landed safely in Long Beach, Calif. News reporters inundated him. He was a guest on the Tonight Show. When asked if he would do it again, he answered, "No way."

If you are bored, call our Education Ministry office. We are enlisting Vacation Bible School workers and new Sunday School workers for next year. You will never be bored again when you are an active church worker. There is a real spiritual high involved, too. □

## He gave in God's timing

By **Allen Raines**, pastor  
Everett Hills Church, Maryville

What you are doing makes a difference — today, tomorrow — for eternity. Your gifts (tithe and more) to Everett

Hills Baptist Church is a nonperishable treasure. A few years ago I visited Baylor University in Texas and heard a most impressive story about the university's library. It is the Carroll Library, a beautiful marble "building" memorializing its donor.

Not long after **Mr. Carroll** gave this rather monumental gift he lost nearly all his wealth. Sometime later as he was walking across the campus with a friend he was asked, "Don't you sometimes wish you had all that money back?"

"No," answered **Mr. Carroll**, thoughtfully. "If I had not given it when I did, it would have been lost with the rest." □

## Theme of 'People Count'

By **Bob Connerley**, pastor  
Brownsville Church, Brownsville

The theme for the 1996 Home Mission Week of Prayer is "People Count."

This theme was first used by **Arthur Rutledge** in the 1960s when he was president of the Home Mission Board. It is still at the forefront of our thinking as Southern Baptists. People do count in God's eyes and ours.

Today, in America, 183 million people do not know Jesus in a personal relationship of saving grace. These people count with God.

**Peter** reminds us of why people count with God. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentance" II Peter 3:9.

Pray for our home mission ministry. To support the work of over 5,000 missionaries in America, we receive the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**. This year the goal is \$42 million. Pray and give obediently as the Lord instructs you. □

# Stewardship Commission trustees endorse merger plan, staff incentives

Baptist Press

**NASHVILLE** — The 30-member Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission endorsed the portion of the denominational restructuring plan which will dissolve the agency and also approved incentive packages for employees who stay until the plan is implemented.

Commissioners, meeting March 21-22 for their annual meeting, also approved a nine-month budget for 1996-97 of \$1.4 million. The nine-month budget, October through June, would be necessary if messengers to the SBC annual meeting this June in New Orleans approve, for a second time, a change in SBC bylaw 15. If the bylaw change is approved, the Stewardship Commission would be eliminated. Other agencies also will be eliminated, dissolved, or merged.

Although not wanting to be

seen as presuming approval of the vote in New Orleans, nevertheless, commissioners approved a resolution endorsing a plan which would merge the commission with the SBC Executive Committee and transfer two program assignments to the Baptist Sunday School Board. The resolution also expressed the commission's appreciation to the "Implementation Task Force for their sensitivity to the commission and its staff in making the transition."

The ITF is a 10-member special committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to assist the affected agencies during the implementation of the restructuring plan. Under the proposed plan, the commission would merge with the Executive Committee — from which the commission was formed in 1960. The program assignments for stewardship development and capital fund raising would be transferred to the BSSB.

Ronald Chandler, commission president who a year ago publicly opposed the restructuring plan, told commissioners he was "confident the second vote on the (bylaw) will be approved." He told the commissioners that a merging of the agency, instead of a dissolution, is better "legally ... since legal liability is assumed by the Executive Committee." He said the effective date for the merge is June 19, 1997.

Commissioners also approved incentive bonuses based on tenure for employees who will stay until their positions are deleted, they are "transitioned to another agency," or until June 19, 1997.

Commissioners were told the total bonus package is estimated at \$311,650 but does not include employment agency fees that some employees may choose to use. A special bonus package for Chandler was referred for further study. □



## Nashville church gives to children's home

Eastland Church, Nashville, gave about 1,000 rolls of toilet paper instead of canned goods to participate in the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes 'Kans for Kids' annual drive. Receiving the gift at the Franklin campus is Trevis Robertson, commissary manager, from Rick Baggett, pastor. The slogan for the church's drive was 'Roll, Eastland, Roll.'

## BWA sends medical shipment to Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia

Baptist Press

**WASHINGTON** — Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, will send \$1.75 million worth of urgently needed medical supplies and medicines to Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia.

The shipment will be channeled through Croatian Baptist Aid to one of its cooperating groups, Duhovna Stvarnost, in

Zagreb where half of the supplies will go immediately to a medical clinic in Bosnia.

The rest of the BWAid medical shipment will be divided for use in Croatia for refugees and displaced people, and a direct shipment will go to Serbia, where Bread for Life, a Baptist humanitarian group in Belgrade, will help refugees there.

The BWAid shipment is the result of recent visits to the three countries by BWAid direc-

tor Paul Montacute.

"We were dazed by the level of destruction we saw," the Baptist World Alliance official reported. □

## Classified

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Nashville area church is seeking to call a Minister of Education. If interested, please send resume no later than April 12 to: Search Committee, 2009 Farley Place, Nashville, Tenn., 37210.

**PART-TIME ORGANIST:** Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, is looking for a part-time organist. For more information, call Chris Bailey at (615) 896-0940.

**POSITION VACANCY:** Southside Church, Martin, is seeking a part-time Minister of Youth. Please send resume and the names and addresses of three references to Frank Vincent, Search Committee Chair, Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 121, Martin, TN 38237.

**SEEKS HYMNALS:** Cedar Grove Church needs 50 copies of the 1975 edition of The Baptist Hymnal. Good condition. Willing to pay reasonable price. Call (423) 626-4316 or write: Bill Jennings, 1050 Overton Road, Tazewell, TN 37879

**ORGANIST:** Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, is accepting resumes for the position of organist. If interested, call (423) 624-2606 for information or send resume to Organist Search Committee, Brainerd Baptist Church, P.O. Box 8159, Chattanooga, TN 37414.

## Workshop on Jehovah's Witnesses planned

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — An Interfaith Witness Training Conference on Jehovah's Witnesses will be held April 19-20 at Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga.

The schedule will be from 2-9 p.m. on Friday, April 19, with dinner provided. Sessions begin the next day at 8:30 a.m. and goes through 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Participants must register

before April 10. The cost is \$15 with checks made payable to Interfaith Witness Department, Home Mission Board.

All participants are requested to complete both days' sessions to receive certification.

For more information, call Gail Parrish in the TBC Missions Department at (615) 371-2031. □

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# ■ Sunday School lesson commentary

**Life and Work Series  
for April 7  
Focal Passage: Luke  
24:1-8, 44-48**

## Christ is alive

By L. Joseph Rosas III

The uniqueness of the Christian message is our claim that Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God. As Paul says, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (I Corinthians 15:14). The good news was an astounding if pleasant surprise to those who had journeyed to the tomb to anoint the body of a dead Jesus. Nor is it insignificant that these first witnesses to the fact that Jesus had been raised were women. God was indeed inaugurating a new day.

The first surprise was the large stone they had worried about moving had been moved from the opening to the tomb. The bigger surprise was: what had happened to Jesus' body? Perplexed, the women entered the tomb. The "two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning" is an obvious reference to angels. Angels announced both the birth and the resurrection of Jesus to people quite unprepared for what they were to hear.

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?" There was no doubt Jesus had died. Before the women could even contemplate the meaning of these words the angels announced, "He is not here; he is risen! Remember how he told you." Quite literally Jesus had in a once for all act been awakened from the dead by the power of God. "Then they remembered his words." Sometimes we hear but fail to fully understand the Word of God. However, when God fulfills his promises, as we remember his word our faith is strengthened.

Jesus later explained his crucifixion, death, and resurrection as a fulfillment of "everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms." Clearly a spiritually enlightened understanding of the Word of God leads one to a personal knowledge of the truth, the person of God revealed in his Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus' death satisfies the righteousness of God and thus destroys the wall of separation between God and humankind. His resurrection is divine confirmation that this redemptive ministry has been accomplished. What is to be our response?

Jesus indicates that "repentance" is joined with "forgiveness of sins." Repentance and faith are but flip sides of the same coin. Both refer to appropriation of the Gospel. To repent is to change directions or to change one's mind. As we see the righteousness of God on display in the death of Christ we are compelled by the Holy Spirit to turn from sin and self and in faith claim a new relationship to God based upon the completed work of Christ. "Forgiveness" comes from a medical term that referred to the relaxation of disease. Here it indicates our pardon for sin, our release from the bondage of guilt and our deliverance from sin's power. Truly to be justified is "just as if I'd never sinned."

"You are witnesses." We think of a witness as someone who tells what they know. Certainly we are to faithfully proclaim the good news of what God has accomplished through Christ. However, the word translated "witnesses" is also the word for "martyr," one who gives up their life for the Gospel. True we have been set free from the power of sin and the law. But we have been set free in order that we might voluntarily give ourselves back to God. We must faithfully live the Gospel in order to authentically proclaim the Gospel.

It is our responsibility to boldly declare the redemptive work of God in Christ. However, only as individuals come into contact with him by his Holy Spirit through the Word of God will they see and know the truth that sets all free. □ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

## The living Lord

By Kevin Goza

**Convention Uniform Series  
for April 7  
Focal Passage:  
Luke 24:13-27**

Walking serves many good purposes, one of which is to exercise the body. The two disciples walking down the road to Emmaus received spiritual exercise as well, enlarging their faith to new dimensions. How was their faith enlarged?

### Moved from second-hand experience to personal experience — vv. 13, 16, 30-32

At first, they failed to recognize Jesus. This shouldn't surprise us, since we know that Mary Magdalene had difficulty recognizing him at the tomb following the resurrection (John 20:11-18). The important point is that later they did recognize who he was. In the weakness of their faith, they did not expect to see him. However, in the plan of God, their eyes were opened, and they knew Jesus was with them. Their faith was enlarged, and their commitment was strengthened. God reveals himself to searching disciples.

### Moved from discouragement to enthusiasm — vv. 17-21, 33-35

You can see the discouragement on their faces as they tell their story to Jesus (v. 17). "Are you the only visitor ..." (v. 18) shows how silly it seemed to them that someone coming from Jerusalem on that Sunday would not be aware of what everyone was talking about.

Jesus' question, "What things?" yielded a revealing answer. They poured out their hearts. They spoke of Jesus in powerful terms: a prophet, one of mighty deeds who had been unjustly taken and killed as a common criminal. They describe what the women and others had told them about the tomb (vv. 22-24). The

most revealing phrase, however, is their description of Jesus as the "one who was going to redeem Israel" (v. 21). Redemption signified deliverance on the payment of a price. It is unthinkable that God should have to pay a price to anyone. Therefore, the point of redemption is that God's act of salvation was costly. Until Calvary, the extent of the cost was unfathomable. God paid a price to save man's soul that Satan could not refuse.

### Moved from shallow beliefs to deep understanding — vv. 25-27

"O foolish man" is too strong a translation of the Greek term. Jesus' point was that their understanding of the events was shallow in light of what the Scriptures said about the Messiah. Then, the greatest Bible study in all the world began! Jesus led them in a study course on the Old Testament teachings about the Savior. They learned that throughout the Old Testament a consistent divine purpose was being worked out, and that Jesus' dying on cross was the crowning achievement of that plan. The Scriptures taught that the Christ must suffer, and then enter into his Messianic glory.

Once they understood what the Bible taught about Jesus, and accepted the truth of that teaching personally, they moved to a spiritual level where they could personally experience the Messiah in his fullness.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him (v. 31). We, too, need a clear vision of Jesus as "The Living Lord." □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

## He lives

By Tom Moncrief

Jesus' death and resurrection were according to the Scriptures. His death appeared to on-lookers to be absolute defeat. Indeed, it was actually a tremendous victory verified and completed by his resurrection.

This was real death to Jesus. The God-man who had experienced human life on earth also experienced human death. He did not just seem to die as heretics of that day proposed. Jesus had identified with mankind throughout his earthly life. In his suffering he identified with and experienced the depth of despair. The disciples had left him, and now the Father, he expressed, had forsaken him. In fact, however, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (II Corinthians 5:19). It seems then that God was never nearer to him. In his despair and agony Jesus looked to the Father in prayer. What a lesson and example for any who face questions, despair, forsakenness, and puzzling situations today.

The Gospel writers indicate that at the end Jesus cried with a loud voice. That is not exactly the picture of dying in slow exhaustion, is it? He had strength sufficient for a loud cry. How amazing that Jesus voluntarily gave up his life of his own accord. No one took his life — he gave it as he was bearing the sin of all mankind. Actually he was "made ... to be sin for us, who knew no sin" (II Corinthians 5:21). John indicates that Jesus' final cry was "Finished." Not Jesus but his task was finished. This is the cry of victory and tri-

**Bible Book Series for April 7  
Focal Passage:  
Matthew 27:45-50; 28:1-10**

umph. The mission was accomplished.

After the sabbath when travel was permitted the women came to see the sepulcher. Evidently, they least expected to see what they discovered — God's miracle of resurrection grace. The government-sealed and guarded tomb could not contain God's Son. An angel appeared and told them to stop being afraid because Jesus had risen as he promised and was not there. The angel invited the women to come see the empty tomb. The first witnesses to the fact of the resurrection were these women.

They were instructed to go tell the disciples about this and that Jesus would meet them in Galilee. As they were going, Jesus met them even before they reached Galilee. He greeted them and they held his feet and worshiped him. A life-changing experience with God still moves us to tell the news to others. The women began in fear and found great joy. Responding appropriately to the Lord always gives an element of joy.

As they worshiped him, Jesus gave assurance by telling them to not be afraid and repeated the command to tell the disciples. But he now referred to them tenderly as brethren. These are the same ones who had deserted Jesus in his hour of greatest need and deepest

despair whom he now calls brethren. In his mercy he still claimed them, loved them, and sent them to the world.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us assurance as our own resurrection is anticipated. In the meantime we experience him in joy and add to our joy by sharing the marvelous message with the world. The world reaches us person by person. Jesus looks to us for sincere, genuine worship and faithful obedience. Every day we experience the blessings of Easter and every Sunday we can celebrate it publicly. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



## Medical rates won't rise, say AB officials

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Rates for the Personal Security Program, comprehensive medical plan will not rise on July 1, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board announced March 29.

The medical plan, available to church employees and seminarians on an individual application, is reviewed each six months to determine if rates should be changed. Last January the rates were increased for the first time since July 1992.

Another rate review will be held in the fall for Jan. 1, 1997, said Joel H. Mathis, senior vice president for insurance services. □

## Mormonism examined prior to Utah meeting

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board interfaith witness department representatives gathered here for a five-day conference to determine how Southern Baptists can best relate to the predominant religious group in Utah when the SBC assembles there for its annual meeting in 1998.

State convention IFW representatives gather annually for a conference to examine alternative religions and appropriate Baptist responses to them, said Phil Roberts, department director.

He said Salt Lake City, world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or Mormons, was chosen for this year's conference because of the upcoming SBC meeting. "We extended the conference in order to give a more intensive look at the Latter Day Saints, or Mormons, which is so pervasive in this part of the country," he said of the longer-than-usual March 22-26 meeting.

The conference focused on LDS history, theology and mission, and combined the theoretical and theological with the practical. □

## Faculty journal board votes ties beyond SBTS

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — *Review & Expositor*, the faculty journal of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for 93 years, has announced a reorganization of its editorial board to include representatives of

several new moderate seminaries and theology schools.

According to Richard Cunningham, SBTS professor and editorial board member, the "Review & Expositor" editorial board, which has been an independent, self-perpetuating organization for about five years, voted to reorganize in order to respond to its traditional constituency and to broaden its base.

SBTS President R. Albert Mohler Jr. said he "was shocked and saddened" by the announcement. "... We are reviewing the situation in light of this recent development." □

## St. Louis pastors protest subpoenas of church records

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Seven Baptist pastors in St. Louis have demanded in a letter to Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. that the city of St. Louis stop issuing subpoenas of church records to prove residency of city employees. St. Louis requires city employees to reside in the city; Bosley last year ordered a crackdown on enforcement of the rule.

Rudy Pulido, pastor of Southwest Church, organized the protest to Bosley. "I was just appalled and could not believe it," Pulido told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "It seems to me that someone in the city did not understand how serious their actions were."

In a letter protesting the subpoenas, the pastors said the city's action is being interpreted by St. Louis Baptists,

and Baptists around the country, as "a serious breach of First Amendment rights." □

## BWA youth congress theme set for 1998

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Evangelism, discipleship, social justice, reconciliation, revival, and awakening will all be addressed when young people meet in Houston July 22-26, 1998, for the 13th Baptist Youth World Conference, sponsored by the youth department of Baptist World Alliance.

"Now Is The Time" will be the theme guiding the conference, with more than 15,000 young people from all over the world expected to gather at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

"This conference will create an atmosphere for young people whatever their race, gender, or nationality, to set an agenda that will address the many problems facing this generation," said Emmett Dunn, BWA youth department director. □

## Revival in Cuba evident, leaders report

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Severe economic hardships have not quelled the joy of believers in Cuba and have increased the spiritual hunger of the people, Baptist World Alliance President Nilson Fanini and General Secretary Denton Lotz reported after a visit to the country in March.

## Southern Baptist missionaries 'disarm' Brazilian children

Baptist Press

RECIFE, Brazil — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Brazilian Baptists here have jumped headlong into the business of gun trading.

But the guns are toy weapons, and the target is the children of Recife.

Late last fall Yclea Cervino, who directs the FMB-funded Friendship House in Recife, read in her local newspaper how increasing numbers of youth in the community were dying in rob-

beries and drug trafficking.

So she announced a campaign to disarm the future generation.

Her plan? Let children trade their toy weapons — guns, swords, and Uzis — for dolls, toy cars, and balls. So after sending children home with information on the dangers of arms misuse, staff members invited children to surrender their weapons.

They did — in droves. More than 600 toy weapons flooded into the center, said missionary Clara Lynn Williams. □

The two men were joined by BWA regional secretaries Daniel Carro, Latin America, and Peter Pinder, the Caribbean. In preaching in Baptist churches, the four men witnessed more than 600 respond for the first time to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

"Cuba is experiencing revival," Lotz said. "All the churches are growing and every Sunday there are conversions. People feel freer now to attend church and ask questions. It is indeed harvest time in Cuba." □

## Pugh to retire from NY convention

Baptist Press

EAST SYRACUSE, N.Y. — R. Quinn Pugh, 66, executive director-treasurer of the Bap-

tist Convention of New York the past 12 years, has announced his retirement, effective July 31.

The Texas native has also served as pastor of churches in Maryland, New Jersey, and Georgia. □

## Chowan College selects president

Baptist Press

MURFREESBORO, N.C. — Stanley G. Lott, vice president for academic affairs at Louisiana College, Pineville, La., was selected March 28 as president of Chowan College.

Lott, 60, will become the 21st president in the 148-year-history of the college, which is the second oldest of North Carolina's seven Baptist colleges and universities. □



**Coping in Memphis**  
Missionary Nancy Watts has endured much in the seven weeks since her family suffered a head-on collision along a winding road in Peru. She credits God with sustaining her "in ways I never thought possible." Below, she watches as a therapist works with her son, Marcus, 9, who suffered a brain injury. At left, she poses with Joshua, 7, in a park in her hometown of Memphis. The two of them were injured the least. Her husband, Wade, lies in a coma in a Memphis hospital. Local churches, fellow missionaries, and the Foreign Mission Board have provided extensive support to the family. — Photos by Jim Burton

