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# Baptist and Reflector

May 8, 1996

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STATEWIDE EDITION

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## Tennessee Baptists collect food for North Koreans

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists have responded well to a Southern Baptist Convention-wide effort to send food to famine-stricken North Korea.

The food relief effort was announced in March by the SBC's Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission in response to a request from Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid agency.

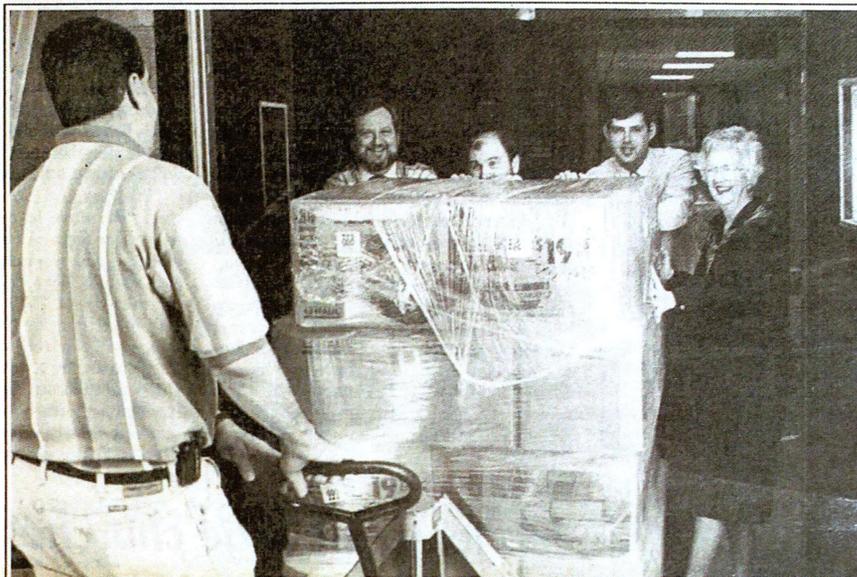
The famine in North Korea was caused by floods.

Approximately 205 boxes of food were recently shipped from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to Illinois where they will be placed in a container with about 200 boxes from that state. The container is scheduled to be shipped out of Chicago for arrival in North Korea later this month. Thirty-five containers of food from other states have already been sent. \$4,000 also was collected to help with shipping expenses.

"Pray that as the food goes, it goes where it is needed most," said Tim Bearden, TBC Brotherhood Department director, who along with Katharine Bryan, executive director of Tennessee WMU, coordinated the statewide effort.

"God has already begun using the food to open hearts to him," Bearden added.

Bryan noted it is exciting to know that word can go out for



HELPING TO LOAD BOXES of food for North Korea are TBC Brotherhood Director Tim Bearden, second from left, and Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Katharine Bryan, right. They were aided by David Veridal, left, Larry Lindsay, second from right, and Andy Gunn.

an immediate need and Tennessee Baptists will respond.

"The project for North Korean relief had little lead time because of the situation and the sensitivity of our representatives trying to respond expeditiously to the crisis," Bryan said.

"Tennessee Baptists came through. Small churches, large churches, and other special groups found ways to get boxes filled and to the Baptist Center," she added.

Leading the food collection effort was McMinn-Meigs As-

sociation with 39 boxes, followed by Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, and First Church, Murfreesboro, 16 boxes each; and Bradley County Association, 13 boxes.

A World Missions Conference in Watauga Association even played a role in the effort.

Bryan spoke at Roan Park Church, Roan Mountain, and told about the project. The church, which usually has from 40 to the mid-50s in Sunday School, responded with four boxes as WMU, adult men, adult women, and youth

each provided a box of food.

"Our church is missions-minded. When there is a need our people respond well," said Pastor Ira Berry.

Each box contained more than 50 pounds of staple food items with an estimated cost of \$33.75 per box. Churches and associations also were asked to provide \$20 per box to help defray expenses.

Bearden stressed the food collection was a cooperative effort between state Brotherhood and WMU, national Brotherhood and WMU, and CSI. □

## TBC gifts up

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After the first half of the fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$14,620,283 to the Cooperative Program, \$1,416,914 more than the same time a year ago.

In April, Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,795,721.

The year-to-date budget for 1995-96 is \$13,484,638.

"We are thankful to have such a good report to share after six months," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. □

## Grahams honored with Congressional Gold Medal

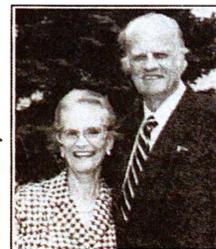
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — As Billy and Ruth Graham received a Congressional Gold Medal, government officials showered them with accolades for their faithfulness to the Bible and for being role models of family life, humility, and gentleness.

But the Southern Baptist evangelist's acceptance speech featured another attribute for which Graham has become internationally famous: his invitations. "I see more than a few good men and women here who have the ability to lead us into the next century. A lot

more people are here today than were at Pentecost, and they changed their world. We can do the same with the help of God and his Holy Spirit," Graham said, although he didn't ask people to walk the aisle to make a public commitment.

The gold medal is Congress' highest honor. The first gold medal was bestowed to George Washington in 1776. More recent recipients include Win-



BILLY & RUTH GRAHAM

ston Churchill, Jonas Salk, Bob Hope, and Lady Bird Johnson. The Grahams are the third couple to receive the medal.

Ruth Graham attended the May 2 ceremony despite a recent case of spinal meningitis.

Since preaching his first sermon in 1937, Graham has shared the Gospel with an estimated 100 million people in crusades and two billion people through television. □

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## Conference points church toward needs of children

By Jennifer Davis  
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Where is the religious community? Where are our voices?" asked Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, a Washington-based nonprofit organization devoted to advocacy efforts for the children of America.

Edelman and other featured speakers voiced messages explaining the needs of children to nearly 200 attendees at the "Children and the Church II" conference April 24-26 at the Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters here.

"The religious community has to be the moral locomotive, not the moral caboose, especially when it comes to our children," Edelman said, urging it to "stand up and keep our children safe."

"We have to stop separating our Sunday life from our professional and civic life. They all have to be put together."

"We are living in an incredible moral moment, nearing the beginning of a new century and a new millennium," Edelman said. "What message will be sent to our children?"

Diana Garland, professor of church social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., told conferees, "To show our love for children is to show our love for Jesus and the one who sent Jesus." Garland is founder of the Child Advocacy Network that developed the idea for such a conference "to seek justice for children."

The effect of violence in children's

minds is spiritual, she said.

"Our society's focus on collecting stuff is killing our souls and making us scared of our neighbors and our neighbor's children."

Garland said in her generation children had fears, but the things they were afraid of were "over there" — a big war, a bomb. "The difference is that fear is inside the wall. What's frightening about the violence in our society is that it's inside us. The fact is that most violence in our society is not random. The fact is that most violence happens within the home."

"I am more concerned about the effects of the fear of violence on our children than the violence itself," she said. "We were afraid of what we didn't know. Children today are afraid of what they do know."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said children know about so much violence because of the media, and if the impact is not changed "many of our children will not have a future."

"TV has the greatest impact," Land said. "We have less control over TV than any other form of media ... and except for working and sleeping, the average American spends more time watching TV than anything else. TV has become the substitute mom, dad, and baby-sitter" and could be termed electronic child abuse, he said.

"We can save our children's future by stopping the endless flood of violence that is flooding into our children's bedrooms and our family rooms," Land said. "Children can't protect themselves. We must do it."

Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lexington, Ky., encouraged conference participants to embrace the innocence of children. Americans are outraged when they hear about parents in Thailand selling their daughters as prostitutes, he said, but "our American hands are not so clean when it comes to dealing with kids."

What about the father "who forces the child to be who he is not, not for the good of the child, but because he must live his life through the child?" he asked. Loscalzo referenced the recent death of Jessica Dubroff, the 7-year-old pilot who died when her tiny Cessna crashed during her attempt to be the youngest pilot to fly cross-country.

"Whose dream are they living out? Who's looking for meaning in life?" he asked. "We want our children to have all of those things we never had and we forget that what they really need as children is to be children ... laughing, playing, doing all those things that children do."

"We (as adults) are locked into our routines," he said. "I've never seen a child pull out a day timer."

"It's through a child's innocence that we should look at the world. God help us when we do not give them time for innocence, for inquisitiveness, for spontaneity."

Children and the Church II highlighted ways the church can respond to child advocacy needs and provided encouragement for individuals as the group came together and shared concerns, Garland said.

Garland served as coordinator of the first Children and the Church conference which was held in 1993. □

## Tennesseans urge churches to be aware of disabilities

By Terri Lackey  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Scott Nabi, 35, is severely mentally handicapped. Sara Ezell, 24, is intellectually gifted, but confined to a wheelchair because of a disease that causes her bones to easily snap. Kristin Blair, 24, is deaf, mentally handicapped, and eats from feeding tubes.

All three are handicapped, but their disabilities are as different as their backgrounds.

"Disabilities and giftedness are incredibly different — as different as hair color," Ezell, told a group of preschool/children's workers attending a seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board, April 22-25. Ezell joined Gene Nabi, a retired BSSB consultant in special ministries, and Donna Blair, a Nashville resident who has a handicapped daughter, in speaking to the group about "Accepting Differing Abilities."

Ezell, a master's-degree student majoring in special needs at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, told the children's leaders the best action they could take for a handicapped child or adult in their church is to learn the specifics of that person's disability.

"Don't assume anything," said Ezell.

"Learn about the disabilities of the people who are in your church. There are issues in-

involved with each one that you need to know," she said. "Thousands of organizations exist, local and national, that can help educate you on disabilities and prevent you from assuming things about people with handicaps."

For example, she said, many people speak loudly to her. "They think because I'm in a wheelchair, I'm also deaf."

Donna Blair, an investment advisor and a member of Nashville's Two Rivers Church, said churches can be insensitive to the needs of families with handicapped children.

Blair, whose first handicapped child lived only 13 months, was told by doctors the chances of having a second handicapped child were minuscule. The doctors were wrong, and her second child, Kristin, 24, is mentally handicapped, deaf, and does not have an esophagus, which means she must be tube fed twice a day.

After Blair and her husband moved to Tennessee, she said members of the first Southern Baptist church they attended were insensitive to her family's needs.

Her daughter required on-the-hour tube feeding, and she was in diapers.

"I taught a Sunday School class, and because Kristin's Sunday school teachers refused to tube feed her, I had to leave my class to do it. It really

wasn't very hard; it was just scary to them, I guess," Blair said.

The same went for changing diapers. "She was in the 3-year-old class, but she was much older, and they wouldn't change her diapers. One Sunday after church, on my husband's birthday, we went to pick her up and she had had diarrhea all over herself. No one would change her diapers, and they didn't even come get me from church. We were going to go out to dinner for my husband's birthday, but we had to go home instead."

"I'm really not blaming these people," Blair said. "It's just that the church needs to educate itself about handicaps, and it needs to learn to not be afraid of them."

The church's education about handicaps should include what not to say to a parent of a child with disabilities, Blair said. "Don't tell me that if I have enough faith, my child will be healed. That's just not so."

She suggested church members who want to help a family with a handicapped member to ask specifically what they might do. "Most people ask if there is anything they can do. It's really best if they are specific. I have a difficult time saying, 'Well, yes, you can do such and such.'"

However, Blair said, she has become less timid about

seeking help from others and the church. Her new motto is a blend of biblical admonition and a modern-day cliché — "Ask, seek, knock, and squeak."

Nabi, whose son Scott, 35, is severely mentally handicapped, told the group if he had to live his life over, he would refuse to go to church unless it offered a ministry to his son.

"We have 38,000 Southern Baptist churches, and only 2,000 of those have programs for people who are different," he said. "And the reason is, they are afraid of what they don't understand."

A lot of churches just hold bad theology when it comes to dealing with people with disabilities, he said.

Nabi said eight in 10 marriages break up following the birth of a mentally handicapped child, and seven in 10 dissolve when a physically handicapped child is involved.

"Now you tell me, is it God's will to break up families?"

Nabi suggested anyone interested in beginning a ministry to handicapped people at their church should just jump in and become involved.

"Become involved with a handicapped child yourself. Become involved with the parent of a handicapped child," he said. "Don't try to involve a committee, just become involved yourself." □

# Legislature scores some good points, misses on others

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — In last week's *Baptist and Reflector*, legislative action on a proposed lottery was reported.

The 99th Tennessee state General Assembly concluded its session by late night approval of a statewide referendum to permit a state lottery.

The session was not a total loss. Several positive actions came on some moral concerns.

Bill Bates, Tennessee Baptist Convention public affairs consultant, was disappointed in the lottery vote, but urged Tennessee Baptists to "gear up" for the second round in the 1997 legislature.

The same resolution, to gain legal status, must pass the 100th General Assembly by two-thirds majority and signing into law by Gov. Don Sundquist.

"It's not a certainty yet," said Bates. "We have some hard work before us to convince the legislators that gambling is not good for our state, and we can't wait until the last minute.

"We believe the lottery, and any other gambling, is not good for families. We have to show how much we care about our families. We must bring them together, and a lottery will break down family life."

Bates said several other moral issues were voted on by the General Assembly. He cited some of the votes that affect Tennesseans as moral choices.

Bates represented Tennessee Baptists on Capitol Hill two or three days each week during the sessions.

Lawmakers approved and sent to the governor these pieces of legislation:

- A ban on marriages of the same sex. There was lengthy discussion on the floor of both houses. The issue included both moral and economic facets.

- A proposal in Hawaii's legislative bodies would make same-sex marriages legal. This would carry ramifications concerning the state's legal responsibility to provide benefits now restricted to heterosexual marriage partners.

Some legislators said ap-

proval by any other state could make the law binding here.

- Welfare reform requiring recipients to get jobs within 18 months.

- Withdrawing the driver's and professional licenses of parents who won't pay child support.

- Allow voters to decide whether they want a lottery (pending two-thirds approval by the 100th General Assembly).

- Okayed a \$14 billion budget for state government to operate on for the year.

- Closed a loophole allowing unregulated slush funds for legislators.

- Seize vehicles from drunk drivers arrested within five years of a previous DUI conviction.

- Strengthen punishment of drunk drivers involved in fatal accidents.

- Allow Tennesseans who want handgun permits to get them at the place where they get a driver's license. The National Rifle Association-backed bill makes it easier for citizens to carry concealed weapons, al-

ready legal.

- Also, the Senate killed an effort to restrict the teaching of evolution. A proposal would have prevented evolution being taught as fact, and allowed penalties for teachers who did not adhere to the restriction.

On the other hand, the legislature killed legislation to:

- Encourage the observance and posting of the Ten Commandments in homes, businesses, schools, and churches. This was killed by the House after much discussion and accusation.

Outside groups got involved in this and other proposals on moral issues.

- Prohibit vehicle passengers from having open containers of alcoholic beverages.

Several legislative proposals attracted keen interest from Tennessee Baptists concerned with moral issues as well as other kinds of legislation.

The lottery issue, along with other gambling issues such as video poker, parimutuel betting on horse races, and video-simulcasts at Tennessee sites of races run else-

where, has long dogged the two houses of legislature.

Before the lottery measure passed on April 26, the House made sure all other kinds of gambling, such as casinos, bingo, etc., would be excluded from any statewide referendum.

Legislators arguing against a referendum for state lottery said the lottery would lead to all the other gambling ventures that are legal elsewhere.

A lottery would require a constitutional amendment to delete a section that specifically bans lotteries.

Thus a statewide referendum would be required.

Through this process, the lottery resolution has to get a two-thirds vote in each house in either 1997 or 1998, the 100th General Assembly.

In 1998, the proposed constitutional amendment would have to be approved by more than half of those people voting. *It would make only a state lottery permissible.*

It could not appear on a ballot until 1998, a year for a gubernatorial election. □

## Historical Commission trustees vote transfer of copyrights to SBHS

By Kim Medley  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Historical Commission trustees voted during their annual meeting April 22 to transfer copyrights of the commission's publications and videos to the Southern Baptist Historical Society after consultation with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In February 1995, the Program and Structure Study Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee released its "Covenant for a New Century" proposed restructuring of the SBC, which was approved by the Executive Committee and, in June, by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. According to the covenant, the Historical Commission is among several SBC agencies to be dissolved.

Slayden Yarbrough, commission in-

terim executive-director, met with Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. and vice president Gene Mims in March to discuss the future of the commission's pamphlet series, videotapes, and church history resource kit.

Mims outlined the Sunday School Board's agreement in a March 21 letter to Yarbrough. The board agreed: (1) "the Southern Baptist Historical Society should retain copyrights, inventories, and distribution of all materials presently owned by the Historical Commission"; (2) the SBHS would provide the BSSB with "materials concerning writing church histories in the local churches" (the BSSB will field these materials through the board's media department and in media centers across the convention); and (3) representatives from the SBHS and the BSSB's church growth group will meet

at least once each year to determine appropriate historical information to be placed in the board's publications.

During their annual meeting, Historical Commission trustees voted to transfer copyrights of the commission's publications and videos, as well as a complete set of desktop publishing equipment, to the Southern Baptist Historical Society to continue the publishing of these resources.

"We've made some major accomplishments at the Historical Commission," Yarbrough said of steps taken at the agency in regard to the Covenant for a New Century.

"We feel good about the direction of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives; we've had good discussions with the Council of Seminary Presidents. They have been very open to our suggestions."

The Covenant for a New Century

calls for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, currently owned by the Historical Commission, to become property of the Council of Seminary Presidents.

Yarbrough told commission trustees that in some ways the SBHLA may actually be on better footing than it was with the Historical Commission, saying he believes there will be additional funding, filling of vacant staff positions, and "the personnel (of the SBHLA) that has played an important part will continue to play an important part."

While Yarbrough said he is pleased with these outcomes, he admitted some things about the Historical Commission's closure are more difficult, "like what is to be done with the people. Yet, I feel like and believe that when it's all said and done, we will have treated our people in a kind and fair manner and done the very best we can for them." □

## Historical society to move to OBU

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Historical Society, birthed by the SBC Historical Commission more than 40 years ago, is finding a new beginning, at a time when the Historical Commission faces dissolution under the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

At its first annual meeting, Historical Society leaders reported much to celebrate. In April 1995, it had only \$6,000 in its coffers. During its business meeting this year, treas-

urer Albert Wardin of Nashville reported the society now has more than \$91,000 toward its goal of \$150,000.

The society also selected Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee as its new home. Four Baptist schools, including Carson-Newman College, submitted proposals for hosting the SBHS.

During the same session members voted unanimously to elect Slayden Yarbrough, interim executive director of the Historical Commission and professor of religion at OBU, as the society's new director. □

## FMB to cut missionaries in Japan by 30 percent

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — To make additional resources available in areas of the world where Foreign Mission Board leaders feel God is focusing their attention, the Southern Baptist agency will reduce the number of missionaries in Japan over the next three years by about 30 percent.

Even with the cutbacks, the Japan mission will have about 120 missionaries and will be the FMB's second-largest mission in the world,

behind south Brazil.

The high cost of living and high inflation rate in Japan — dovetailed with the realization that Christian growth there has plateaued at low levels — led agency officials to the conclusion that resources deployed there could produce significantly greater results in other countries.

The decision to "rightsize" the Japan mission reflects the board's determination to accomplish strategic objectives by redeploying resources to both "harvest fields" and "The

Last Frontier."

Harvest fields are areas of the world where God is producing an abundance of new Christians and churches. The Last Frontier refers to areas of the world where people have little or no access to the Gospel. Japan fits into neither category.

The action does not mean the FMB is not concerned for the lost people of Japan, said FMB administrator Avery Willis. It just means the resources "would go so much further in other places." □

## ■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

## Book store answers

I am writing in response to the letter which appeared in the April 10 edition suggesting a possible political agenda in regard to product selection processes for Baptist Book Stores. I am glad to set the record straight. Following are some principles which guide our choices.

First, neither Baptist Book Stores nor the Sunday School Board endorse or promote any political candidates. We do offer a variety of books which analyze political, ethical, and moral topics to assist Christians in understanding and re-

sponding to these issues.

Second, the decision to carry and promote *The Campaign* by Marilyn Quayle was consistent with our ongoing merchandising philosophy. It is a well-written Christian fiction book supporting strong Christian values and distributed by a Christian publisher. It is not just a political murder mystery as the letter described it.

The decision regarding *It Takes a Village* by Hillary Clinton was equally consistent with our merchandising philosophy. While the book addresses a subject of public interest, there is nothing intrinsic to the book to identify it as a candidate for promotion in a Christian book store. We have not restricted our stores from carrying this book in stock or in making it available for special orders. Our managers have freedom to make those decisions based on local demand.

We are working hard to improve the quality and service of Baptist Book Stores. As readers have questions or concerns, I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Mark Scott, vice president  
Retail Group,  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
Nashville 37234

## North Carolina roots

In this bicentennial year for Tennessee, let it be remembered that New Bern, N.C., was the first capital of what is now Tennessee. Tryon Palace, the capitol, was said to be the most beautiful building in Colonial America. It was built between 1767 and 1770. Named for Royal Governor William Tryon, the palace was home to two royal governors, Tryon and Josiah Martin.

Under statehood, Tryon Palace was the home of four governors of North Carolina. President George Washington

enjoyed dining and dancing there April 21, 1791. The palace burned in 1798. It was restored to its original grandeur from 1952-59 by Maude Moore Latham of New Bern and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kellenberger of Greensboro.

The University of North Carolina was founded in 1789, before Tennessee became a state in 1796. It was the first such institution to serve what is now the state of Tennessee. James Knox Polk was a member of the class of 1818.

From my hometown of New Bern in Craven County, N.C., the first Baptist missionaries came to Middle Tennessee, to Davidson County, and to Nashville. John Dillahunt was among those first Baptist ministers to establish our denominational work here.

Owen Meredith Smaw  
Nashville 37212

## Stop lottery push

I read in the April 10 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* a disturbing article concerning the move to establish a lottery in Tennessee. I plead with readers to make extraordinary efforts to stop this move BEFORE it goes to a referendum.

Politicians will think that it is safe to "let the people decide" on this issue, when it is their responsibility to protect their citizens from this remorseless crime. If it comes to public vote, the good people of Tennessee will be forced to mount a huge information campaign and spend millions of dollars if they hope to counter the lottery corporations and their barrage of false promises.

I was pastor for nine years in Valdosta, Ga., where we witnessed the lie and the aftermath first in Florida and now in Georgia. South Georgians saw the devastation to Florida's health and voted down the

lottery with over 60 percent of the vote. But because the metro Atlanta area overwhelmingly believed the false promises, all Georgians will have to suffer the long-term fate of becoming a lottery state.

On a daily basis Georgians are barraged with commercials and ads aimed at making them compulsive gamblers. The people of Tennessee should understand that for a lottery to work its creators must constantly come up with innovative ways to create compulsive gamblers. They target teenagers and the poor. The biggest lines at the lottery counters are after welfare checks go out.

I've watched these lines in Valdosta and Augusta fill with the hurting who have no extra income to spend, but take food out of their families' mouths for a shot at the dream. The highest paid bureaucrat in a "lottery state" is not the governor, but the director of the lottery. Along with a new staff of highly trained professionals, they turn every convenience store into a hangout for the hopeless. The government becomes the ruthless deceiver swindling people out of money.

"But it goes to education," they will tell you. Every program we have paid for out of lottery funds could have been operated on far less genuine tax revenue. Over half of all lottery proceeds go to promotion, making a few people rich, and lining the pockets of gambling corporations. Honest businesses suffer because disposable income that used to buy clothes, food, or other goods pours down the black hole of the lottery — untaxed.

State lotteries should be fought with every ounce of strength you have. ... Get the message out and stay after your legislators.

Craig Bailey  
Beech Island, S.C. 29842

## ■ an occasional word

By Lonnie Wilkey,  
associate editor

## The other foot

For many years I have "preached" against Little League or Dixie Youth baseball coaches who want to win at any cost; those who yell unmercifully at their kids; and those who give umpires a hard time.

Well, the shoe is on the other foot now. I still "preach" against it, but I see both sides now.

I am coaching my daughter's 9-10-year-old baseball team. I'm not worried about winning at any cost. I'm just happy with a win once in a while.

On the other (umpire/parent) side of the fence it is easy to criticize youth coaches.

Now, that I see it from their side, I know a little bit better why some of them rant and rave. Now, that doesn't make it right; I just see it from their perspective. I despise to see coaches verbally abusing their players.

It does get frustrating, however, to tell a player something over and over, have him or her look you in the eye and nod understanding, and then do the exact opposite. I have to remind myself constantly that they are just kids and all they want to do is have fun.

And, as for the umpires, well I again have to remind myself over and over that they do the best they can and no one is perfect.

In a recent close game a call went against my team. I have a habit of leaving the dugout and going outside the fence when I have a strong urge to yell at the umpire. This helps to keep me out of trouble.

While I was outside I told a few of the coaches who were around that I didn't particularly like the call. One of those coaches was one I had thrown out of a game two years ago when I was umpiring. He looked at me, grinned, and said, "Now you know what we've been putting up with all these years." I couldn't help but laugh, agree, and return to the dugout.

Perspective is a wonderful thing. It is easy to judge; it is not so easy to look at things from another's point of view.

As we press on with the season, I am going to try to keep all that in mind. It will give me something to do as I pace outside the fence. □



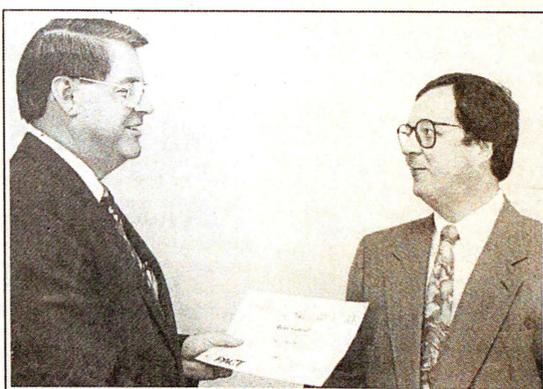
WILKEY

## Daily Partnership

### Prayer Requests

#### May

- 8 — Pray for George Pitts and his team of high school basketball players from Holston Association as they conduct clinics and share testimonies in Tarnow, Poland, in June.
- 9 — Pray for 10 volunteers to work in a children's camp in Biastok, Poland, the first two weeks in July.
- 10 — Pray that the Lord will call six volunteers to lead a one-week youth evangelism campaign in August in Poznan, Poland.
- 11 — Pray for Ian and Sherri Buntain, Canadian foreign missionaries to Malaysia, who will be returning to the field in June.
- 12 — Pray for Maurice and Nancy Tenkink, Canadian foreign missionaries to Nigeria, who are returning to the field in May.
- 13 — Pray for Ken and Cathy Yinger, Canadian foreign missionaries to Chile, that they continue to be faithful to what God has for them to do there.
- 14 — Pray for Connie Taillon, wife of Garry Taillon, language and evangelism director for the CCSB. Health concerns.



## Helping churches in transitional communities

Ray Gilder, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department, presents Rusty Sumrall of Nashville Association a certificate for completing PACT (Project: Assistance to Churches in Transitional Communities) training. Sumrall already has led two churches in Nashville Association in the project.

# Associations: busy people at work for Christ

Several associations of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have more than 100 churches each, while others have less than a dozen.

The numerically larger associations have some "mega churches," but the smaller associations certainly do not.

The role of the association in the life of the TBC, and the role of the director of missions in the association, are the same regardless of size. But there are exceptions.

**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor**

All are important, vital to the heartbeat of Baptist life in Tennessee, which is missions and ministry.

All do their work, with their unique flair and design. But all do the work of Christ in the vineyard.

Associations, Tennessee Baptists, we salute you. We honor you during Associational Missions Week, May 20-26, and we recognize the distinct role you have in kingdom work.

True to Baptist tradition, there is no "boss" in associations. In the association, churches relate as brothers and sisters in Christ, working together for the common goal of winning the lost, teaching and training, helping and healing within and without the local body of believers.

The theme for Associational Missions Week, May 20-26, is "Dream Something New." It ties in with the Southern Baptist Convention Bold Mission Thrust theme, "Start Something New."

Beyond all this is the task that is always before Southern Baptists. To reach the lost, unchurched, and hurting people

around us and across the nation, we must do whatever it takes. We must do something new.

While not disparaging those who came before us, settling the frontiers and witnessing as they moved westward, we know that the old, old story challenges us with new ways of telling it.

"New" means bold, risky, different perhaps, and fresh.

Translating the new dreams is the work of the associations. In Tennessee there are 68 associations. These 68 groups of churches are mobilized to meet the needs of the present and the unknowns of tomorrow. God has plans for

these Tennessee associations.

The best way to recognize our associations and their worth to the work of Jesus Christ, is to work together. Associations do not need or want accolades. Affirmation, yes; but not applause.

There needs to be cooperative hard work to harness those new dreams. All of us have seen dreams come and go. We have seen the best and the worst of plans come to nothing.

But in this day, there is no time for failure. Associations have the organization and the tools, the people and the prayers, to bring into reality every dream dreamed for God's approval. □

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

## Life's like that

They say that you dwell more in the past as you grow older. That may be true, but they had better not accuse me of being over the hill.

Even though I do think about the past, it probably is good for me. The past is where I earned my experience for living.

I have more past than I have future, you know, and the present goes by in a blur. But I am not limited by past experiences, as long as I have someone to share them.



ALLEN

I remember (ah, there is a good term) a comic strip from my teen years. It was called "Life's Like That," and it had some simple, comical homilies about life in general.

From the past, I often apply that term, *life is like that*.

For a few years now, Betty and I have been learning from Wesley, Jessie, Daniel, Ezra, and Graham, the South Carolina "grands" who are close to our hearts.

Close to home, we learn from year-and-a-half old Michaela, and Matthew, the five-year-old brother.

We learn in rich, rare experiences from each of them, the sharing of small things that become extraordinary.

What do we learn from these seven, from 11 to one and a half?

First, we learn it is easier to be a grandparent than a parent. We learn that grandparents get more immediate results from the learning than do the grandchildren.

Every moment with them is a precious, exciting adventure in life. The things we learn may be classified as minutiae in dictionaries, but are success stories because we personally know and love those from whom we learned.

We are learning the privilege of generations and shared wisdom. We who have experienced God see young ones do the same.

We are learning afresh the joy and newness of stars and fireflies, shadows and rainbows, jumping and learning to talk, catching a ball and making an A on homework, reaching out and touching life and God.

And we know, life is like that. □

## Mothers can be more than memories

We have no proof that Sheriff Andy Taylor's Aunt Bea had been married, or that she was anyone's mother.

But if we observe the depth of her love as she took care of Andy and Opie, we readily acknowledge she had the skills.

From quaint and sugary Aunt Bea, Mayberry's mom for almost everyone, we learn that mothers aren't perfect but they are very close to it.

We also learn that though Aunt Bea didn't know everything, she did know how to ease a broken heart and turn sadness into joy. She scattered clouds and frowns with her own heaven-sent sunshine.

Real life mothers can be more than memories. All the characteristics that spell "mother" are gifts from God. And all the time shared and love imparted from mother to child comes from God's love.

Next Sunday will be observed as Mother's Day. Of course it is not meant to be the only day for remembering and honoring mother; but it is a special day.

Of course Biblical examples of mothers, as well as those mothers we know personally exemplify the best in motherhood.

The lessons we learn and the love we receive from mothers are more than memories. It follows then that mothers are more than memories.

Children of all ages honor their mothers best when those great memories become life-shaping experiences. And for those young children who may not experience this kind of mother, there should always be someone to step in and do it.

Remember mother(s) on Mother's Day. Make it a grand occasion, not necessarily with gifts, but with love and memories. □

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

## Importance of the mother

I want to express some thoughts about the importance of mother to the family. With the emergence of the Promise Keepers plan, the Christian community is being called back to the importance of dad in the family and the responsibility he has to provide for and protect his family.

On the other hand, we may be losing our grip on the significance of mother to the family in some subtle but significant ways.

In the 1940s and the following two decades, it was the expected role of the mother to stay at home and take care of her children.

I can almost feel the tension that begins to rise for some women who read these words, for fear I am just another of those women-bashing chauvinist who want to keep women "in their place."

If I know my heart at all, this is not the case. I do, however, want to invite all of us to consider the irrefutable evidence that is surfacing from research in developmental psychology that the first two years of a child's life will, in

■ families matter  
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

many ways, establish the foundation for the rest of that child's life. Confidence, competence, self-esteem, and many other facets of temperament are being indelibly formed during these years.

The importance of being cared for in the home during these formative years has been proved many times.

I do not want to be misunderstood as saying that one will be in danger of raising the next Charles Manson, Jim Jones, or David Koresh if mother is not present in the home during the first two years of the child's life.

Studies do show, however, that the children who were cared for in their homes during these years had more confidence, competence, and self-esteem as adolescents.

I am grateful to my own mother for staying home with my brothers and me during these important years. I also

value immensely the experience my own children had because their mother, my good wife, was able to stay at home with them until they began school.

I give the majority of the credit for the good results of our "perfect" children to my wife's efforts in staying with them while they were young.

Many mothers struggle with the conflict between their maternal desire to stay at home and the absolute necessity to go to work to provide family income.

I truly believe God will honor your honest desire to provide for your family and help you develop quality time to enhance these attributes in your children in spite of the necessity of working outside the home.

My heart-felt desire today is to strike a blow for mothering and the way I experienced it in my own life, and to encourage us as the Christian community to rethink our focus on priorities and reset some of our goals for the family. □



BARKLEY

### Start with a smile

St. Peter to a group of mice: "Do you need anything to make life here more enjoyable?" Mice: "Could we have some skates?" St. Peter, later, to some cats: "What would you like?" Cats: "Skates, to get around faster." St. Peter to cats a few days later: "How is everything now?" Cats: "Fine. Thanks for the meals on wheels."

### Take this thought

What do you do with your extra conveniences and privileges? Help others or exploit others? Wrapped in our own wishes and desires, we constitute a mighty small package.

### Memorize this Scripture

"We...that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (Romans 15:1).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to love people and use things rather than loving things and using people. □

# Students do missions work on spring break

For Baptist and Reflector

College spring break brings many images to mind — wild parties, sleeping in, relaxing at home — but many Tennessee college students spent their week with an entirely different agenda.

Inner city missions, evangelism, and beach/resort outreach were just a portion of the assignments tackled by students and faculty/staff leaders.

The three Tennessee Baptist schools sent out large groups. Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, sent out the largest group at 167. Union University, Jackson, directed 133 students to the work. And Belmont University, Nashville, sent out 40.

Overseas trips were among the efforts. The Baptist Student Union at the University of Tennessee — Knoxville, sent a team to the Dominican Republic. And Carson-Newman College's A Cappella Choir toured Austria for that nation's one-thousandth anniversary.

The *Baptist and Reflector* also received reports from the Baptist Student Union at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg and Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

Most of the teams worked through the Tennessee Baptist Convention Student Ministries Department.

### Working in

#### the Dominican Republic

Seventy BSU students from UT-K worked in the Dominican Republic, reported Bob Hall, BSU director.

The students worked on five teams. One group helped lead a camp for hearing impaired children. A group worked with a Knoxville doctor and dentist to provide health care to residents. Students helped build a church building. A sports group held baseball clinics for children. Students taught puppeteering and clowning to members of a church. Still others presented skits and songs to local groups.

The country is considered the third poorest country in the world, noted Hall.

Emily Haun, a senior majoring in music education, was surprised by the extreme poverty she observed. "It was a culture shock," she said.

The poverty was confirmed by the health care volunteers. They treated 1,000 patients. William Acuff, a physician, and Gibbs M. Prevost, a dentist,

led the team. Students, some of whom were studying medicine, assisted.

Many of the people treated by the health care team were Haitians, said Hall. Because of extreme poverty, most never see doctors.

The teams took \$20,000 in medical supplies, which they left for the residents as well as many other gifts like sports equipment.

The sports team also worked with large numbers — about 1,000 children.

The students who ministered through leading a deaf camp had special experiences, Hall said. In the Dominican Republic, handicapped people often are isolated by their families. Many of the children who attended the camp had never been with other deaf children and didn't know how to communicate well, he explained. Seeing those children learn from the camp activities was rewarding, he added.

Haun, who has participated in similar trips to New Orleans, New York, and Costa Rica, said the trips bring her closer to God and show her just how much she takes for granted.

Jonathan Fant, a sophomore studying animal science, spent the week pouring concrete floors for a new church building and for a house for the church's pastor. He observed that the faith of the people in the Dominican Republic was great.

#### Union students spread out across the U.S.

The 133 students of Union University worked in nine locations. One team worked in Tennessee — in Appalachia.

"It was an incredible year; the Lord opened up a lot of ministry opportunities for us," Terri Kozlowski, Union's interim director of students ministries, said. "God challenged and changed everybody who volunteered in a special way."

While the teams were able to rejoice over their successes, students also learned to look to God in moments of apparent failure.

"A lot of things did not go at all like we'd planned," said Jason Logan, who worked in Galveston, Texas. "Still, we learned to seek God's will for our team and, through relying on him, found some really great opportunities to share Christ with people who really need him."

#### TTU team works at Baptist Center

A group of 33 students from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, worked at the Metropolitan Baptist Center in Indianapolis, Ind.

The students did construction work, reorganized a filing system, and distributed food and clothing. The students also visited homes and other residences to invite people to a new congregation which resulted in students conducting street evangelism.

Team members also formed music and creative ministries groups and led worship services in the community.

#### C-N students report gains

The 167 students at Carson-Newman College who did spring break work formed 12 teams. In Tennessee teams worked in Benton, Chattanooga, Franklin, and Nashville.

Nenette Measels, associate campus minister, reported the number of participants was one of the school's highest. The reports have been good, she said. "The students say they learned about spiritual growth and discipleship, gained a greater appreciation of their Christian homes, and developed an understanding of the tremendous needs of people in the world," she reported.

#### Belmont provides service

Two teams of students from Belmont University worked during spring break. A BSU group of 27 worked with Appalachian Outreach of Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky. Another project was designated a community service activity and was open to anyone on campus who wished to volunteer. Thirteen students joined that team and cleared a site for a proposed YMCA day camp in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., which was damaged by a hurricane.

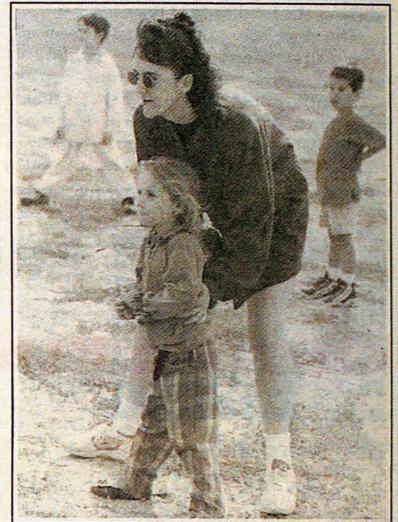
#### Dyersburg College sponsors team

Ten BSU members of Dyersburg State Community College ministered in Panama City, Fla. The students joined some 400 students participating in Beachreach '96. They focused on witnessing to people.

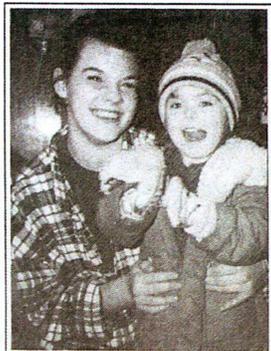
Will Holland, an elementary education major, said during the trip God told him to witness to a young woman who was in the company of two men. Holland did. She committed her life to God and her friend did also, Holland said. He said he continues to pray for the salvation of the other. □ — Contributing to this story were Angela Rich of UT-K's *The Daily Beacon* and Keith Curry of Union University.



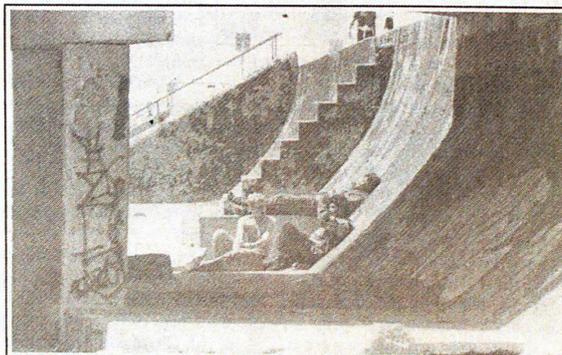
TENNESSEE TECH students, from left, Bret Aune, Melissa Johnson, and Eric Renner work on a ceiling at the Baptist Center in Indianapolis, Ind.



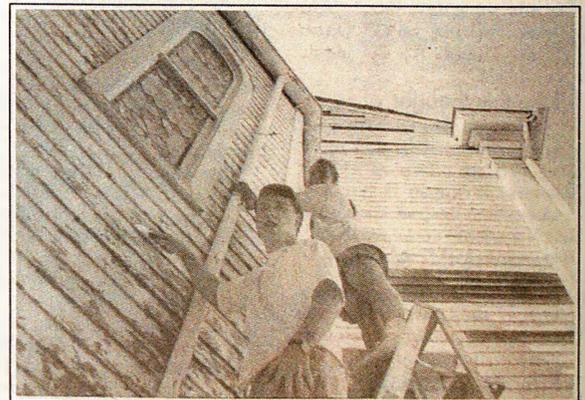
HELPING A CHILD during a game in Galveston, Texas, is Tiffany Stehle of Union University. The students led a Backyard Bible Club there.



TRYING ON some clothes at the Baptist Center in Indianapolis is a child with the help of Tennessee Tech student Meredith Crabtree.



WITNESSING to a homeless man under a pier on a Galveston, Texas, beach is Jason Logan of Union University.



SCRAPING a church building in New Orleans, La., in preparation for paint are Brandon Teestaller, left, and Susan Parks of Union University.

**Has written 1,300-plus articles**

## Jackson pastor's wife ministers through the written word

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Carolyn Tomlin always wanted to be a writer but didn't quite think she had what it took.

"I thought it (writing) was something special that came to just a few people," said Tomlin, whose husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Church. She soon found out differently.

In 1988 the former college professor and now kindergarten teacher attended her first writer's conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

There she met editors and made contacts and ended up getting a contract to write an article for *Living With Preschoolers*.

That was just the beginning. Though she wonders why it took her so long to get started Tomlin is well aware "things happen in God's time."

Since that first conference Tomlin has written some 1,300 articles for about 115 magazines including BSSB, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission periodicals.

She normally writes three to four articles a week and usually has about 25 out at all times.

And while Baptist publica-

tions are her primary target, Tomlin has written for other denominational publications.

Many of her topics are family-related and do not have to be geared to a particular denomination, Tomlin said. "I try to deal with things all parents have questions about," she said.

Her writing also spans beyond religion. "I have a wide variety of things I enjoy," she noted, including "how to" articles, gardening, travel, and recipes. She even has written articles on exploring caves and race car driving.

"Writing about what you know limits you. I enjoy writing about other things and doing research," she explained.

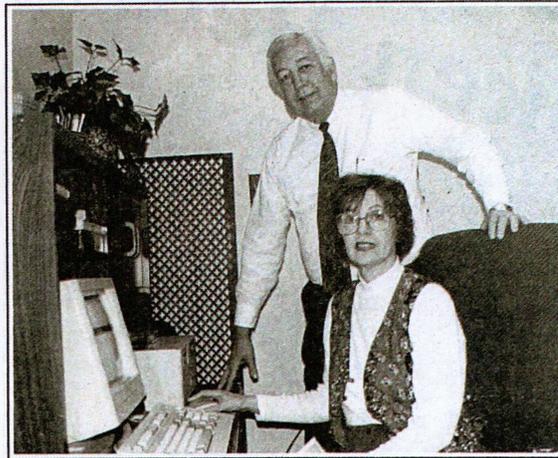
Yet, most of her writing does center around religious and family life.

Writing is a "ministry," Tomlin affirmed. "I've had so many people tell me how one of articles touched their life in a certain way."

Matt Tomlin is proud of his wife's accomplishments. The long-time Tennessee pastor and former Tennessee Baptist Children's home administrator, admits he "probably brags too much" about his wife.

"I am extremely proud of what she has done and continues to do," he said.

The pastor noted his wife



**MATT TOMLIN**, pastor of Ward's Grove Church, Jackson, is proud of the accomplishments of his wife, Carolyn, a kindergarten teacher who ministers to people through her writing.

reaches thousands of people through her writing which is "far more than I can reach through my preaching."

Tomlin assists his wife's writing in two ways, he said.

"I encourage her and try to stay out of her way," he laughed.

Carolyn Tomlin is grateful for her husband's support because writing is time consuming. "Matt realizes writing takes time," she acknowledged.

In addition to writing she spends considerable time read-

ing and doing research.

A person must have a passion for writing, Tomlin observed.

The hardest part about writing for her is when to stop, she said, noting it is not a chore to sit down at the computer and begin typing away.

"Writing is fun, enjoyable, and pleasurable. That attitude has helped me be more productive," she said.

In addition to writing and researching Tomlin has had to learn marketing skills. "There

is a lot to learn. You have to know how to sell yourself," she said.

"There is a lot of work involved. I spend as much time finding a market as I do preparing to write," she said.

Now that she is an accomplished writer, Tomlin enjoys sharing tips with other would be writers.

She has been back to the BSSB writer's conference every year since her first one and last year was the featured speaker at the banquet.

A teacher by profession, sharing with others about writing comes naturally for Tomlin. "One of my joys is teaching other people to write," she said.

And though it is fun, writing does bring with it a certain amount of responsibility, Tomlin acknowledged.

"I ask myself, 'Am I doing the best job possible so that it (her writing) may have a positive effect on people?'" she said.

Unlike the ministry of her husband which deals with the spoken word, her ministry is different. "Once it is printed, it is in stone," she said.

And while she gets paid for her articles, it is her passion for writing and not the money that keeps her motivated.

"I would write even if I didn't get paid," she affirmed. □

## Memphis church promotes home missions

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — While Kenny Rains was a staff member of the Brotherhood Commission here, he helped plan the *Master Planning Guide for Season of Home Missions*. After he became associate pastor at Faith Church, Bartlett, he decided to see if the plans worked.

The purpose of the guide is to get church leaders involved in leading the emphasis and to provide planning for all areas of the emphasis — Annie

Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, Home Mission Study, Week of Prayer, and Home Missions Day in Sunday School, said Rains, who also was Royal Ambassador director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

At Faith Church a cross-section of leaders were involved in planning the eight-week emphasis through the Church Missions Development Committee, which includes representatives of all missions organizations.

The church's emphasis included a variety of events. One activity was

"Muddin' for Missions," a mud volleyball tournament led by the church's student ministry group to raise funds for the offering. The student group also worked at Brinkley Heights Baptist Center in Memphis.

Although the volleyball event was not in the *Master Planning Guide* or the other helps provided by the Woman's Missionary Union, it was an outgrowth of the ideas, explained Rains.

Church members responded well, said Rains, even developing two new church ministries during the emphasis.

A nursing home ministry was started along with an effort to help families with members who have emotional, physical, or mental needs.

Faith Church overgave its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$3,000 which had been doubled from the previous year. Church members gave \$4,327. However, the church has grown from 652 Sunday School members last year at this time to 965 this year. The church's growth has resulted in it receiving the Eagle Award from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School Department.

The more usual activities of the missions emphasis included a missionary speaker from Montana, who spoke to youth, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and an evening worship crowd. The Home Missions Study was held for all age groups. A Week of Prayer video was used during worship services. A visual tracking system for the offering, a thermometer, was projected in the sanctuary. RAs and GAs raised funds through an associational hike. And the pastor, Danny Sinquefield, introduced the emphasis through a sermon.

Rains expects church members will become more involved in missions as time passes as a result of the emphasis. □



**PLAYING IN A MUD VOLLEYBALL** tournament, which was called 'Muddin' for Missions,' are members of the student ministry of Faith Church, Bartlett.



**LEADERS OF THE CHURCH**, which is just three years old, receive the Eagle Award for Sunday School growth April 21 from Roy Miller of the TBC. The leaders are Bill Essary, left, and Keith Hughes, Sunday School directors. The SS has grown from 146 members to 965 in two and a half years.

# "Mending Broken Hearts"

Help Us Mend Broken Hearts By Giving To The Mother's Day Offering on May 12



"... He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted ..."

(Luke 4:18 KJV)

Lauren cries softly to herself as she pulls the blanket over her head. Tonight, she's staying in a different house — again. Though her sister lies sleeping beside her in the small bed, she feels very much alone.

She hasn't seen her father in months. Lauren, her sister and two brothers have been shuttled from foster home to foster home because her mother, with no job and a dependency on alcohol, is unable to properly care for them. Before the four siblings were removed from the home, Lauren had known how it felt to be hungry, beaten, and even sexually abused.

**Mother's Day** is a heartbreaking time for Lauren and many of the children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They will not see their maternal mother for Mother's Day or any time soon. Hopefully we can provide as much love and understanding possible to help them through this special day.

Like Jesus we want to mend the hearts of the precious children in our care.

You can help change the hurt in young lives such as Lauren's. You can become a part of mending broken hearts through the **Mother's Day Offering**. This once-a-year gift of love provides one-third of our annual operating budget. It gives us the means to accept more

needy children into our care and provides you an opportunity to join with us in ministry to them.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is a place for the brokenhearted. With your help, it is our job to try and mend these hurting young lives. We depend on you because we accept no government money. Our primary purpose is to instill in children a lasting faith in Jesus without restrictions from the government. We believe Christ is the healer of broken hearts.

This ministry goes beyond the walls of the buildings on our campuses and beyond the boundaries of its' nine locations across the state. This ministry is your opportunity to get involved. The Mother's Day Offering can be your part in reaching out and having an active role in the ministry of TBCH.

As you focus on the special loved ones in your life on Mother's Day, please remember that there are children still searching for someone to love them. **Please pray** for children like Lauren at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and pray for the staff who nurtures them. Your prayers of encouragement and gifts of love through the Mother's Day Offering will help us, through Jesus, mend broken hearts.

**Statewide Goal**  
**\$1,215,000**



**Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.**

*A Benevolent Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention*

Owned and operated by the 2,900-plus churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We offer care, counseling, and spiritual guidance to the abused, neglected and abandoned children of Tennessee. Programs include residential care, foster home care, adoption service, alternative homes for unwed mothers, boys ranch for troubled youth, GENESIS ministry for emotionally troubled girls, emergency placement services, independent living programs, and family counseling. There are nine locations across the state with 30 homes.

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(Adv.)

## ■ the leaders

■ **Fred E. A. Johnson** will retire as pastor of Grace Church, Nashville, effective Dec. 31, 1996. Johnson has served the church as pastor for over 24 years. In January he retired as chaplain in the Air National Guard for 27 years. He held the rank of colonel. Grace Church has named Johnson pastor emeritus, a role he will hold upon retirement. He is looking forward to serving in short-term ministry and mission work.

■ **First Church, Bethel Springs**, has called **Cliff Vines** as youth director, effective May 1.

■ **Bellevue Church, Nashville**, has called **Mike Ray Shelton** as pastor, effective April 28. He was pastor of Central Church, Hendersonville. He also has served as pastor of Shoals Church, Shoals, Ind., and interim minister of youth, First Church, Murfreesboro. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he is continuing his studies.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Lexington**, held revival April 14-19.

Henry Linginfelter, evangelist of Alcoa, and Julian Suggs of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, led it. Eight people joined the church and 29 made professions of faith.

■ **Highland Park Church, Jackson**, has extra tickets for the May 24-25 Promise Keepers Conference in Atlanta. Call Jerry Eggenberger at (901) 422-5171, if interested.

■ **Central Church, Hixson**, hosted an Awaken America Rally May 6 led by Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor, First Church, Springdale, Ark. Worship will be led by a team from the Arkansas church.

■ **First Church, Nashville**, is helping Salem Missionary Church, Humboldt, whose building was destroyed by fire Dec. 30. The Nashville church responded to a newspaper story about the disaster. It has sent furnishings and children's educational supplies to help the church. The Humboldt congregation is meeting in a store building. Also, the Nashville congregation has sent \$3,876 to the congregation.

■ **Brace Church, Summertown**, held a camp meeting revival April 14-26. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld and David Thorton led it. Twenty-two people made professions of faith and a total of 60 people made spiritual decisions. Nine local churches provided



**PASTOR KEN CLAYTON**, left, of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, presents a plaque to member **Ward Moore** in recognition of Moore's 100th birthday. Moore also was given a birthday cake during the April 21 morning worship service to commemorate the event.

music during the event.

## ■ the associations

■ **Cumberland Association** held its semi-annual meeting April 29. About 130 messengers from 26 churches attended. They heard reports by associational leaders and by Tami Fraley who represented the Clarksville Alternative Home for Unwed Mothers. Messengers voted to accept the Korean Church into the fellowship. It has been a mission of New Providence Church, Clarksville, and Northside Church, Clarksville.



**POSING IN FRONT OF A CONTAINER** filled with aid for Western Ukraine are, from left, **Pierce McIntyre** of Nashville; **Hala Onishko** of Nashville, who is from the Ukraine; and **Dixie and Gary Hines**, who are members of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, and who lead Cornerstone International Ministries. The church served as the collection site for the six-month effort. Baptist Hospital, of which McIntyre is a trustee, provided a portable x-ray unit for a hospital in Boryslav, Ukraine, and other equipment. First Church, Henderson, also helped lead the project.

## ■ the schools

■ **Katharine Bryan**, executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, during its May 11 commencement ceremonies. The award is presented annually to a person who "evidences a spirit of love and helpfulness to all mankind," the college reported. She is an alumna of the school.

■ **Lynn Alexander**, assistant professor of education at **Carson-Newman College**, was awarded the national Lane Bryant Award, which recognizes community service, for her historic preservation efforts in East Tennessee. It was presented during the May 11

## ■ deaths

commencement service to her husband since Alexander is ill.

■ **Olin D. Richards** of Thomaston, Ga., resident manager of Camp Linden from 1969-74, died April 22. Richards is survived by his wife and four sons, including Jerre Richards of Franklin and Steve Richards of Brentwood. Memorial contributions can be made to Trinity Baptist Church Cancer Care Fund in Thomaston, Ga.

■ **Normal M. Watson**, 74, of Maryville, died recently. He was a retired pastor who still did supply work in churches. He had served churches in Monroe, Hamblen, and Blount counties. Watson is survived by his wife of 54 years, Roberta Bain Watson of Maryville and a son. Memorial donations can be made to Notchy Creek Church, Madisonville, or the Gideon Living Memorial.

# Rapha's Eighth Annual Luncheon at SBC Pastors' Conference

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# BSSB unveils 'LeaderCare' for pastors, church staff in crisis

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "LeaderCare," a strategy to provide a network of help for pastors and staff in crisis, has been announced by the Baptist Sunday School Board, along with a realignment of the agency's pastor-staff leadership department.

According to Mike Miller, director of the board's church leadership services division, LeaderCare will provide resources and a network for help in personal crisis prevention, intervention, and restoration for pastors, other church staff, and their families.

To facilitate processes for LeaderCare and other work of the pastor-staff leadership department, Miller said a realignment of the department's work became effective May 1 with three sections — personal development, professional development, and resource development — providing services to pastors and staff persons.

Managing the personal development section, where major focus will be on LeaderCare, will be Brooks Faulkner, a 31-year board employee and longtime consultant with ministers. Working with him will be Norris Smith and Neil Knierim, both of whom are widely known in work with pastors and other church staff persons. Linda Miniard, a field service planning and projects coordinator in the ministry leadership and development department, will assume a newly created position to work with women on church staffs.

LeaderCare resources and services will be provided in partnership with state conventions, associations, and other minister support groups, taking advantage of established quality sources for help, as appropriate, rather than duplicating efforts.

"We do not envision our-

selves as doing this ministry alone," said BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. "Wherever there may be resources, we see ourselves as partners. This is far too significant for us to take ownership. I don't believe any one of us can do it. I believe we're going to have to tap every resource in the Southern-

Baptist Convention. We want to help mesh together and maximize our resources."

Draper said the SBC needs to find ways to prevent situations in which pastors "hit the wall from being fired or from ethical or moral breakdown. We are a convention of discouraged ministers." □

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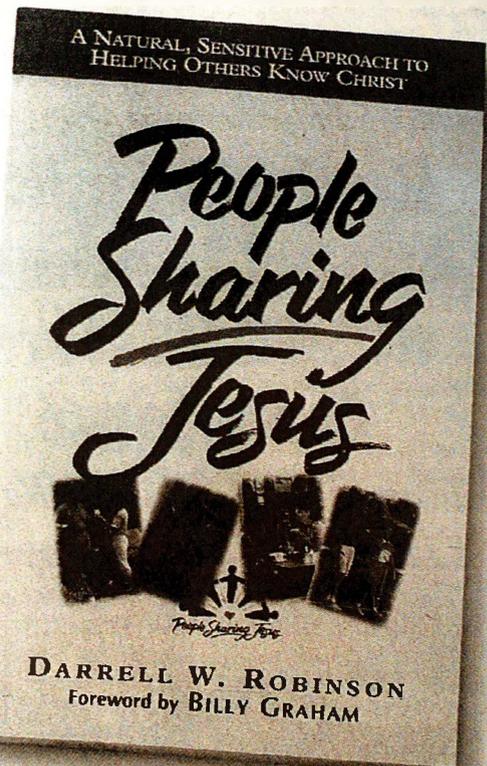
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The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana is seeking a recently retired couple to accept a two-year commitment as full-time Mission Service Corps. The volunteers serve as statewide church music and childhood education coordinators. Housing, travel expenses, and a small stipend provided. For more information, contact Gary Bearce, Church Development Director, at (317)241-9317.

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**Life and Work Series  
for May 12  
Focal Passage:  
II Thessalonians 1:3-12**

## Trust God

By L. Joseph Rosas III

We enjoy the privileges of religious liberty in America. However, many Christians around the world face persecution, imprisonment, and even death. Our God is just and will ultimately be vindicated. Our confidence in God should encourage faithfulness even in the midst of difficulties.

**Perseverance is possible (vv. 3-4).** Writing from Corinth several weeks after sending his first letter, Paul opens with a greeting similar to that of I Thessalonians. He adds "our" to his description of God as Father indicating his unity as a brother in Christ with this beloved congregation. Paul continues with words of gratitude and commendation. Paul saw a deepening relationship to God on display in their lives. Their relationship to God had a positive and practical consequence in their relationship with each other. They could take encouragement from the fact their example was a testimony to others. Their faith endured through trial and tribulation as well as in the good times.

**God will act on behalf of his people (vv. 5-7).** They were not immune to suffering. Indeed, it was the necessary crucible that refined and proved their faith. The fact they had remained faithful was evidence of God's continuing grace in their lives. Just as they had faithfully trusted him through times of difficulty, they could also rest assured they would ultimately be vindicated. God will pay back those who trouble you and give relief to the troubled. God's justice will be revealed at the time of Christ's return. Jesus will come in blazing fire, a reference to judgment that both destroys what is bad and purifies that which is good.

**God will treat everyone justly (vv. 8-10).** Those who are outside the pale of God's grace who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction or a state of complete ruin in which all that is worthwhile in life ends forever. The ultimate agony of this punishment will be full and final separation from God. Believers can look forward with anticipation to being glorified.

**God's power is available through prayer (vv. 11-12).** "With this in mind" — the return of Christ (the judgment of the lost and the vindication of the people of God), Paul finds encouragement to pray. Paul prayed constantly or literally in every circumstance and situation in life. The fact they were called by God is the basis for both their worthiness and their continued faithfulness. God's power was the key to energizing their good intentions. We often pray with mixed or selfish motives like the man who said, "Lord bless me, my brother and no other." Paul was motivated to pray in order that God might be honored and the Lord Jesus glorified in and through the lives of his saints.

Christians today can draw upon the grace of God through prayer. Prayer is our mightiest spiritual weapon. It can never be taken forcefully from the believer. We may not suffer the persecution experienced at times in the past or in some parts of the world today, but we should be in the habit of praying for those who endure persecution for their faith. Further, we all face the challenges of life. Ultimately our faith will be tested by difficulties. Suffering is a reality that can be endured only by the continuing grace of God and our continued faithfulness to him. May each of us appropriate "the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." □ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

## Teachings about loving enemies

By Kevin Goza

**Convention Uniform Series  
for May 12  
Focal Passage:  
Matthew 5:38-48**

All will admit that this selection from the Sermon on the Mount is highly relevant. Interpersonal conflict is on every hand. How do we deal with our temptations to retaliate against people who insult us?

Jesus first addresses retaliatory actions (vv. 38-42). The Latin term "Lex Talionis" describes a law which was in place that provided for legal justice. The purpose for such a law was to prevent overly severe punishment. "Eye for an eye" describes punishment which would have been equal to the crime. The human tendency is to go too far in the punishment process.

Jesus disallowed overly harsh punishment. While our Lord does not deny that the law of retaliation is a valid principle, he does insist on a higher principle: Christian kindness should transcend human retribution.

The directive is to resist the evil person, even when they openly insult you. When one was struck on the right cheek (v. 39), it usually meant that a right-handed person used the back of their hand to strike another on the face. A back-handed slap was considered a terrible insult by the Jewish person. The purpose of offering the other cheek is to break the chain of action-reaction by which most of the world lives.

The Law required that one give their inner garment in settlement of a claim. Jesus said one should go beyond the requirement — give the outer garment as well. The Law required that if a Roman soldier called on you to carry military equipment, you were only obligated for one mile. Jesus said to carry the load two miles. Imagine the shock experienced by the soldier who had conscripted the individual to carry his equipment. If one should ask for a favor, Jesus said to go beyond what would be expected in attempting to help.

With every situation, Jesus called for more intense

self-sacrifice. The follower of Jesus is to reject all behavior which is strictly retaliatory, and must work toward creating positive relationships with those who cause problems or bring harm. Jesus was radical for his day, and

many would see his teaching equally radical for our day. However, it is critically important for those without Christ to see a qualitative difference in the way Christians respond to evil in the world.

Verses 43-48 show how some misquoted the Law to allow for hatred. Leviticus 19:18 says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." However, it does not say "and hate your enemy." Hatred of enemies was a common practice in Jesus' day, promoted on the assumption that somewhere the Scriptures provide for such behavior.

Again, Jesus uproots traditional teaching and provides a more demanding ethic. "Love" (v. 44) refers to a self-sacrificial relationship which desires the other person's good. Those who exercise such love demonstrate conclusively that they are citizens of the Father's kingdom. Christians receive their share of the ups and downs of life, yet they choose to respond in ways that mark them as citizens of another place (v. 25).

In exercising this kind of love toward those who are unlovable, the Christian takes love to a higher plane. Anyone can love someone who returns their love. It takes great commitment and vibrant discipleship for one to take love across the boundaries created by abuse, disagreements, and hatred.

Loving your enemies is a step of Christian maturity (v. 28). In doing so, you are more like your Father in heaven, for through Jesus, "God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.

## Warning and encouragement

By Tom Moncrief

**Bible Book Series for May 12  
Focal Passage:  
Zechariah 3:1-2, 6-8; 4:1-6, 8-10a**

God called to Zechariah's attention Joshua, the high priest, who was standing before an angel. To his right stood his accuser. Whatever the charge, the Lord brings the verdict of not guilty and rebukes the accuser.

This setting follows the way of settling a dispute by having the accusation made "before the Lord." Usually they would stand before the priest, but in this case the high priest is being accused and they stand before the Lord's messenger, an angel.

The accusation is out of place as shown by the Lord who hath chosen Jerusalem ... (v. 2). He had moved beyond judgment revealed by the exile and had now turned to his people in mercy and comfort. Referring to Joshua as "a brand plucked out of the fire" also confirms this.

As the accuser brought charges against God's servant, similar situations develop today. Who of us has not known of some servant of the Lord who has been accused of wrong-doing? Whenever accusations are unfounded and out of place a servant's ministry may still be destroyed. Human nature seems to delight in believing something bad more than something good. Perhaps a reminder of "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (Psalm 105:15) is in order.

Joshua was accepted before God and his filthy clothes of contrition and fasting were replaced with fresh clothes. Tragically, the crushed reputation caused by false accusations are more lasting than filthy garments which can be removed.

God shows his acceptance of Joshua by telling him if he is genuinely dedicated to the Lord rather than worshiping idols and will fulfill instructions for worship then God will use him and bless him. Joshua and those with him are referred to as "men wondered at." This word is the same as in "signs and wonders" in Exodus where it refers to works which witness to the work of God. In that light, Joshua and his fellows are seen as witnesses to God's saving work. The statement refers to "God's decisive act" and gives direction to the prophecy. They were to see this against the background of God's bringing his servant the branch. This evidently points beyond the immediate to the Messiah.

The angel showed Zechariah that Joshua and Zerubbabel would be used of the Lord to complete the task of rebuilding the temple. This would be accomplished, however, only by

the power of God's spirit. Just as the olive oil was supplied for the candlestick in the vision, God's spirit would be continuous power to them in completing the task. The people would know that God truly had sent Zechariah as his prophet.

Zerubbabel would use a plummet to place the stones in proper alignment and to set the capstone. The people would have unbelief and grumbling turned to rejoicing and thanksgiving.

God cleansed Joshua for religious service and Zerubbabel for civic and political leadership. He was in their midst by his spirit.

In the process, the people had complained that this building was too simple. God reminded them about despising the day of small things. This reminds us that no task for God is small. As long as one is faithful to God and his will even the simple thing is important. Depending upon him and being submissive to his spirit give honor to any role of loving service. God receives the service and the servant and gives his blessings. □ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.

## Powell nominee for SBC first vice president

Baptist Press

AURORA, Colo. — Fred Powell, president of Communicators Ministries, Richmond, Mo., will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to an announcement by Jerry Johnson, a Colorado pastor who is trustee chairman at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Powell also has served for several months as special assistant for transition to new Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Mark Coppenger.

Powell is former senior associate pastor of First Church, Atlanta. □

## Nashvillian gives \$10 million to endow pharmacy school

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Samford University alumnus and hospital executive R. Clayton McWhorter of Nashville has donated more than \$10 million to endow the university's pharmacy school.

It is the largest single contribution from a living individual in Samford history. The school will be named in honor of McWhorter, his brother, Fred, a Chattanooga pharmacist, and other family members.

McWhorter is chairman of the board of Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation, the largest investor-owned hospital in the United States. □

## Volunteers venture into South Africa

Baptist Press

SARCOXIE, Mo. — More than 250,000 people — sometimes as many as a half-million — camp outside South African cities, building homes of tin, dirt, or whatever they can find. They are literally in the dark without electricity and spiritually in the dark without the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

More than 3,000 South Africans were given medical care by 22 volunteer Southern Baptist medical professionals from 12 states in a recent two-week trip focusing on squatters' villages. About 800 of the patients accepted Christ through the team's witness, according to Tim Cox World Ministries, a Foreign Mission Board approved partnership

evangelism organization from Mountainburg, Ark., that organized the trip.

The professionals donated medicine and 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses. □

## S.C. names Bullard to new 'unique' position

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Citing an emerging obligation to share what they are learning about church and denominational growth, the South Carolina Baptist Convention's executive board has elected George W. Bullard Jr. as national consultant for denominational transformation.

The position is unique among Baptist state conventions because it crosses both state and denominational lines.

Bullard, currently director of the convention's strategic development and associational growth team, will assist churches and denominations across the nation with strategies for increasing membership, developing disciples, and expanding ministries.

The new three-year assignment began May 1. □

## RTVC trustees name incorporators, elect officers for fiscal year

Baptist Press

IRVING, Texas — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission named two incorporators to assist with the new North American Mission Board and elected officers for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

Named as incorporators were Ray Finch of Catoosa, Okla., and Gary Underwood of Texarkana, Ark.

C. Wyman Copass of Owensboro, Ky., was re-elected chairman. □

## Midwestern trustees approve center for biblical revival

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have approved creation of the Midwestern Center for Biblical Revival and an academic extension center based in Chicago.

The center is intended to spread President Mark Coppenger's advocacy of "prairie fire" revival. It will organize workshops, seminars, and conferences on the theme of bibli-



## Tennessee Baptist elected class officer

Daniel Raymond Farmer, second from right, was elected vice president for the School of Christian Education in the May graduating class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Farmer is the son of Dan and Sarah Farmer of Johnson City. His home church is Southwestern in Johnson City, but he attended Woodmont Church, Nashville, while going to undergraduate school at Vanderbilt University. Other officers, from left, are Dean Whitaker, Phillip Campbell, Julie Wiegand, Gregory Thornbury, and Bryant Shaver. Commencement exercises at Southern will be held May 17.

cal revival on the seminary campus. James Elliff, an itinerant Bible teacher, writer, and conference leader from North Little Rock, Ark., was appointed as the center's resident consultant.

In this nonsalaried position, Elliff will continue his Christian Communicators Worldwide ministry and move his headquarters to the seminary.

The new extension center in Chicago will begin this fall with credit courses leading to a master of divinity degree and will be hosted by the Chicago Metropolitan Association. □

## Bill Tanner suffers mild heart attack

Baptist Press

SHAWNEE, Okla. — William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, will be out of his office at least until May 15, after undergoing an angioplasty procedure April 22. He suffered a mild heart attack April 18 and was hospitalized first in Shawnee.

Damage to his heart was described as minor.

Tanner is former president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. □

## RTVC to premiere documentary in June

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Messengers to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans in June will have an opportunity to see the world premiere of a one-hour televi-

sion documentary produced by the Radio and Television Commission that will be broadcast by NBC affiliates at a later date.

The documentary, "The American Dream/Nightmare," will be shown at the SBC June 11 at 9 p.m. in quad rooms 7-11 of the Superdome.

"Many Southern Baptists are not aware that we annually produce documentaries that are broadcast by the affiliates of the ABC and NBC television networks," said RTVC President Jack Johnson.

The documentary broadcast will be an opportunity to showcase the quality of work done by the RTVC, he added.

The documentary deals with societal problems and issues of concern to all Christians.

There are 1,000 free tickets available for the premiere on a first-come basis. They can be obtained at the RTVC's SBC exhibit or by calling Shawn Switzer at (817) 737-4011. □

## Kentucky school gets university status

Baptist Press

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. — Campbellsville College has announced it is changing to university status.

Now to be known as Campbellsville University, the Kentucky Baptist-affiliated school will reach "heights never before imagined," said trustee chairman John Chowning.

The university has an enrollment of 1,366 students and was listed this year in U.S. News & World Report as being among the top 66 liberal arts colleges in the South. □

## Spat shows cult's desire for mainstream

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Reaction to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' refusal to honor a Mormon student shows the cult's desire for mainstream status and the ignorance of many Christians about Mormon teachings, said Southern Baptist interfaith leaders.

"Over the last 10-plus years, the Mormon church has made a very deliberate, conscious effort to cast themselves as mainstream Protestants and evangelical," said Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. Such posturing, Roberts added, has "an ulterior motive to prosthetize Protestants."

News reports state a Nashville chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes informed a student he could not receive athlete of the year honors because he is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

While Mormons say they believe Jesus is their savior, Latter-day Saints hold basic beliefs that differ significantly from Christianity, placing them in the category of cults, HMB officials added. □

## SBC chaplains to meet

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Southern Baptist Chaplains Convocation will meet June 10 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. □