

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 162 / Number 24

Statewide Edition

June 12, 1996

## this week's news

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- ▶ King's Academy sends mission team to Mexico. — Page 3



MISSIONS IN MEXICO

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## To Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

# Baptists give record amount

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions posted its third straight gain in as many years and came just shy of \$90 million when the books closed May 31.

The record 1995 offering of \$89,019,719.75 represented an increase over 1994 of more than \$3.1 million, or 3.59 percent. It amounted to about 99 percent of the figure on which

the Foreign Mission Board based its 1996 budget.

Tennessee Baptists have given \$6,716,257.02 to the offering from last November through June 7, according to Debbie Taylor of the Tennessee Baptist Convention accounting office.

The offering will fund about half of the board's entire \$193 million budget. Most of the other half will come from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

"The Lottie Moon receipts, paired with record levels of giving to the Cooperative Program, will enable us to continue to send out and support unprecedented levels of missionary personnel," said FMB President Jerry Rankin.

The offering will provide about \$3.66 million in 1996 for capital spending needs such as new construction and vehicles. The previous two offerings provided \$2.57 million in 1995 and \$1.92 million in 1994. ■

## Students to share Christ this summer

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Many Tennessee college students will be among hundreds of students attempting to harvest souls for Christ this summer.

Forty-seven students who will be serving in Tennessee attended an orientation last week at the Baptist Center. They join 11 other students who will be working in states outside Tennessee and in two countries — Canada and Africa.

These students are sponsored by state BSUs and various TBC departments. Many other Tennessee students are being sent out as summer missionaries through the Home and Foreign mission boards and other organizations.

"More people are becoming aware of using students as a resource for ministry during the

summer and are providing some challenging opportunities of service during this time," said Irceel Harrison, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Student Ministries Department.

The Foreign Mission Board reported a record 374 students who will participate in an FMB-sponsored student summer mission program, according to a June 6 Baptist Press release.

The FMB program has grown sharply in recent years. In 1990 missionaries on the field requested only 144 students and 104 were assigned. This year missionaries requested 444 students and there were 374 assigned.

In addition to meeting short-term needs and sharing Christ with people, student missions also has played a role in producing many career missionaries. — (See photos on pages 1-2) B&R

## Your Reflector: same newspaper with new design

By now, you probably have noticed changes in the design and layout of the 162-year-old *Baptist and Reflector*.

We've tried to give readers sufficient notice so you would recognize your old friend with the new look.

Additional changes are planned to provide better service for readers, in coming weeks. In this issue we include Christian music and computer news and a church-related cartoon.

This is the second issue with the new design, and reading the paper should be easier. Some regular features have been placed on different pages. For example, "Families Matter" is on page 4. This well-read column will be enhanced regularly by related columns.

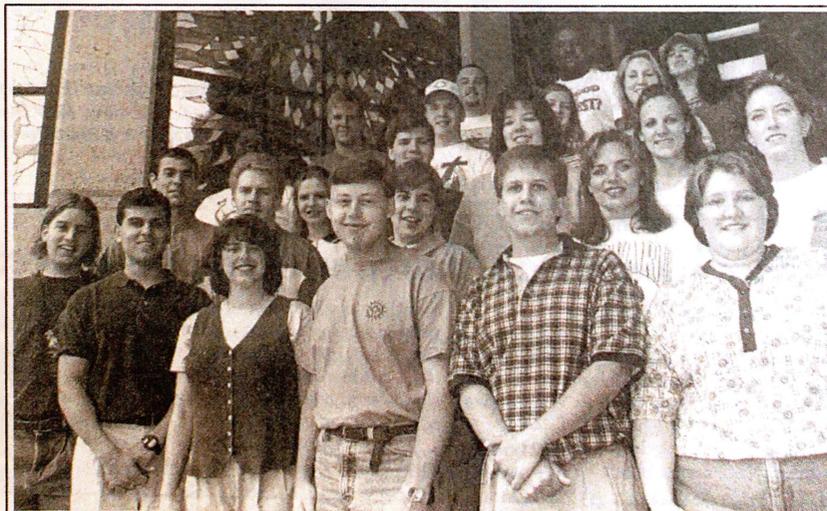
Our aim also is to make articles of special interest easy to identify.

The *Baptist and Reflector's* writers are covering the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans this week. Next issue will include news, features, and photos of that meeting, with a Tennessee Baptist focus.

Good reading! — B&R

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

## Summer missionaries attend orientation at Baptist Center



Baptist Student Union directed missionaries, from left, first row, are Kenny Bernitt, Manchester; Marc Sebes, Nashville; Natasha Lindley, Jackson; Brian Joyner, South Carolina; Dennis Carver, Johnson City; Brittnie Slaughter, Cleveland; second row, Daniel Wilkins, Knoxville; Jason Combs, Ohio; Laurel Burrough, Georgia; Kerry Cobb, Tullahoma; Mindi McComb, Texas; third row, Allataye Russ, Alabama; Deborah Jenkins, Mississippi; Lance Crocker, Miss.; Bethanie Pilkinton, Franklin; Pam Minneman, Maryland; fourth row, Joel Bernard, Orlinda; David Gladson, Kingsport; Kim Choate, Ten Mile; Lauren Jones, Texas; fifth row, Chad Renew, Florida; Stan Caldwell, Florida; and Jessica Mordy, Cottontown.

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- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
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- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Address changes** — Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

# SBC CP giving increases 25 percent in May

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the month of May increased dramatically — more than 25 percent — over the previous year and pushed the SBC fiscal year's receipts up nearly 2.5 percent over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

The May total of \$12,838,700 was

\$2,575,259 more than May 1995, an increase of 25.09 percent. It was the largest single month increase since September 1994 when that month exceeded the September 1993 by 27.53 percent.

At the end of the eight months of the SBC fiscal year, receipts totaled \$98,927,932, which is \$2,333,613 or 2.42 percent more than the same period last year.

Designated gifts for May also increased: \$17,742,912 compared to

\$13,229,312, or a 34.11 percent increase over a year ago. Year-to-date designated gifts also were up: \$114,278,816, compared to \$105,783,954 a year ago, an increase of 8.03 percent. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong mission offerings, world hunger, and other special gifts.

For the SBC budget, year-to-date, the budget has been exceeded by 4.77 percent or \$4,508,514 above the required \$94,419,418 needed for eight months. ■

# Texas board endorses response targeting homosexuality

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board unanimously adopted a committee report June 4 stating the convention already has the process in place to deny seating to messengers from churches with homosexual deacons or pastors.

Following a motion by Bruce Prescott of Houston, the executive board adopted without debate the report from the BGCT messenger seating study committee.

Chairman Hollie Atkinson of Marshall said he hoped the report would "be a guide to credential committees dealing with the homosexual issue into the next century."

The report still must be approved by messengers to the 1996 state convention in Fort Worth, Nov. 11-12. The 14-member committee was appointed after the BGCT received a motion from Don Workman of Lubbock at last November's annual meeting that the convention amend its governing documents "to not

allow churches that have practicing homosexuals as deacons or pastors to be seated as messengers."

The study committee recommended no change in the convention's constitution, saying the BGCT already has the foundation, rationale, and means to exclude messengers.

"The Bible is the foundation, the constitution is the rationale, and the credentials committee and the will of the body are the means," the committee's report stated.

The committee concluded

that the convention's purpose of promoting "harmony of feeling and concert of action" in advancing God's kingdom would best be served by not amending the constitution "to name one or more sinful practices."

"The convention can and will deal with messenger seating issues as they arise with constitutional provisions already in place," the report stated. The report also encouraged Texas Baptists "to follow Jesus' model of loving and redemptive ministry to all persons." ■



**HOME MISSION BOARD** summer missionaries are, from left, first row, Bart Dalton, Nashville; Ellen Fory, Knoxville; Stacey Adkins, Texas; Shelley Nickles, Mississippi; second row, Lee Wilson, Savannah; Kerri Story, Livingston; Lisa Wallentinson, Arizona; and Camille Townsend, Texas.



## More Student Missionaries — See Page 1



**RECRUITED BY** Baptist Centers in Nashville and Memphis are, from left, first row, Charles Elliott, Camden; Ben Rainey, Cordova; Ann Rose Belcher, Kentucky; Michelle Johnson, Murfreesboro; second row, Perry Pennington, Germantown; Jason Cox, Bartlett; Laura Howell, Germantown; Stephen Currie, Texas; third row, Kris Carlson, Cookeville; Andrea Boyer, Millington; and John Latenight, Texas.

**WORKING FOR** the TBC Sunday School Department are, from left, Brian Crenshaw, New Bern; Missy Payne, Kentucky; Kathy Lane, Munford; and Brent Crenshaw, New Bern.

# African-American church in Memphis makes plans to build

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Zoe Church, which met in a house in North Memphis for three years, is trying to recover from a fire which damaged the house Jan. 15.

Even before the fire, the congregation was saving money to enable it to add an

addition to the house to provide for the growing congregation. Because of the fire, it has had to raise more money, but the Lord has blessed, said Pastor James Henderson. Zoe Church is ready to build and needs some help.

The congregation, which meets at Parkway Village Church, Memphis,

plans to add a multi-purpose addition to its 1,700 square foot building located on a one acre site and repair the damage caused by the fire.

Volunteers willing to help the members should contact Henderson at (901) 365-9293 or the Shelby Association at (901) 756-4012. — B&R

# Jerry Rankin retraces steps of Lottie Moon in new book

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Jerry Rankin wanted to understand the life and influence of Lottie Moon, Southern Baptists' most famous missionary, more deeply.

So last year the Foreign Mission Board president and his wife, Bobbye, followed Moon's historic footsteps — all the way from her Virginia birthplace to China, where she spent four decades serving people and spreading the Gospel until her death in 1912.

Rankin finished the journey convinced no other Virginian — including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson — "has had such a global impact. Her influence is not limited to this nation or even this world. It has eternal significance."

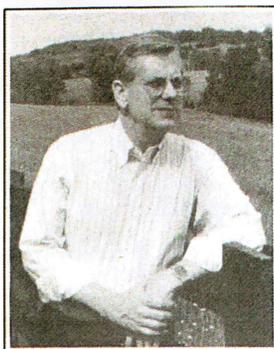
How could he reach such a conclusion?

Rankin makes his case in a new book, *A Journey of Faith and Sacrifice: Retracing the*

*Steps of Lottie Moon*. He describes today's rapidly growing Chinese church, nurtured in its infancy by Moon and other missionaries and tempered by the storms of the communist era. Rankin also examines the opportunities and challenges facing Christians and missionaries worldwide as the 21st century approaches.

The book is a record in words and photographs of Rankin's trek and the insights it produced about the work of Moon — a tiny woman who defied enormous odds to go alone to China in 1873 as an unmarried female missionary, who challenged a fledgling denomination to build one of the largest mission efforts in church history, and who continues to inspire it today.

Just released by New Hope, publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, the book will be unveiled during the Southern



**FMB PRESIDENT Jerry Rankin began his exploration of the life of Lottie Moon on the Virginia estate where the legendary Southern Baptist missionary was born.**

Baptist Convention and WMU annual meetings this week in New Orleans.

Collaborating with Rankin was award-winning FMB photographer Don Rutledge, who

has covered missions in scores of countries. Rutledge produced more than 60 full-color portraits of "Lottie Moon country" in the United States and China for the hardback, coffee-table book. WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien wrote the book's foreword.

In his introduction, Rankin relates his fascination since boyhood with Moon.

"As a child in Sunbeams and later Royal Ambassadors, I was captivated by the story of Lottie Moon, told to us along with accounts of contemporary missionaries as if she were still alive," he writes. "And in a sense she is; her calling and sacrificial commitment continue to inspire hundreds of Southern Baptist missionaries who still follow in her steps."

Reflecting on his own experiences as a missionary to Indonesia and global perspective as FMB president, Rankin views Moon's life in the context

of the last century of Southern Baptist missions and the next century's challenges.

In asking for more mission workers, Moon once appealed: "Please say to the missionaries that they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial ... If 'the joy of the Lord be their strength,' the blessedness of the work will more than compensate for its hardships."

Those words, writes Rankin, "are as true today as they were a hundred years ago. Technology may have advanced, with consumer goods and luxuries in abundance. But sacrifice and hardship continue to be the lot of a missionary who would identify with the people and discover the joy in suffering."

Rankin and Rutledge will autograph copies of the book June 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Baptist Book Store during the SBC meeting in the Louisiana Superdome. ■

## Intercom prayer banned in Mississippi public school

Baptist Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Permitting student-led prayer and Bible reading over a public school intercom system violates the separation of church and state, a federal judge has ruled in a case which focused nationwide attention on a northeast Mississippi county.

Judge Neal Biggers issued a permanent injunction June 3 ordering the Pontotoc County School District not only to halt devotionals over the intercom at North Pontotoc Attendance Center but also to stop authorizing vocal prayers by elementary classes before going to the cafeteria for lunch and the current method of teaching a Bible history course. Biggers also banned the use in American history classes of three videos, including "America's Godly Heritage" by conservative Christian speaker/writer David Barton.

The judge for the northern district of

Mississippi allowed, however, the school district to continue to permit student-led devotionals in the gymnasium before the class day begins. He also said kindergarten and elementary students could participate in the preschool gatherings if they had written permission from a parent.

The school and its lawyers said a decision had not been made on whether to appeal the ruling.

The case began in December 1994 when Lisa Herdahl filed suit against the school district for allowing such practices. Herdahl and her five children had moved from Wisconsin to Ecru, Miss. They have been threatened and harassed as a result of the suit, she said. As a result, she and others involved in the case appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" earlier this year and have been featured in national publications.

The trial in federal court was held in

early March.

While People for the American Way and the American Civil Liberties Union assisted Herdahl in the case, many Southern Baptists at the local and national level supported the school's position. Michael Whitehead began assisting the school district while he was general counsel of the Christian Life Commission and continued to help after becoming a vice president at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., served as the school district's expert witness at the three-day trial.

People for the American Way general counsel Elliot Minberg called the opinion a "significant affirmation of religious liberty and constitutional principles that have been under attack. The religious right, claiming religious per-

secution, has made frequent attempts to rewrite our Bill of Rights and dismantle the protections built into the First Amendment. ... This decision, however, reinforces the principle of separation between church and state."

Whitehead said, "Judge Biggers jokes that as long as there are tests there will be silent prayers in public school. But a silent prayer over a test paper is not much religious freedom. Surely the First Amendment guarantees more religious freedom than that."

Whitehead described the opinion as less than a total victory for the ACLU and PAW, saying the school district made some major gains. He, along with Christian Life Commission President Richard Land, called the inclusion of younger children in the religious exercise before school as the most significant development in the opinion, with implications for the scope of the Equal Access Act. ■

## King's Academy teacher sparks interest in mission project in Mexico

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — King's Academy Spanish teacher Cindy



**KING'S ACADEMY student Nathan Grubb of Seymour made new friends on a mission trip to Mexico.**

Donaldson traveled to Matamoros, Mexico, last summer to help build houses for needy people, teach children about the love of Jesus Christ, and share her faith.

She came back with an idea.

During her work there she thought about what a great experience her students would have if they came to Mexico on a mission trip.

When Donaldson returned to King's Academy (Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy) last fall, she presented

a chapel program featuring the work in Matamoros. She challenged the students to pray about God leading them to give up their spring break to help with the work in Mexico.

Several responded to the call and the result was seven students and three teachers raising \$600 each to pay their way to Matamoros in late Spring to work.

While in Mexico the group worked with a non-denominational organization to construct a new house for a young couple with one child. Although the house is small and simple with few amenities, it is a significant improvement over

where the family had been living — a small frame structure with a dirt floor.

The academy students also conducted Bible schools for area children.

David Mosher, an English as a second language teacher at the academy, led a woman to faith in God as he walked from house to house sharing his personal testimony.

"We saw evidence of God's faithfulness and sufficiency," he said.

Academy teacher Laurie Sanford also traveled and

worked with the group. "Our objectives were to leave ourselves behind, serve others, and grow spiritually. These objectives were definitely met for all of us," she said.



Students on the trip were Mike Bridges and Alix Reichard, Knoxville; Kyla Bible, Maryville; Nathan Grubb and Laurel Mosher, Seymour;

Jeremy Phillips, Spring City; and Carly Rivelli, Florida.

Bridges observed that even though they spoke a different language, "we can communicate through Jesus." ■



opinion

### 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 confirm, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.



### Partnership Prayer Requests

June

- 12 — A special prayer is requested for John Nyhof and Faith Community Church in White Lake, Mich.
- 13 — Pray for funds and volunteers to improve the landscaping at the Polish Baptist Seminary campus in Radosc.
- 14 — Pray for direction for the Arabic Christian Fellowship and Calgary Chinese Church, both in Calgary, Canada.
- 15 — Pray for the team that will work in Berkley, Mich., this summer with summer missionaries there.
- 16 — Continue to pray God will provide skilled carpenters to help construct the roof of the seminary chapel in Radosc, Poland.
- 17 — Pray for the 28 summer missionaries who will attend orientation at the end of June.
- 18 — Pray for Rebekah Mason, 3, daughter of Marshall Mason of Michigan, who had heart surgery in May. ■

### sound bites

— by Ferrell Foster & Tim Ellsworth

## New Releases

top singles —

Christian Hit Radio

1. "The Vow," Geoff Moore & The Distance
  2. "God," Rebecca St. James
  3. "Forever," Third Day
  4. "So In Love," Grover Levy
  5. "Take Me To Your Leader," Newsboys
- Adult Contemporary
1. "Mighty Love," Bob Carlisle
  2. "Psalm 121," Susan Ashton
  3. "Crucified With Christ," Phillips, Craig & Dean
  4. "Soldiers of the Soul," Gary Chapman
  5. "If This World," Jaci Velasquez
- Top Singles source: The CCM Update, May 20, 1996

**Nouveaux, And This Is How I Feel (Benson):** In a drastic change of musical style from its last album, Nouveaux has put together what I believe is Christian music's best album of the year thus far. Switching from a heavy rock sound to more of a modern rock/pop format, Nouveaux captivates the listener with smooth harmonies and a driving acoustic pop sound. The album also boasts the production talents of John and Dino Elefante, of Petra fame. You won't be disappointed with this one.

**Painted Orange, Out of Egypt (Salt):** This is a group whose name I had heard but whose music I was not familiar with. I'm glad I am now. The three guys who make up Painted Orange mingle an American techno/European dance flavor musically with solid lyrics. "The combination weaves a tapestry of sound, words, and feeling that rivals any band on either side of the Atlantic," the bio says.

**The World Wide Message Tribe, We Don't Get What We Deserve (Warner Alliance):** Call it "rhythm 'n' ministry," the Tribe puts the message of Christ into music that makes you want to move. The lyrics are simple, but the music's fun. Teenagers ... give a listen. The Tribe is from Manchester, England, and this is their first Warner Alliance release.

**Bruce Carroll, Speed of Light (Benson):** Bruce is typically classified as a country artist, but it's a label I usually don't agree with. This release still offers the folksy sound for which Bruce is known, but a little more acoustic. "From start to finish, Speed of Light is the most true to my artistic bent," Bruce says. "No matter what happens with this album, I know I can look myself in the eye and say, 'This is the best album I have ever made.'"

**Various Artists, I'm Your Biggest Fan (Tooth & Nail):** Tooth and Nail calls this a punk/emo collection. I have to admit I don't know what "emo" is, as T&N seem to be the only people using the term. Whatever it is, I can't tell it apart from the punk part of the collection, although some bands here are more musically creative than the straight ahead hardcore bands. Some songs are very evangelistic, while others, like one extolling the virtues of 7-11 slurpees, make me wonder why they were included.

**Timothy James Meaney, The Big Chair (Pamplin):** Timothy has written or co-written most of the songs on this 13-track album. It's a pleasing acoustic package produced by John and Dino Elefante. Chair does not slap you in the face to get your attention; but gradually has its impact. Phil Keaggy lends his guitar prowess to two tracks - my favorites on the album.

**Various Artists, The Best in Christian Music (Brentwood):** This album features the 10 songs nominated for this year's Dove Award for Song of the Year. It includes songs by Michael W. Smith, DC Talk, Newsboys, Point of Grace, 4Him, Bryan Duncan, Jonathan Pierce, Gary Chapman and Aaron\*Jeffrey. ■

## Grins — by Thom Tapp



"When I start preaching, you keep an eye on that guy with the sling-shot."

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

## Flexibility and stability

Let's consider the third of seven attributes of the healthy family — adaptability. Adaptability is like the reversible raincoat with the zip-out liner. It is flexible enough for all weather conditions. It also is stable in that it can be counted on. This week we look at flexibility and stability which makes up adaptability in the healthy family.

Flexibility is the ability to adapt to the needs of particular situations as they arise. It reminds me of a man I once knew. Danny Daniel, affectionately known as "the Double D," was a former Army ranger. On float trips, campouts, and outings of all kinds, I never asked for anything that he didn't have and never encountered a situation for which he was not prepared. Healthy families are made up of members who are flexible enough to face any situation.

To some degree this adaptability is built on the acceptance which we previously discussed. When family members have a healthy acceptance of each other, the willingness to adapt to each other's needs will naturally follow. Healthy families are not bound by tradition and rules.

The opposite of this flexibility is a rigid, self-centeredness. This type of rigidity has been shown to contribute to physical aggression and physical abuse in families.

Stability is the natural bi-product of this healthy flexibility. It is understood that this flexibility does not mean the total abandonment of family rules or individual anarchy will develop. In concrete and steel structures, architects and engineers place expansion joints to give the kind of flexibility that adds stability to the structure.

Throughout nature we can find examples of the way God created us to be flexible so we could have stability in stress. This principle is lived out in the healthy family. ■



BARKLEY

### cyber corner

— by David Burzynski

## On a desk top publisher

Most churches need a Desk Top Publisher (DTP) program to do bulletins, newsletters, signs, calendars, banners, etc. Most of the time the question is cost, while some of the time it is personal preference.

Those who first created such items might have used Express Publisher, First Publisher, etc. and stayed with the upgrades as they became available. As the amount of motherboard memory went from 640KB to 1, 2, 4, 8, and now 16 megs as standard, the ability of DTPs increased. The early "would-be" publications now rival that of local printing companies. The addition of inkjet and laser printers has increased the professionalism of documents from the "would-be" to professional category.

Microsoft Publisher is one of the mid-priced DTPs that's a pretty good buy for the money. The retail price is around \$99 (\$139, Canada). This writer found it on sale for \$79 about two years ago at a retail computer store. Publisher was upgraded to a CD-ROM disk a while later through Microsoft.

While a number of DTPs celebrate having a large amount of clip art, this is not so with MS Publisher. It only has 125 pieces of clip art with the disk version, while the CD-ROM has two categories of additional clip art.

Its strong suit is its design capabilities that can be tapped even if you do not have design experience or training. Publisher simplifies the process by having templates and the Page Wizard features within the program itself.

When you try to create a "new publication," you are welcomed by a screen with four possibilities. The Page Wizard section allows you to create a publication by asking you questions and then it creates a custom document for you, including banners, calendars, flyers, and three-panel brochures.

You can create documents by choosing the Template category if you want to create a document based on a predefined layout. There are more than 20 types of templates provided, including awards, brochures, posters, resumes, and thank you cards.

You can use MS Publisher as a word processor or you can import text. The text formats importable at present are MSWord, MSWorks, Windows Write, WordStar, Ami Pro for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF (Rich Text Format), plain text, and ASCII. ■

# It's important to know who you are

Some people may not know who they are, denominationally speaking.

That old cliché, which became a joke as well as a definition of the 1960s, touted the lifestyle of that era as a time for "finding out who I am."

Parents of such wandering young people often responded, "I know who you are, just ask me. I will tell you and save the expense of your search."

This week as 15,000-20,000 Southern Baptists gather in New Orleans for the 139th session in our 151 years of history, there may be more curious and interested outsiders than insiders.

What messengers approve as a total, all-encompassing, extremely ambitious restructuring, will shake the convention as nothing else has.

Outsiders will be interested in what happens. As observers, some also are co-laborers. They will want to see how the restructuring works, and whether unnecessary damage is caused by the implementation process. There will be fall-out, and dedicated people will lose their jobs. This always happens with massive changes that encompass such an enterprise.

In one sense the process is fraught with uncertainties. Southern Baptists can be encouraged by the many assurances of prayer from the restructuring and implementation groups.

One flaw in the procedure is the lack of openness by both groups. We all know that openness means more than an occasional statement that everything is moving along well and "trust us." Openness also means that more than a very small number of Bap-

tists make those reshaping decisions and that those who do make them welcome open discussion by those whom the decisions affect. In fact, openness means that the decision-makers insist on such discussions, and that they don't object to questions.

The observers, like thousands and thousands of Southern Baptists are curious as to whether our identity will be lost for a while. Some Southern Baptists are in favor of the complete package; others are not. Some may not care.

Many will think that although restructuring has good points, it was too sudden and short of thorough discussion by Southern Baptists, the shareholders.

After the messengers vote this week, we will begin to find out who we are.

Some will not like the image they see in the mirror. Despite one opinion that "we will be lighter on our feet," it will be hard to find running or dancing

shoes to accommodate the right fit.

The architects should not fear candid criticism from the Baptist body. They should not be defensive nor should they object to honest probing as we move on. After all, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

As such a missions-minded body, we are drawn to the heart of Christ. Yes, that is where we find out who we are. The convention may momentarily lose its identity in the changes, but with Christ's great heart sustaining our efforts, the road will open again.

Though we may be changed, finding ourselves in Christ, we shall be the same. —*Wm. Fletcher Allen*



## Father's Day, reminder of faith and heritage

Make it more than just a tradition, celebrate Father's Day on Sunday 16.

Make it a grand day, but keep it simple.

Fathers, this advice is for us too. We have a role to fulfill on this day. Let's do our share in helping the family, and those around us, place the right emphasis on this special occasion.

Don't be coy, sitting around waiting for gift and ready to be served.

Fathers, says God's Word, are to be the spiritual leaders of the home. If every father of a Christian

home lived out that directive, our world would be much more Christlike. Our homes would be examples of the best attributes.

Family members, honor Dad by expressing your love and appreciation for his Christian leadership, his love for Christ, his family, the church, and other people. Fathers, we must live up to that appreciation.

Why is Father's Day, like Mother's Day, celebrated on Sunday? It is a healthy reminder of our Christian faith and heritage. Celebrate with joy as the family worships together the Loving God. — *WFA*

### Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

The banquet was running long and the program was well beyond schedule.

Toastmaster: "And now Mr. Jones will give us his principal address."

Mr. Jones answered: "Though I travel often on long trips, my principal address is 1052 Devonshire Drive and I am going there right now. Good night to everyone."

### Take this truth

The ability to say nothing is sometimes as important and as much appreciated as the ability to say something that is appropriate. When you do speak, however, remember the three-fold rule: Stand up so you can be seen. Speak up so you can be heard. Shut up so they will invite you back to speak again someday.

### Memorize this Scripture

A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness" (Proverbs 12:23).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff.

Then nudge me when I've said enough. *B&R*

## Better look out, something may be gaining on you

Both of my direct routes to the work place are undergoing major reconstruction. In front of the Baptist Center, Maryland Way is being widened and getting a face lift.

This week the Southern Baptist Convention also is undergoing major surgery in total reorganization.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board staff is a month into remodeling.

What, is nothing safe from change?

Satchel Paige, the venerable major league baseball pitcher and part-time philosopher had his own rules for success. "Keep looking behind you," he admonished, "something might be gaining on you."

That is not an overstatement of the reality of life. However, we don't make progress by constantly looking over the shoulder.

The runner who looks back or to either side is destined to lose. If he/she looks in those directions to see if another runner, that minute slowing can give the lead to the follower.

Life is not some irascible foe. Some peo-

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

ple may hinder us, but life itself is an open book, and we write new pages as we travel along.

I suppose we have anxiety about what those pages "say" as we move through them. We have input on the contents.

What photographs will be included? What message do those photos and the words convey?

An old hymn has a verse which says that our lives are open books and the Savior is reading them "through and through."

That is true, but also it is a little scary, unless we are contented with the contents. Anyway, who better to be the reader, the interpreter, than the one who cares, the Master himself.

Let others see Jesus in you, the hymn proclaims. Keep telling the story, be faithful and true! Let others see Jesus in you.

I know about the construction on my routes to the Baptist Center. I know about

the face lifting surgery on Maryland Way. I know there may be some changes on Franklin Road.

But none of that should disturb me. You see, along with most Tennesseans, I am accustomed to road work.

When we moved to the Volunteer State almost ten years ago, we quickly became acquainted with the constant repairs and upgrading on the inter-state highways. We encountered some delays and dodges on I-40 on the trip down from Maryland.

So this is expected. Alternate routes must be chosen as necessary. My pastor once challenged us to drive home on a different route after the morning worship.

Life can be beautiful. Despite the bumps on the roads, we get a certain readiness when we rely on Christ as guide. The potholes of life will not swallow us if we have our hand in his.

Satchel Paige was right. A glance over the shoulder is a handy reminder of the past, good and bad. But don't let those glances become stares. You might stumble. *Look ahead, keep moving.* — *B&R*



ALLEN

## Reasons for a World Missions Conference

### think about it

By Charles Wm. Brown, pastor, First Church, Maryville

What can a World Missions Conference do for churches and congregations?

■ It allows personal contact with real, live missionaries. We do not often have this opportunity because they are busy at work on their mission field.

■ A World Missions Conference reinforces biblical basis of missions. Missions is not a program dreamed up for the 1990s, missions is God's unique plan for reaching an unregenerate world with the Gospel. The church has an important role.

■ It expands local missions involvement. It teaches us that missions can be done here at home, the starting point.

■ It increases giving to missions causes. As a rule, Christians give more to causes when they are informed. The missions knowledge we gain through the conference defines our belief system which regulates our life and giving patterns. While we will be inspired, we also will be informed by the "real, live missionaries."

■ A World Missions Conference inspires prayer for missions and missionaries. I have heard missionaries speak of prayer as the vital link which encourages

them in dealing with situations we do not face as often in the home land.

They deal with culture shock, administrative problems, illnesses, and a constant longing for home. They often leave parents and/or children.

They often have to make arrangements for children's schooling and college. They usually have to learn a completely new language. They have to take on additional responsibilities.

They depend on prayer. They testify to that need when they speak to us. Yes, a World Missions Conference can give us new vistas and strengthen our faith. — *B&R*

# Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

Approximately 50 students with Tennessee ties were among May graduates of five of Southern Baptists' six seminaries: Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS), Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas. The other SBC seminary, Golden Gate in Mill Valley, Calif., did not report any Tennessee graduates.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: bachelor of arts (B.A.); doctor of ministry (D.M.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.); master of religious education (M.R.E.); master of divinity, (M.D.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of divinity with languages (M.D.L.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in missions (M.D.M.); master of church music (M.C.M.); master of music (M.M.); master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.); master of arts in missiology (M.A.M.); master of arts in church social services (M.A.C.S.S.); master of arts in communication (M.A.C.) and master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.).



**Jamie Mandrell**  
Kenton  
MBTS  
M.R.E.



**Bill Robertson**  
Nashville  
MBTS  
M.C.M.



**Gregory Cartwright**  
Concord  
Brentwood  
NOBTS - B.A.



**Chuck Frazier**  
Alpha  
Morristown  
NOBTS  
Ph.D.



**Edward Couatta**  
Decherd  
NOBTS  
M.D.



**Aleida Price**  
Central Woodmore  
Chattanooga  
NOBTS  
-M.A.C.E.



**Timothy Smith**  
Pastor, Dixie  
Hills, Bolivar  
NOBTS  
D.M.



**Thomas Vowell Jr.**  
FBC, Hixson  
NOBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**William Arbo**  
Knoxville  
SEBTS  
M.D.



**Robert Brittan**  
Knoxville  
SEBTS  
M.D.L.



**Christopher Campbell**  
Madisonville  
SEBTS  
M.D.L.



**William Curtis**  
Chattanooga  
SEBTS  
M.D.L.



**Horace Bennett**  
Hope  
Nashville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Joe Chandler**  
Wallace Memorial  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
D.M.



**Barry Davis**  
Miracle  
LaVergne  
SBTS  
M.D.M.



**J. David Everett**  
West Lonsdale  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Daniel Farmer**  
Southwestern  
Johnson City  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Bryon Fortner**  
Mt. Carmel  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Rodney Hardin**  
Mt. Gilead  
Cedar Grove  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Timothy Henry**  
Oak Grove  
Athens  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Mark Jarrett**  
FBC  
Smyrna  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Carol Meadows**  
FBC  
White House  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Andrew Myers**  
Signal Mountain  
Signal Mountain  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Steven Nelson**  
Pastor, FBC  
Lafayette  
SBTS  
D.M.



**John Orr**  
Judson  
Nashville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Melissa Smith**  
Central  
Johnson City  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Paul Smith**  
Memphis  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Timothy Stansberry**  
New Liberty  
Corryton  
SBTS, M.D.



**Finney Szeto**  
Nashville  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Glenn Szeto**  
Nashville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Rhonda Abbott**  
East Maryville  
Maryville  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Travis Forsythe**  
Poplar Corner  
Brownsville  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Ronnie Hale**  
Malesus  
Jackson  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.



**Mark James**  
Chilhowee Hills  
Knoxville  
SWBTS  
M.A.C./M.A.R.E.



**Gina Kelley**  
Northview  
Memphis  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**William Kerr**  
Parkview  
Jackson  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Melanie Plemons**  
Cedar Grove  
Kingston  
SWBTS  
M.A.C.S.S.



**Jerry Pullum**  
Bear Cove  
Sparta  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Mona Shorosh**  
Cleveland  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Melvin Swafford**  
FBC  
Cleveland  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Thomas Tucker**  
Gearin's Chapel  
Greenfield  
SWBTS  
M.D.



**James Wright**  
Grace  
Chattanooga  
SWBTS  
M.M.

## Graduates not pictured

Photos were not provided for the following seminary graduates:

Scott Paris, First Church, Tullahoma, Midwestern, M.D.

Thomas Shorter, Clifton View Church, Johnson City, New Orleans, Seminary, D.M.

Charlie Barnard, Maryville, Southern Seminary, D.M.

Charles Bibb, Columbia, Southern Seminary, Ph.D.

Michael Day, First Church, Memphis, Southern Seminary, D.M.

Richard Ryan, First Church, Hendersonville, Southern Seminary, M.A.C.E. ■

## Tusculum Hills honors pastor

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tusculum Hills Church honored Doug Westmoreland June 2 on his 21st anniversary as pastor of the Nashville Association church.

Since he became pastor in 1975 the church has grown from 621 to more than 2,500 resident members. Westmoreland has overseen four major building projects including building a satellite church in Nolensville.

Westmoreland is a member of the SBC Executive Committee and a trustee of Belmont University. ■

## Costa Rica partnership coordinator

# Volunteerism plays key role in life of missionary

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sue Smith is the local coordinator of the proposed partnership between Tennessee Baptists and the Costa Rica Baptist Union. A small survey team of Tennessee Baptists went to Costa Rica in March. Sue and Greg Smith traveled with the team, showing us examples for missions projects in a partnership, and meeting pastors and other leaders. At the request of the editor, Sue Smith has written about her commitment to volunteer missions. — WFA

By Sue Smith  
For Baptist and Reflector

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at age 9 at church camp. We were Methodist and didn't experience missionary speakers or mission organizations in my home church. I knew about missionaries, but not really what they did, where they served, and certainly had never met one.

When I went to college I chose Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., primarily because I wanted to attend a Christian college and it happened to be the closest to my home. My mother had also attended there.

During my freshman year I met Greg and we began dating, fell in love, and eventually decided to get married. Greg was majoring in religion and making plans to go to seminary and enter the ministry. I didn't exactly plan to marry a minister, but I did make peace with it. Anyway, at some point in time, he came to me and asked how I would feel if he said he



SUE AND GREG SMITH relax with their two sons, Jason and Kyle. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

thought that maybe, just maybe, God was calling him to serve somewhere besides the United States.

Well, my knowledge and experience with missions had broadened somewhat at OBU where I had actually met "real life missionaries" and MKs, and knew international students as well. So, from this limited view, I was very open to the idea as something I felt I could do, something that would be exciting and challenging. (This obviously is not a call to missions.) We began to think and pray about this together as a couple.

We were married in August before our senior year at OBU, and from there went on to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where Greg studied and I worked for the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the next four years.

Before leaving college we had already been in touch with the Foreign Mission Board to express to them that we were

seriously praying about our place in foreign missions.

While in Kentucky, we continued to stay in touch with the FMB, continued to pray about a call to missions, continued to want to serve, but still didn't feel a definite "call" to missions. We went from there to Fredericksburg, Va., where Greg served as minister of education at Fredericksburg Church, and I stayed home with Jason who was born soon after we moved there. We expressed to the church from the beginning that we were praying very seriously about missions, but felt no specific call.

After being in Fredericksburg for about a year and a half, our church began planning a volunteer missions trip to Chile. We had sent a previous team of eye doctors and dentists to northern Chile. The next team was to go to the same area to do construction. As Greg and I talked about it,

we felt that we should serve in some type of volunteer service to get a brief glimpse of what life is really like on the mission field. As plans progressed for the trip, it was decided that only one staff member would accompany the team and it wasn't Greg. Thus, we decided that I should go.

As we prepared for the trip (Jason was about 16 months old, so we had to arrange baby sitters while Greg worked), we prayed that God would use this time in a special way to help me truly know if it was his will for us to serve in foreign missions. We were still waiting for "the call." Our missions journey is different from some folks in that we simply wanted to go, and had a hard time distinguishing if this was something we wanted or that God truly wanted us to do.

As I arrived in northern Chile, south of Antofagasta, in the little fishing village of Taltal, I knew within a few days that I truly loved being there, loved the people, and could be a missionary.

I had always been a little uncertain also about whether God could truly use me in missions since I didn't sing, play a musical instrument, or teach. Yet, being in Taltal, mixing cement by hand, all day, every day, for 10 days, I *knew*. God basically led me to see that "the call" isn't always dramatic. Sometimes, it's a quiet feeling, an understanding of where he wants you to be. I returned home from this volunteer missions experience not having been called to missions, but



with having had my call confirmed during this time.

Now, here we are, having been in Costa Rica for over eight years. Greg and I have hosted many volunteers during our time here, and each time I think back to my experience and how my call was confirmed through that experience. We recognize the importance of volunteer missions, not just here on the field, but for what the volunteer (and his or her church) also receives. I now work as volunteer coordinator for the Costa Rica Baptist Mission. As this job many times is tiring and stressful, I truly enjoy it. I want each volunteer who serves here to feel that he or she has not only helped to bless others, but has received a blessing as well.

By the way, in case you're wondering, when I returned from Chile, I called our candidate consultant at the FMB to tell him that I was ready to go, just waiting for Greg to "come around." As we continued to pray about God's will for our lives, Greg woke me up late one night, saying he couldn't sleep and had gotten up to pray, and he *knew*.

When we accepted the fact that our call to missions didn't have to be dramatic, we realized that we *had* been called, through a gradual awakening to missions — that began in college when I thought it would be "fun" to be a missionary — and to do God's will for our lives. ■

## Members of Petros Church celebrate history spanning 100 years

For Baptist and Reflector

PETROS — Members of Petros Church celebrated 100 years of history May 24-26.

The church was formed in 1896 as an arm of Union Church.

The celebration kicked off with a banquet on Friday evening. The following day featured former pastors and members sharing memories of the past. The church also had a memorabilia display.

Festivities concluded on Sunday with a presentation by Greer Ruble of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, remarks from former pastors, and covered dish lunch. — B&R



BIG EMORY ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Bill Bargiol, left, watches as TBC staffer Greer Ruble, left center, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Jim West and Judy Layne, chairman of the Centennial Committee of Petros Church.



FORMER PASTORS Ray Hooper of North Carolina, left, and Billy Edmonds, left center, evangelist, Oak Ridge, were welcomed back to Petros Church by Pastor Jim West, right, and Bill Christopher, chairman of the deacons and music director. The May 26 service capped three days of celebration. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

# SBC seminary extension program extended for five years

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention seminary presidents have decided to continue the Seminary Extension program for five years while "conducting a thorough review" of the program.

The Council of Seminary Presidents also expects to name a director for Seminary Extension, now housed in the SBC building in Nashville. Currently, retired director Do-

ran C. McCarty is serving in an interim role until a new director is named.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a spokesman for the six seminaries, said the extension of the program "is intended to assure Southern Baptists that the current program of Seminary Extension will continue for the next five years and that any changes in the program thereafter will come

as a result of strategic planning designed to improve, update, and enhance the program."

Mohler said the six seminaries are committed "to a program of theological education

by extension as a complement to the residential theological education programs which are the core of the seminaries' mission."

McCarty said he was pleased with the presidents'

actions, agreeing a strategic study is needed.

Seminary Extension was founded in 1951 by seminary presidents. It employs eight full-time people and four part-time staffers. ■

## Study course system changes

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Church Study Course system is changing to the Christian Growth Study Plan.

Church leaders are asked to update their Church Study Course records with the Church Study Course staff at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The board is electronically transferring the records of all participants who have been active in the Church Study

Course system since Oct. 1, 1993, to the new plan.

Those who have not been active since then need to inform the Church Study Course office that they want to reactivate their records.

All diploma work that is in progress will be transferred to diplomas in the Christian Growth Study Plan. A handbook will be available for churches to use as a guide in developing and maintaining diploma plans. For more information, call (615) 251-3640. ■

## To Reach Our Goal WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP



Because most of our children come to us as victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment, we do all we can to provide the best possible care. That is the least we can do for their broken hearts.

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nutritious meals, dressed well, and live in comfortable, clean environments. Devotions before school and at bedtime are continual reminders of God's presence and love in the midst of their circumstances. We have the finest staff of social workers and counselors in the state helping to heal years of hurt and brokenness.

In our nine locations across the state, we care for more than four-hundred children each year in our residential program. In addition, we assist over 900 children and family members through counseling and other related services.

We have chosen not to use government funds to care for our children so we can fulfill our primary purpose of instilling them with Christian faith and values without restriction. The Mother's Day Offering provides approximately one-third of our annual operating budget. **Can you now understand why we still need your help?**

Please help us give the children in our care a chance at a better life. Help us to "Mend Broken Hearts." Your gift makes a difference to each one of them.

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



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## people

■ Woodland Church, Jackson, will ordain the following as deacons June 23: **Nathan Young, Sam Young, Fred Morgan, Rickey Cartwright, Bill Stewart, Kyle Hathcox, Tom Ervin, Patrick Beard, Bill Prince, and John McCarley.**

■ Lincoln Heights, Tullahoma, ordained **Larry Bailey** as a deacon May 5.

## leaders

■ First Church, Memphis, has called **L. Joey Shorter** as minister of church growth and administration and **Lyle Larson** as summer youth minister. Shorter is from First Church, Columbus, Miss., and Larson is a student at Union University, Jackson.

■ **R. Lyndel Littleton**, minister of music, Central Church, Martin, was named

composer of the year by Jeffers Handbell Supply Inc. The award is presented annually to the composer whose publication sells the most copies during the year. He won the award for the piece, "Brethren We Have Met to Worship," which was written for his church bell choir to play at the 70th anniversary of the church. He also has been published by Genevox, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Ringing Word.

■ **Brook Hollow Church**, Nashville, has called **John Fairless** as pastor. He holds a degree in theological studies from Vanderbilt University, Nashville.



**FAIRLESS**

## churches

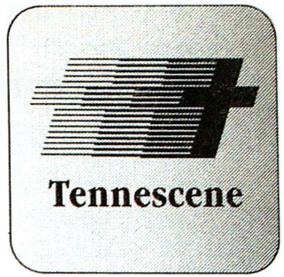
■ **Lyle Lane Church**, Nashville, will hold revival June 20-23.

■ **Greenville Church**, Church Hill, will hold Vacation Bible School June 24-28.

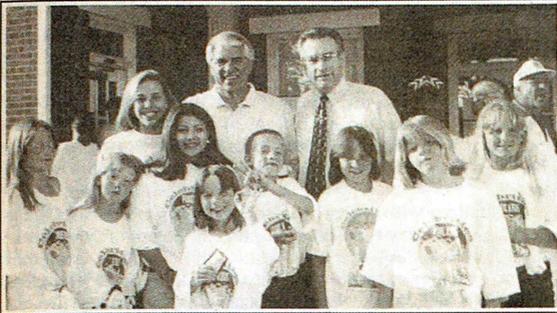
The theme is "God's Word for Today's World." Commencement will be June 30 at 7 p.m.

■ **Giles Creek Church**, Smyrna, will hold a Summer Celebration '96 June 22 beginning at 4 p.m. Music groups including Jeannie Thompson, Life Force, Spiritual Ensemble, and The Calvary Construction Co., will perform.

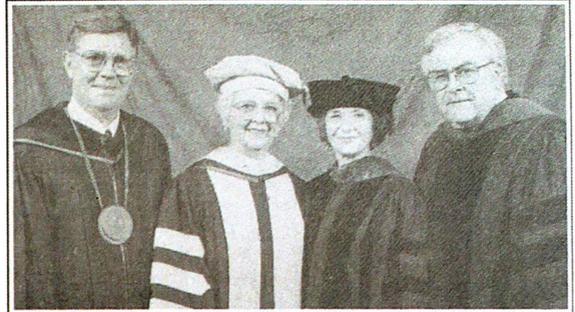
■ **Gallaher Church**, Knoxville, will host a Gospel singing June 22 at 7 p.m.



**Tennescene**



**NASHVILLE TELEVISION** news personality **Hope Hines**, back row, left of center, stands with **Gerald L. Stow**, president, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and some of the children from the Middle Tennessee campus in Franklin. Hines was among 130 golfers who participated in the 4th annual **Hope Hines Celebrities Fore Kids Golf Tournament**. The tournament is organized by the Middle Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and benefits that campus.



**PAUSING DURING** the May 11 commencement at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, are, from left, **Cordell Maddox**, C-N president; **Katharine Bryan**, executive director, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, Brentwood; **Dellana O'Brien**, executive director, WMU, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.; and **James Porch**, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. **Bryan** was awarded the college's highest award for a community member, the **Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award**. **O'Brien** gave the commencement address.

# Annuity Board Requires Important Decisions

## ➤ U R G E N T ! ➤

Present investment funds will be closed and new funds opened January 1, 1997. Each retirement plan participant must make a decision as to which new fund or funds to choose. This is a major opportunity for greater financial security in retirement.

The decision-making process can be made easier by using a new educational tool, **LifePoints**. Meetings are scheduled throughout Tennessee to help plan participants select a new investment strategy. An Annuity Board representative will be there to demonstrate the use of **LifePoints** and answer questions.

The dates and locations are listed. For specific information about the meeting in your area, call your state annuity

representative, **Gary Rickman**, at (615) 371-2008. You can also call the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.



Covington June 24	Memphis August 19	Cookeville September 12
Alcoa July 8	Jackson August 19	Tullahoma September 12
Benton July 8	Chattanooga August 26	Trenton September 16
Springfield July 16	Dunlap August 26	Dresden September 16
Huntingdon July 27	Morristown September 9	Clarksville September 30
Madisonville July 29	Rogersville September 9	Brentwood October 1
Johnson City July 30	Knoxville September 10	
Cleveland August 12	Rutledge September 10	



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**An informed decision could make a dramatic difference in your future account size. Make plans now to attend one of these important meetings.**

## Carson-Newman community seeks to meet area need

For Baptist and Reflector

**JEFFERSON CITY** — April 27 was a busy Saturday at Carson-Newman College, but not so busy that the campus community didn't take the opportunity to reach out to meet a concern.

Although students were preparing for final exams and participating in an annual campus event, and the administration was hosting a donor luncheon, more than 100 members of the C-N family found time to travel to Morristown to participate in a "Miracle Match" bone marrow donor drive.

The drive was organized in an attempt to find a donor match for two Morristown citizens: Doyle Wallace, 43, who suffers from myelodysplasia, and Tony Sizemore, 35,

stricken with acute megakaryocytic leukemia.

After determining the need and deciding that C-N would be a good place to spread the word, C-N President Cordell Maddox led an effort to spread the story, according to Nenette Measels, associate campus minister who was in charge of the publicity committee.

Measels said the college provided vans to take potential donors to the testing site.

"I'm delighted that so many people responded, because just one person registering could give life to another human being," Measels added.

In all, 2,700 people were tested that day. Results of the testing are not in yet, according to a Carson-Newman spokesman. ■

## Pass the meat, veggies to build family ties

By Jeffrey Warren Scott  
For Baptist Press

**NASHVILLE** — Work schedules, baseball practice, piano lessons, and church activities keep most families on the run. Dinner has all of the ambiance of a microwaved entree, or a high-fat selection from a fast food menu, hastily consumed in the car between activities.

The hope for today's family is a return to the old-fashioned concept of a family meal. Whether it is breakfast, lunch, or dinner, there is an awesome power in this daily tradition.

The more you learn about today's family life, the more you will observe most often it is the family that eats together that stays together.

Families who make mealtime together a priority reap many benefits:

(1) Children who feel secure. Time-honored traditions give us a sense of order to our lives. A set family meal gives children a sense of security.

(2) Children with healthy self-esteem. Children should be encouraged to tell about their day and to discuss what is on their minds. They learn they're important members of the family as well as from the experiences of older siblings.

(3) Children with a sense of

roots and values. Hearing oral history at mealtime gives children a sense of identity and shared values. Over the course of time, mealtime develops a strong sense of moral, ethical, and spiritual values.

Mealtime is when values are transmitted.

(4) Children who experience academic success. A recent survey found that students who shared mealtimes with their families tested better than those who did not.

(5) Children who are better nourished. Children are more likely to eat a balanced nutritious meal at the dinner table and have fewer dietary problems.

(6) Children with a sense of acceptance. The family meal offers families a time to love, forgive, and offer a sense of unconditional acceptance of each other.

(7) Children who can communicate with their parents.



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For more information, call Jay Austin at (615) 371-2077. ■

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## Good citizen

By L. Joseph Rosas III

### Focal Passage — Romans 13:1-10

The bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the more recent Freeman standoff in Montana has focused public attention on a peculiar American subculture, the patriot movement. Many times these groups use a truncated interpretation of the Bible to justify their radical agenda. Having discussed the Christian's relationship to God, himself, the church, and his enemies, Paul's focus in Romans 13 is on the relationship of the believer to civil authority. The Roman Christians did not live in a democratic society. Yet they received many benefits from the peace and stability brought about by Roman rule.

**Respecting authority (vv. 1-2).** Paul argues that God is the ultimate source of all authority, therefore governmental authority has been established by God. Consequently, to rebel against authority is to rebel against God. This does not mean God is responsible for or approves of the behavior of every despot and dictator. As Jesus observed to Pilate, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." The *Baptist Faith and Message* says, in part, "Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. ... A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

**Obedying the law (vv. 3-5).** The implication of these verses is that a Christian will always be identified with good works and the state will seek to reward such behavior. Government authorities are called God's servant (also translated "minister" and "deacon") who avenges the weak and helpless and rewards righteousness. Paul encouraged Christians to obey civil authority to avoid punishment. When the law of God and the laws of men conflict, we are to obey God rather than man.

**Paying taxes (vv. 6-7).** Because of the fear of punishment and out of the demands of conscience Paul encourages the payment of taxes and revenue. Income, property, and sales taxes are all acknowledged in these verses. Tax monies pay for the infrastructure and promote the general welfare of society. Further, the Christian is to have an attitude of respect for proper authority. Even when we disagree with the policies of an individual holding an office, we should have respect for the office.

**Loving others (vv. 8-10).** "Let no debt remain outstanding" is a reminder a Christian is to honor all obligations. However, this verse is not a commentary on consumer credit. Rather, Paul is reminding the believer to pay all obligations when they are due. The ultimate focus is the principle of love is the one debt that the believer never fully satisfies. The debt of love never decreases. Indeed obedience to the law of God is summed up in the expression "Love your neighbor as yourself."

It is easy to complain about government and paying taxes. We must set a good example and be willing to submit to the proper rule of government, obey the laws, and pay taxes. Above all, we must live out "neighbor love." ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.



## Faith and action

By Kevin Goza

### Focal Passage — James 2:14-26; 5:13-16

This passage in James has inspired much debate among well-meaning believers. Does James dismiss faith in salvation? Is his a "works theology?" Does the teaching of James contradict that of Paul?

**There is no conflict between faith and works (ch. 2:14).** James does not launch an attack on genuine faith. Rather, he is concerned with those who have faith in words only. The phrase, "Can faith save him?" should be translated, "Can such faith save him?" So, the writer was not calling into question the saving power of faith, but the effectiveness of an empty faith that is not expressed in actions of ministry.

Concerning the supposed conflict between James' teaching and that of Paul, James offers several verses in which he expresses his affirmation of faith (1:3, 6; 2:1, 5). And Paul certainly affirmed the place of works in the Christian life (Romans 2:6; 13:12; 14:12; I Corinthians 3:8; II Corinthians 5:10; Colossians 3:9). Therefore, those who argue for a disagreement are out of place. Taking the Word of God as a whole,

### Convention Uniform Lesson

James and Paul affirm each other. Paul emphasized faith, but had no place for shallow belief. James was the champion of service, but found no use for good works apart from Christ.

**There can be no contradiction between profession and practice (vv. 15-26).** First, James leads us to see the futility of profession without practice (vv. 15-17). For one to express love for another, but to refuse to minister to their need, is the height of hypocrisy.

Then, James destroys the argument that some are

gifted with faith, while others are gifted with deeds (vv. 18-19). Belief in God alone does not get the job done. Real belief will be expressed in real life through real ministry.

James gives two examples of faith in action: Abraham and Rahab (vv. 20-26). They expressed faith in God in their personal lives. In both cases, their works spoke louder than their words. Abraham offered Isaac to God because he believed in God. Rahab helped the spies because she had a faith in God, even though she had previously lived a life of sin.

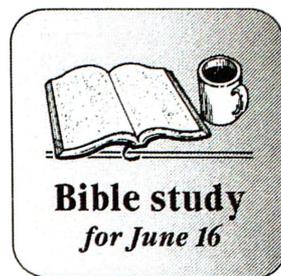
Consequently, their actions based on their faith revealed their justification before God (vv. 21a, 25a).

**Actions that show faith (ch. 5:13-16).** There are many acts of ministry that reveal true faith. These actions are best revealed through the fellowship of the local church. James describes life in the church as a shared life of worship and mutual support and prayer.

With regard to prayer for the sick (v. 14), it must be remembered that God does not always answer prayers for healing with physical healing. As one writer has said, "Faith includes not only the belief that God can heal, but also the trust to allow God to work out his purposes (Romans 8:28)."

Confession is also an important action that shows faith (v. 16). When we confess to God (and to one another when appropriate), we show our faith in God's ability to forgive and cleanse. We also provide a good example for others to follow.

As a family of faith and love, the church provides a platform for Christians to show their faith in God through the ministry of their lives in the world. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



## God's response to people's repentance

By Tom Moncrief

### Focal Passage — Joel 2:18-19, 28-29

God's people of Joel's day faced tremendously hard times. A locust plague and drought devastated the land. God's message through Joel promised deliverance if the people repented.

#### God's promise to restore the land — vv. 18-19

When repentance became real to the people, God responded in his mercy as he always does. He blessed the land with abundant harvest and the people who were truly devoted to God in covenant with gladness.

God was in the midst of his people and blessed them with a meaningful relationship which removed their shame among the nations. God's dealings with his people should bring a recognition of his presence and power.

#### God's promise to pour out his spirit — vv. 28-29

Promises to restore the land's crops and related blessings referred to re-establishing what had been destroyed. After that the Lord promised to give something new.

There was the gift of a new quality of fellowship by the creative impact of the spirit of the Lord. Intimacy with God had been confined to exceptional individuals but would be shared by all God's people. No age or position in life would be excluded but all who turned to God would be included. The Lord pours out illumination and power. The larger fulfillment of this promise is seen in a common faith and ministry in Jesus Christ today.

#### God's promise to deliver all who call on him — v. 32

God's judgment has two expressions. There is deliverance for the faithful and destruction for the unfaithful. Many who heard the message of that coming day may have wondered if anyone could have hope for that day of judgment.

God's answer was the promise of deliverance for all who call on the name of the Lord. That means to penitently seek the Lord's mercy for deliverance. The Lord's name represents the God of redemption and covenant. The promise of deliverance will be experienced when he

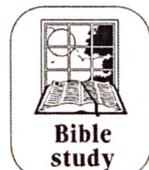
returns, but it is also experienced today in calling on the Lord.

#### God's blessings for his people — ch. 3:16-21

Joel depicted God's judgment upon the nations for their treatment of his people. Now, he focuses on God's blessings for his people. The Lord's people were to experience God's intervention as a demonstration of his presence in their midst and his activity on their behalf.

They would know that he is the Lord dwelling in Zion and making Jerusalem holy. Because of relationship with the Lord, his revelation to his worshiping people will bring healing and life. Their spiritual renewal is a pouring out of God's spirit bringing divine deliverance. God's people will live with him in holiness and peace.

God's message of judgment for sin had been strong and definite. Such messages are intended to bring repentance so God's mercy can be expressed. Chastisement by God is always issued in love to draw mankind unto himself. Whenever man calls upon the Lord, God's mercy is expressed in forgiveness, cleansing, and renewal. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.





### BSSB division combines two biblical studies departments

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division will combine its two biblical studies departments into one Oct. 1.

According to division director Bill Taylor, the preschool-children and youth-adult departments will become the biblical studies department. Louis Hanks, currently director of the youth-adult department, will lead the new department.

Cos Davis, director of the preschool-children's department, previously announced his resignation, effective May 31.

The Bible teaching-reaching division's other department — ministry leadership and development — will remain unchanged by the restructuring. ■

### BSSB's recreation program expands

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists' church recreation program is enlarging its services through the addition of wellness consultation to ministers and families.

Tommy Yessick, who has led the church recreation program since 1992, will lead wellness services for LeaderCare, the Baptist Sunday School Board's strategy to assist ministers in crisis.

In his new role, Yessick will lead in the development of wellness resources, services, and events for ministers, their spouses, and their families, as well as carrying general responsibilities in consulting on LeaderCare issues.

Yessick also will continue to work with the church recreation program in recreation ministry. Because of his newly added duties, his church recreation program director role will be assumed by John Garner, who has been field service projects coordinator for church recreation since 1990. ■

### Preschool teachers get help on SBCNet

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Preschool Sunday School teachers look-

ing for extra helps in working with kindergarten and pre-first graders may find what they're looking for in some new electronic files now available on SBCNet.

Ideas for additional activities for these groups are being posted monthly as electronic text files in the Preschool/Children's Library in the General Ministry A forum on SBCNet, Southern Baptists' private area on the CompuServe computer network.

Files are posted one month in advance of the date of the lessons.

For more information about SBCNet, call (800) 325-7749. ■

### Henry, Land join others in asking for commission

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Eight evangelical leaders, including Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry and Christian Life Commission head Richard Land, have criticized an expected White House plan for confronting the foreign persecution of Christians and have called on President Bill Clinton to appoint instead a commission with adequate authority.

In a letter to the president, the leaders said the administration's intention to appoint an "advisory committee" to ex-



### Tennesseans earn doctorates

Three students with Tennessee ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May. Seminary President Charles S. Kelley Jr., right center, congratulated, from left, Chuck Frazier, Morristown; Keith Shorter, Johnson City; and Timothy Smith, pastor of Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar. Shorter and Smith received the doctor of ministry degree while Frazier was the recipient of the doctor of philosophy degree. See page 6 for additional seminary graduates.

amine the federal government's policies concerning religious persecution overseas is "manifestly inadequate" for the growing problem.

Among others signing the letter were Charles Colson, president of Prison Fellowship Ministries, and James Kennedy, senior pastor of Coral Ridge (Fla.) Presbyterian Church. The letter was sent by Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Only a presidential commission will guarantee appropriate attention to the effect of

the United States' policies on Christians and others undergoing persecution in other countries, the evangelical leaders said in the letter.

Such a commission must have "sufficient independence, authority, and resources to do its work properly, and ... its finding should come early enough to allow them to be fully debated before the coming election," they said.

They urged the president to "seize the moment to end America's passive and silent responses to worldwide religious persecutions ... " ■

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## Betty Jo Lewis writes first book 'Hand in Hand' with God

By Sue Poss  
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Betty Jo Lewis practiced what she wrote in this year's emphasis book for Woman's Missionary Union — she turned the task over to God, letting him use her hands to write.

"I wasn't capable in my own strength," said Lewis, wife of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

"But I realized that God could do it through me and that was what the whole book was about."

*Hand in Hand: Partners Working Together With God* (Birmingham: Woman's Missionary Union/SBC, 1996) was the result of this two-handed partnership Lewis said draws heavily on her lifetime of experience.

The book will be used to interpret the 1996-97 WMU theme of "Hand in Hand" in churches, associations, and national training events.

In the book, Lewis continu-

ally comes back to her basic point that God will use human hands to accomplish his tasks — if they are willing to let God use their hands. "We must be pliable clay in the potter's hand and allow God to minister in us and through us," Lewis writes. "For God to work through us, we must put our hands in his."

"I wanted to write a book that was biblically based but not a heavy theological treatise," she said. "I wanted to share experiences from my heart but with a Scriptural basis."

Lewis' book of eight chapters talks about working hand in hand with God, with children, with women, and with each other.

From the beginning, Lewis reminds the reader that God chose human beings as his partners to work with him to accomplish his tasks. He knew the limitations of humans, so he equipped believers with the Holy Spirit and allowed them to be a part of his mission in the world, she noted. ■