

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

July 10, 1996

this week's news

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

In West Tennessee

Burned church has unifying effect

For *Baptist and Reflector*

FRUITLAND — Even without a building, Salem Missionary Baptist Church is enduring, thanks to the efforts of Southern Baptists nationwide.

The church, located just outside the tiny community of Fruitland in neighboring Gibson County, erupted in flames the night of Dec. 30, 1995, leaving the almost 100-year-old building in a pile of ashes and the 65 members of the African American congregation stunned at the act of violence.

But instead of being torn apart by the blaze, they are pulling together along with Tennessee and Texas Baptist volunteers and others.

Under the leadership of the Mississippi

River Ministry of Beulah Association, a 30-member team from Emmanuel Church, Henderson, Texas, worked in mid-June to begin rebuilding Salem Church. A team from Maury Association is here this week working on the rebuilding effort. Another team from First Church, Nashville, and a Quaker congregation from Indianapolis, Ind., hope to have the Salem members in their new church by Aug. 1.

"I do not have the words to adequately explain the feeling I had that day (of the fire)," said Salem Pastor Dan Donaldson.

"But the Lord helped us to realize that we must pick-up and move on. The building is gone. Let's make preparations for the future."

Donaldson said the outpouring of support from Southern Baptists and others

has been a blessing both physically and spiritually. "If the people who burned our church had known what the Lord was going to do, that he was going to send people in here to build us back bigger and stronger than we've ever been, then those people would have never burned our building. They meant it for bad, but God meant it for good."

The support of missions teams has been so great that the overflow is being sent to another Tennessee church destroyed by fire.

Because of the national publicity (the story was featured on NBC television), "we have had more volunteers than we needed," said James Kinsey, coordinator of the MRM ministry in Beulah Association and pastor of Sunswept Church, Union



PASTOR DAN DONALDSON, left, of Salem Missionary Baptist Church near Fruitland, talks with **Howard Moore**, center, mission trip director from Emmanuel Church, Henderson, Texas, and **Tom Menees**, mission team coordinator for the effort for Sunswept Church, Union City. — Photo courtesy of the Union City Daily Messenger

Aug. 11 set aside as day of prayer

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The Christian Services Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is recommending that Tennessee Baptist churches set aside Aug. 11 as a day of prayer and giving to assist African American churches destroyed by fire.

Tennessee Baptist churches are encouraged to send their gifts for this cause to the TBC Executive Board. Gifts should be marked: Arson Fund.

All gifts will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Assistance to the churches will be handled through the SBC's Racial Reconciliation Task Force. **BGR**

City, a congregation that has taken a long-term interest in Salem's rebuilding.

A group from Des Moines, Iowa, heard about the story and held a rally in which 1,000 people showed up, Kinsey said.

The Union City pastor learned that Mt. Pleasant Church in Tigreth, near Dyersburg, also had burned. After contacting that congregation's pastor, Paul Lusby, Kinsey is coordinating a rebuilding effort there which will be done by the Iowa volunteers. "When we saw we had more resources than we needed, we asked the Lord what to do and doors opened immediately," he said.

Kinsey, whose church has been providing housing for volunteers, said the black and white congregations working together — See Burned church, page 2

TBC gifts remain steady

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Cooperative Program giving from Tennessee Baptist churches dipped in June, but remains ahead of last year.

TBC churches gave \$1,813,638 to the Cooperative Program last month.

For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have given \$18,879,281, \$882,531 more than at the same time last year. The year-to-date budget is \$17,979,517. **BGR**

Watts family struggles to recover

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Five months after a car accident on a mountain road in Peru, Nancy Watts hasn't given up hope that her healthy family will return to Peru as missionaries.

She bases her hope on her faith and continued answers to prayers. Marcus, 10, who suffered a head injury, will enter school this fall at his regular grade level. He still has some physical problems, such as the use of his right arm and leg and full recovery of his speech, but he played baseball this summer,

his mother proudly reported.

Joshua, 7, will be out of the brace securing his broken leg and ankle in a few weeks. He also played baseball this summer. And Nancy's broken facial bones and hand are nearly mended.

There's also plenty of reason to hope for her husband, Wade, who received a head injury and broken ankle, said Nancy. Just a few days ago he communicated to a therapist with eye motions that he had two children, had a master's degree, and had been in a car accident in Peru.

So while Nancy and the boys are visiting Peru for a

couple of weeks, they won't be saying any "last goodbyes," she said.

The trip will allow the boys to see neighborhood friends and missionary friends. Nancy and the boys will attend the annual meeting of the Baptist missionaries. And they will attend a prayer meeting for the family hosted by the Peru Baptist Convention.

Nancy is anxious to see their pastor who is president of the convention and his family. "They're real close to our family. It will be good to see the people, too, from around the — See Watts, page 3

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TBC receives allocation to help burned churches

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Twelve state conventions received \$246,712 from the Southern Baptist Convention's "Arson Fund" to assist African American churches victimized by arson, according to the SBC Executive Committee's business and finance office July 3.

The disbursement of monies, primarily from the offering taken at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans June 11-13, followed instructions of the Inter-Agency Council's Racial Reconciliation Task Force which formulated the percentage allotment to the 12 states. The offering taken at the New Orleans meeting, at the request of then-SBC President Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla. pastor, raised \$282,000 in pledges and cash gifts.

Jack Wilkerson, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, said the July 3 disbursement is primarily the New Orleans offering funds, including \$50,000 cash each from the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama state conventions which had been pledged in New Orleans. An additional pledge, \$15,000 from **Bellevue Church, Cordova**, also has been received and was included in the July 3

disbursement, Wilkerson said.

The 12 states receiving the gifts, the percentage ratio established by the task force, and the actual July 3 disbursements: Alabama, 9.7 percent, \$23,931; Arkansas, 2.8, \$6,907; Florida, 4.2, \$10,361; Georgia, 1.4, \$3,453; Louisiana, 11.1, \$27,385; Mississippi, 9.7, \$23,931; North Carolina, 9.7, \$23,931; Oklahoma, 1.4, \$3,453; South Carolina, 20.8, \$51,316; **Tennessee, 11.1**, \$27,385; Texas, 15.3, \$37,747; and Virginia, 2.8, \$6,907.

Wilkerson said all the monies received by the Executive Committee for the "Arson Fund" are directed to the state conventions according to the task force formula. He said gifts continue to arrive at the Nashville office, including a \$10 check from a man who does not attend a church but who wanted to participate. Another check for \$25 arrived from a woman, 93 years old, who said her church had elected not to participate but she wanted to be a part of helping the churches, Wilkerson said.

"This outpouring of support is a clear indication that Southern Baptists' adoption of a resolution calling for racial reconciliation last year was not just idle talk," said Richard Land, president of the SBC

Christian Life Commission. "Southern Baptists continue to be horrified and outraged at these church burnings. By their giving, Baptists are sending a message to those perpetuating these crimes that their attempts to foment racism are backfiring; their displays of hatred are instead spawning more signs of racial reconciliation."

More than 40 primarily African American churches in the Southeast have burned in the last 18 months, most as the result of an arsonist.

Land said the task force developed the formula of distribution based on an in-hand count of arson-related African American church fires in the state as a percentage of the total number of churches impacted nationally.

"Once the money reaches the state Baptist convention

offices, it will be their responsibility to determine the amount of assistance each church will need," Land said, adding the money will be sent to the states each month.

The task force said each state convention office will disburse the funds according to three criteria:

(1) Churches must be African American.

(2) The state convention office is asked to give an accounting of the dispersal on a quarterly basis to the SBC Executive Committee which will then give a comprehensive report to the task force.

(3) The state conventions are further requested to work closely with Willie McPherson, director of black church extension at the SBC Home Mission Board, as they determine how these funds should be best dispersed in their states. ■

Burned church has unifying ...

— Continued from page 1

to rebuild shows "we are laborers together.

"It shows that the people do not agree with the burning, with the racial tension, and that it really doesn't reflect the heart of America.

"The heart of America is to rebuild and to help them, and

to stop this burning ..." he said. **B&R** — Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey compiled this story with contributions from Chris Menees, a reporter for *The Union City Daily Messenger* and member of Sunswep Church, Union City, and Jon Walker of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

CBF says no to convention status; appoints 41 missionaries

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship approved a process to endorse CBF chaplains, voted no on becoming a separate convention, heard a report indicating difficulty in finding a new chief executive, and appointed 41 new missionaries at the CBF General Assembly held here June 27-29.

The sixth assembly of the five-year-old moderate Baptist organization registered 3,809 people with about 4,000 attending the two evening worship services at the Richmond Coliseum.

A vote on the much-discussed question of separate convention status for the fellowship came when Bill Montgomery, retired chaplain from San Antonio, Texas, repeated his failed 1995 motion to declare the CBF a separate convention. The CBF

during the year had conducted a study of the matter, but it drew no conclusions. The leadership of the CBF vocally opposed the convention status and the Saturday morning vote by the General Assembly was overwhelmingly negative as well.

The motion regarding the chaplains authorized the CBF's Coordinating Council to appoint an ad hoc committee to study the endorsement of chaplains and to bring a report at the 1997 General Assembly.

At a Friday night missions rally, the CBF appointed 41 new missionaries, the largest number appointed at one time by CBF. The number increased CBF's total missionary force to 139.

The struggle to find a new chief executive for CBF was apparent when a committee to find a successor for Cecil Sherman reported it was turned down by one man and was still interviewing others.

Sherman, 68, retired June 30. Sherman, who has served as the coordinator since 1992, was named "coordinator emeritus" and honored during the meeting.

Atlanta banker Tommy Boland was elected to fill the position through the end of the year.

Voters also turned down a constitutional change to allow the Coordinating Council to change, as needed, the CBF's budget which is approved at the General Assembly each year.

The council develops the budget and then recommends it to the General Assembly. The CBF apparently will fall short of its 1995-96 budget goal of \$13.3 million and had cut the appropriations for some CBF-supported agencies earlier this year. Sherman told the assembly receipts would total about \$12 million for the July-June fiscal year. ■

Senior adults get 'big surprise' when they dial toll-free number

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A one-digit error in a phone number has given red faces to planners of the 1997 Senior Adult Convention.

More than 90,000 information packets for the April 28-30 Senior Adult Convention were supposed to include a 1 (800) number for GrayLine Tours of Nashville — 1 (800) 251-1864 — according to John

Kramp, associate director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

But, when senior adults tried the 1 (800) number listed in the packet, they got a big surprise, Kramp said. Rather than receiving information about the "Homes of the Country Stars Tour," they heard a recorded message on a "phone sex" line.

"We didn't know there was a problem

until a nice senior adult man called and told us something was wrong with our phone number," Kramp said. "I called the number and nearly died."

In response, the discipleship division, which is sponsoring the Nashville convention, is sending the correct number to all 90,000 churches that received the original packet.

Division officials say they regret the incident. ■

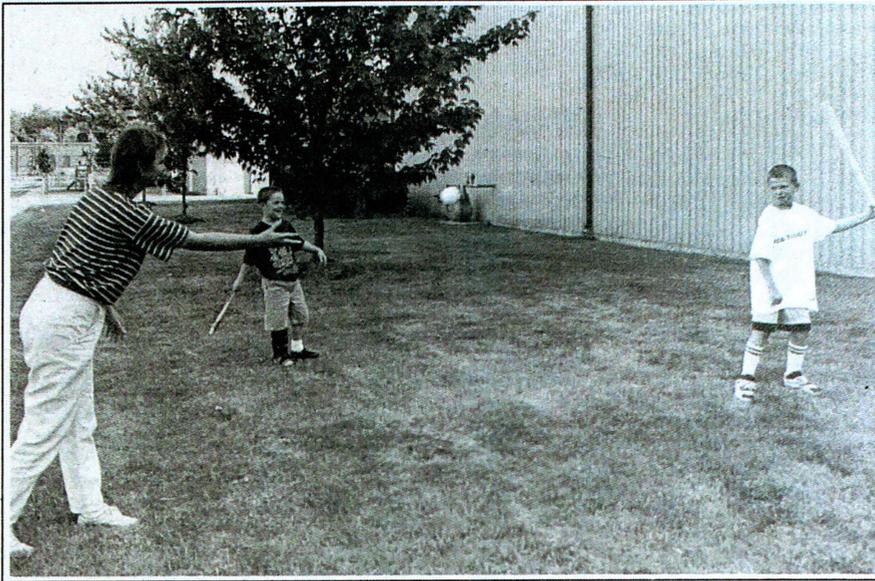
Watts family struggles to recover ...

— Continued from page 1 country," she added. And there will be lots to see, Nancy explained because Wade, as director of missions for the convention, made a lot of friends. "He has a very good rapport with the nationals. He loves them and they love him," she added.

The family has received letters and calls from many of their Peruvian friends, she said. She has heard reports that the Baptist churches in Trujillo, Peru, their hometown, have held a prayer service for the family each Thursday night since the accident. Also, the churches in Lima, Peru, have held a prayer meeting for the Watts.

The response from Americans, especially Tennesseans, also has been encouraging, she said. Before the Watts began their missionary service almost 10 years ago, they were active in Royal Ambassador work, serving as Tennessee RA camp leaders several years.

She has received thousands of cards, many prayergrams, and gifts of money from churches. Some of the money gifts went to help her buy a car, she said. The school which Macon Road Church, Memphis, operates has provided Joshua's school tuition and will provide it for the upcoming months. Leewood Church, Memphis, is providing its missionary home to the family and has given them a food shower. And Highland Heights Church,



PRACTICING BASEBALL by the Leewood Church missionary house and the church's recreation center are Nancy, Joshua, center, and Marcus. — Photo by Connie Davis

Memphis, which Nancy and Wade consider their home church, held a garage sale, the proceeds of which were a gift.

What has surprised her is that the responses continue, said Nancy. "It's very encouraging to me that people are still praying for us and still have us in mind. And I tell Wade that too."

She visits him every day, only missing a few days since the accident. Although in a comatose state some of the time, he has recovered from pneumonia and other minor infec-

tions and his ankle is mended. "I think he understands everything. He just can't respond verbally yet."

She hopes she will have more time soon to supplement therapy he receives at a skilled nursing care facility in Memphis. Marcus will attend therapy sessions three days a week until school starts when it will provide therapy.

All of her family has been changed by the accident, she said, and during the recovery time in 10 different health

care institutions.

Marcus, said Nancy, who was introverted, has become extroverted, which is characteristic of people who suffer head injuries. Joshua has changed the least, except he is responding to the changes in his family. Nancy has adopted the role of "single mom." She said she has learned "you just depend on God. I do a lot more than I did. Sometimes I feel like I'm alone, but I just remember that God is with me." **B&R**

Professors file suit against group

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — Four Louisiana College professors have filed suit against the "Louisiana Baptist Conservative Resurgency" for distributing what they claim are defamatory and derogatory statements meant to harm their professional and moral reputations.

The lawsuit was filed by professors Carlton Winbery, Fred Downing, James Health, and Connie Douglas against Leon Hyatt of Pineville and others who were involved in the publication of a packet of letters early last summer. The college itself is not involved in the suit.

The president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Michael Claunch, a Slidell pastor, denied the charges. Although not named specifically in the suit, Claunch said conservatives in Louisiana had tried over and over to resolve their grievances with the faculty but to no avail.

A lawsuit is a legal statement of grievances against a defendant and must be proven in court. In this case, the professors' suit alleges the distributed letters "all contain defamatory and derogatory information and statements which seek to harm the professional and moral reputation of the plaintiffs and to attempt to lower them in the estimation of their peers in the local and denominational community."

"Further, these malicious and derogatory statements attempt to wrongfully expose the plaintiffs to ridicule, contempt, and hatred, as well as further seek to deprive them of public confidence," the suit reads. "Finally, these false and malicious statements were specifically targeted to injure the plaintiffs in their occupation."

Claunch and other conservatives in the state deny the charges and say their goal "is to get the truth about what is being taught and practiced at Louisiana College to Louisiana Baptists. We believe that when Louisiana Baptists know the truth, they will do the right thing," Claunch said. The suit was filed in Alexandria and it requests a jury trial. ■

Internet appeal for Disney sent to homosexual groups

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An Internet solicitation of support from homosexual activists for the Walt Disney Company has made its way from a Disney vice president's office across the country.

The electronic-mail (e-mail) message, which originated in the office of Disney Vice President for Studio Operations Reid Cline on June 13, states: "If anyone wants to write to Disney to support them in light of the Southern Baptist Convention's condemnation yesterday, you may write to: Michael Eisner, c/o S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91521-1010, (818) 560-2431."

Eisner is Disney's chairman and CEO.

The e-mail is signed by a secretary in Cline's office at Disney, Brad Bergman, with the Internet address reading: "brad_bergman@studio.disney.com."

"We don't have any comment" was the response of a Disney spokeswoman after the corporate communications office there received a faxed copy of the e-mail appeal and a response by Bill Merrell, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention relations.

Said Merrell: "It is yet another sad reflection of the state of Disney — that a Disney vice president's office must turn to the homosexual Internet crowd to solicit support for the company's drift away from family values and its buckling to the ho-

mosexual-activist agenda.

"It is noteworthy that Disney cannot find support for its eroding morality among the vast majority of Southern Baptists, other evangelicals, and others who adhere to the family values that once made Disney great," Merrell said. "Actions like these continue to damage the Disney name in the minds and hearts of countless Americans."

The e-mail solicitation had been circulated by a self-described "lesbian, gay, bisexual" student group on the Internet at Duke University, Durham, N.C. There is no way to determine exactly how many homosexual Internet sites and e-mail lists currently exist. ■

Giving in June to CP down, giving during year still up

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for the month of June dropped 1.77 percent under the previous year's month but the year's total is 1.93 percent above last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of

the SBC Executive Committee.

The total for June, \$12,494,743, is \$225,217 below that of June 1995, or a 1.77 percent decrease.

But the SBC's year-to-date total, from October through June, is 1.93 percent above the same period for the previous year: \$111,422,676 compared to \$109,314,279, or an increase

of \$2,108,396.

Designated gifts for the month of June dropped from the previous year's month: \$14,151,977 compared to \$15,919,773, a \$1,767,796 difference, or an 11.1 percent decrease. However, for the year to date, the 1995-96 year totals are \$128,430,793 compared to the previous year of \$121,703,728, a dif-

ference of \$6,727,065, or a 5.53 percent increase.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the June totals are 5.87 percent above the budget requirement of \$11,802,427. For the year-to-date total, the budget requirement of \$106,221,845 was exceeded by \$5,200,830 or a 4.9 percent increase. ■



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 conform, 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 July

- 10 —Pray for the many churches across Canada which will conduct Backyard Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible School.
- 11 —Pray for Mike Lee, Lewis Lea, Drew Lesater, and Russell Terrell as they prepare to work in Poznan, Poland leading youth and doing training.
- 12 —Pray for the churches in Tennessee and Michigan participating in the Sister Church program.
- 13 —Pray for Canadian natives Nancy and Maurice Tenkink and their children who have returned to their work as missionaries in Nigeria.
- 14 —Pray for Annie Byrd and Jackie Ferguson as they prepare to teach English and the Bible to youth and children in Zyradow, Poland.
- 15 —Pray for the many churches in Michigan which will be conducting Backyard Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible Schools.
- 16 —In September Bonna Conner will be retiring as the WMU Director. Pray as we seek the right successor.

Flag and worship

I have a paper entitled "The U.S. Flag in Worship," an edited excerpt from a position paper by Bill White, pastor of University Church in Coral Gables, Fla. It had on it Baptist Center for Ethics.

This leads me to think some Southern Baptists are starting another "witch hunt" like the one on the Masonic Order.

I quote two statements: "As a Christian, when I come to worship I do not come to celebrate America," and, "I do not come to church to pledge my allegiance to the flag of any country."

Daily I am reminded of God's wonderful creation in beautiful landscapes, animals, and birds. More significant is a picture framed by two trees with foliage forming top and bottom.

It is a beautiful white cross of a nearby church building. Only the cross is visible.

It reminds me of God's love for the world and Jesus' tremendous sacrifice made for me.

I do not worship the old cross that was used to draw the life out of my Savior. It is imaged in many churches. Does the author want to remove this reminder from our worship?

In church I observe the Christian flag, the stars and stripes, and my wonderful wife sitting next to me, evidence of the three institutions God has so graciously ordained: the church, my country, and my family, his perfect earthly institutions. I do not come to worship these, but their closeness reminds me of his love.

The cross and the flag represent the shedding of blood, sacrifices, love by individuals, and foremost, God's love. We need to be constantly reminded

of these and add our thanks to him for those who have offered themselves for freedom of sin and freedom of fear.

Aubrey W. Anderson
Fayetteville 37334

Chaplain writes

It seems that some more family values work and morality training is eroding away from one of the most needed parts of Tennessee government. In a recent Warden's Meeting with Commissioner Donal Campbell, a proposal was announced that one of the chaplain's positions will be cut from two of Tennessee's largest prisons — West Tennessee High Security and Riverbend Maximum Security Prison (plus death row).

Imagine a church of 1,000 members, all of whom were that one or two tough-to-reach members of your church. Then add the burden of having to juggle schedules for any religion the Supreme Court wants to call such. Then imagine telling a violent inmate his mother just died.

In a time when political rhetoric proclaims family values and morality are important, I wonder what is going on in Tennessee government.

Please help us in state government who are walking the walk, not just talking the talk. Call your representative about this.

Joe Crichton, chaplain
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros 37845

Seminary concerns

I am writing because I have a great concern for the continuing excellence in education found at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I am a senior at Middle Tennessee State University, plan-

ning to graduate next year with a degree in radio/TV and minors in psychology and philosophy. I plan to attend SWBTS next year. I feel drawn toward media, and spreading the Gospel in new ways, reaching more people in less conventional means.

A few years ago I heard of the wonderful master of arts in communication program offered at SWBTS. I recently went to the campus and was very pleased. I spoke with the head of the communications department, and was inspired by his passion for what he does.

I also learned some disturbing information. With the restructuring of the SBC, the Radio/TV Commission would be moving to Atlanta, and taking with it most of the equipment available to students of the communications program at SWBTS.

Probably the best solution to this problem is to use a portion of the money that will be saved by the consolidation to supply the seminary with funds to obtain newer equipment than they are losing. Since the SBC will be saving millions of dollars every year, why not take one million every year and fund this need. The program would not need funding forever, only until it was self-supporting. If funded for five years, the total would be \$5 million, but savings would be more than \$30 million during that time period (if figures in the *Baptist and Reflector* are right).

The SBC will still be achieving every purpose for which the restructuring was initiated, including saving millions of dollars, but it will also insure the continued excellence in education at our seminaries.

I have sent this letter to the Implementation Task Force

and encourage others to address them on this issue. Obtain their addresses by calling (615) 244-2355.

Scott Link
Murfreesboro 37130

Re-title article

I am responding to the article written by Lonnie Wilkey, "Judge what's appropriate, Disney or anyone else" in the June 26 issue.

Perhaps the article should be entitled "Excuses for compromise, setting an example for my family or anyone else."

Patsy Hewitt
Elmwood 38560

Proud of camp

Our 13-year-old son just returned from RA camp at our TBC Camp Linden. At Camp Linden our son found spiritual challenge, Bible study, mission education, camping, canoeing on the Buffalo River, food, fun, and Christian fellowship.

It is a highlight of his year every summer. Linden helps our children "grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Our son wants to be a counselor at Camp Linden one day. I am proud of that.

Our family is grateful that Cooperative Program dollars support Camp Linden.

Roger P. Freeman, pastor
First Church
Clarksville 37040

Wrong figure given

In the June 26 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, a letter from Ircel Harrison gave a figure of more than 1,000 campuses in the U. S. where Southern Baptists support ministries for students.

An incorrect number was used instead of the 1,000.

'Attention skills' combat egocentrism in family

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Our world is in some respects a great deal larger than we realize. Most of us suffer from a malady known as egocentrism. This is a type of self-induced tunnel vision that keeps us from being willing or able to see the world from another's perspective. We assume that others think as we do, value the same things we value, and will, therefore, respond to situations the way we expect.

In healthy families attention skills dilute the disastrous devastation that can be caused by this delusion. Attention skills encourage mutual admiration, positive attribution, and the reformulating and relabeling of attitudes. These skills involve owning our own messages, making "I" statements, and understanding the other person.

Owning our messages means that we

work at understanding ourselves. Do I say I am angry or mad when I am really frustrated or anxious? It is important for me to understand myself if I am going to adequately communicate who I am and how I feel. I must first understand what I am feeling and how I communicate that.

I must next pay attention to how I communicate my understanding. It is important in healthy families to use what are called "I" statements. We have all at one time said to someone else, "You make me so mad."

That statement gives the other person responsibility for and power over my anger. It is showing them which are my "buttons" and giving them permission to push them whenever they want.

Accurate "I" statements involve three parts: behaviors, consequences, and feel-

ings. For instance, ["I have a problem. When you (behavior,) (consequences) happen, and "I" feel (feelings).] We might say to a child, "I" have a problem. When you leave your clothes all over the room, I have to look at them, step over them, and even pick them up, and I feel angry and upset. By making that kind of statement, I have owned my anger without blaming it on them. I simply paid enough attention to understand and describe the kinds of behaviors and consequences that give rise to those kinds of feelings in me.

Finally, I must give attention to how the other person understands situations and feels concerning them. Everyone in the world is not as "perfect" as I am. Their understandings are different, if not wrong. Their emotions are elicited by different actions and attitudes. If I am going to live with them in a healthy family, I have to pay attention to their frame of reference and point of view. ■



BARKLEY

Churches again targets of hatred

The epidemic of burning church buildings reminds us that hatred is always on the loose.

While there may be deeply rooted "reasons" for the burnings, some surface issues are immediately recognizable.

No matter the excuse or "reason," hate is always at the root of the matter. There is something terribly wrong with the heart of anyone who decides to burn a church building. Sin, perhaps?

Of course it is sin that causes such actions, dark and sinister, ruthless and selfish sin.

Some things may have changed from the darkest days of blatant and open racial hatred, but sin has not taken a holiday. Racial hatred is one of the most insidious and repulsive of the sins that beset us.

One of the most encouraging outcomes of the burnings is the way Christians, Southern Baptists in particular, have responded quickly with a strong support for the victimized churches.

In fact, the tragedies may prove to be the historical bond that uniquely ties us together. The villains may have burned some buildings, but the churches will survive and prosper.

While we express outrage at the burning (arson) of black churches (and church houses of any denomination or race), Bill Tillman Jr. of Southwestern Seminary has enlightened us.

Tillman, associate professor of Christian ethics, says that church burnings hurt communities at deep levels, not necessarily rational ones.

"To have one's place of worship destroyed tears at points of one's identity which cannot be quan-

tified," he says.

Tillman says the distress is not confined only to those communities which have experienced church burnings. The trauma effect is felt in much wider circles.

"I have held over the years," he writes, "residency in three of the states where churches have been burned. To some degree I sense the injury because of those connections. In some cases I am only one or two acquaintances removed from people directly affected by these burnings." He says that their distress has become something of his distress too.

Perhaps we can understand John Donne's implication here. "No man is an island," he wrote, and "any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind;" Even if it be the death of a church building!

Alfred, Lord Tennyson later wrote, "I am a part of all that I have met."

The inevitable question is, why burn churches?, says Tillman. He adds that "a few analysts maintain that not all these burnings are racially oriented. There are in some countings not as many black church fires this year as last; not all are black churches, but white ones are burned as well," and other fires are copycat fires.

The implication, he says, is that some motives are not as bad as others for burning a church to the ground; that, for instance, as long as a white church burns that makes a black church burning not quite as bad.

However, even one church burning is one too many.

The Christian community is not standing by, as it once did, while such heinous crimes persist. The recent action of Southern Baptists in word and deed are a welcome relief to a significant drought of apparent unconcern.

In the past, fear could have caused white churches to respond weakly. But now fear has taken a back seat, and voices are being heard from all around.

We seem to have arrived at a point where we say, "No more burnings. No more hate crimes. No more hate." Outrage is being expressed in positive actions, not merely in pious words.

Add this week's actions by Tennessee Baptists to those of previous days by other groups, and we have a growing consensus that says "no" to racial hate.

Tillman points to the great paradox. The responses of those of the burned churches is not vindictive or vitriolic. Instead, there is kindness and forgiveness. The people and the pastors, Tillman notes, "demonstrate an extraordinary amount of character in the light of extraordinary loss. Theirs is a response of civility in an uncivil world, something the burners, for whatever reason they are fire-setters, have not yet learned at the soul level."

The shame of the church burnings must be borne by all of us who care. But redemption can come if we do more about our own attitudes and do more about living the teachings of Jesus Christ. **B&R**



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Chemistry professor: "I'm going to drop this silver dollar into the acid. Will it dissolve?"

Student: "Absolutely not."

Professor: "How can you be so sure?"

Student: "Because if it would dissolve, you wouldn't drop it. You would use a nickel instead."

Take this truth

To know facts is important, but to know people is as good, often better. A graduate student working for his Ph. D. degree in a seminary said, "I study my major professor as much, sometimes more, than I study my subject."

Memorize this Scripture

"The Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (I Samuel 16: 7).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to love people as you love them, and accept them as they are. However, please help me also to understand them lest I think either too highly or to lowly of them.

— **B&R**

On being present for a good hearing

We were about 9,000 miles away from home on the eve of Independence Day.

A little band of eight Americans, Tennessee Baptists at that, were "lost" among 50 or 60 members and friends of Thirroul Baptist Community Church in New South Wales, Australia.

We were kindred spirits.

Winding up two weeks of working with the church in the community, we knew that a warm partnership had been formed.

We came with them to the church house that Wednesday evening to say farewell and celebrate new friendships.

They asked us to talk about Independence Day. Without hesitation, we could do that.

So our Thirroul friends learned about the heroes of America's founding. They heard about Tom Jefferson, the Adams boys, John and Sam, Nathan Hale and Patrick Henry, Ethan Allen, George Washington and his courageous and tattered patriots, Betsy Ross, and Ben Franklin. I really think they were intrigued and grateful.

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

They listened, old and young, to the sketch of our national birth. They gladly and boisterously helped us sing the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." The songs came easily to them because they were in the hymnal.

It would have tested our fledgling friendship too much if we had asked them to give the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

But when we sang the national anthem, Pastor David McGrouther urged us to sing the fourth stanza also. We obliged the bloke.

After talking about our nations for a while, the pastor led the church in a prayer for America.

Now here we have an Aussie pastor who apparently has America listed at least second among nations.

But he preached a sermon to all of us about loyalty, faithfulness, and the volunteer spirit of American people.

He remarked in his prayer about the

willingness of American people to wage peace, not war, and to help others who are oppressed.

He received some hearty amens.

He touched on something which I believe most of us overlook or forget about. The Thirroul pastor said the entire world should thank the United States for their willingness to stand up for the rights of all people, and to have that special brand of Christian courage.

He thanked God for the volunteer spirit of Tennesseans.

I don't believe I have ever heard such a prayer — deep humility, appreciation, all wrapped up in sincerity.

The group gave forth some hearty amens.

I think that body of Christians has the right attitude. They don't seem to criticize and wait for someone else to do the work.

I have joined those who believe it is right to seek God's blessings, and to thank him. The Aussies have a good grasp on giving thanks. We could use that in our own society. **B&R**



ALLEN

Don't let those scarecrows paralyze you

Someone once defined fear as False Evidence Appearing Real.

So often we allow a false perception of a situation to cause fear in our lives.

We may allow unknowns of a new adventure or challenge to build walls of fear around our lives, locking us into a lifestyle of inactivity.

Such fear causes us to miss out on many wonderful blessings God has in store for us.

Hannah Hurnard writes about an experience in her life when she was paralyzed by fear.

During this time she heard a sermon that challenged her to turn her fear into faith.

The preacher said, "A wise bird knows

think about it

— Philip Young, pastor, Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville

that a scarecrow is simply an advertisement. It announces that some very juicy and delicious fruit is to be had for the picking.

There are scarecrows in all the best gardens. ... Faith is a bird which loves to perch on scarecrows. All our fears are groundless."

Our lives would be different if we lived each day seeing our scarecrows as advertisements.

What are the scarecrows in your life today? Are you feeling inadequate for a new challenge.

Have the unknowns of a particular situation paralyzed you?

Are you frightened by the difficulties right now in your marriage? With your children or parents? In your job?

Stop for just a moment. Claim the promise of Joshua 1:9:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Now pray and ask God to give you the faith you need to overcome these fears.

Go ahead, fly on over and perch on that scarecrow.

Look for the blessings which lie beyond. **B&R**

Lutts Church celebrates centennial



VISITING DURING THE LUNCHEON which was part of the celebration are Mike Calvert, pastor, Lutts Church, and Elvia McGee, 96, of Jackson, who was honored because of her long service. McGee was a member of the church until last year, a total of about 50 years. — Photos by Connie Davis



LEADING THE OBSERVANCE during the morning worship service were former pastors, from left, J.E. Crump of Morganton, N.C.; C. L. Bray of Halls; Ron Hale, church starter strategist, Kansas City (Kan.) Association; and Mike Calvert, present pastor.



Tennessee features



PRESENTING THE history of the church is Lindsey Stricklin of Florence, Ala.

For Baptist and Reflector

LUTTS — On June 9 the Lutts Church, Lutts, celebrated its centennial.

Those gathered heard from the pastor who preached the first sermon in the current

building in 1945 — J. E. Crump, now of Morganton, N.C. He recalled that people attended the first meeting in the building although it didn't have any windows and of building the church. He also encouraged the members. He said that

working in a small rural church is sometimes discouraging, but the Bible says if one is faithful until death Jesus will give that person a crown of life.

Lindsey Stricklin of Florence, Ala., a former member, presented a history of the

church. His grandfather was the first church clerk. Stricklin noted the "fortunes of the church are tied to the fortunes of the community," which has resulted in Lutts Church remaining a small church for most of its history, but its

members had "developed a core that has kept the faith and carried on." ■

World Changers remodel 10 homes in East Jackson

By Keith Currey
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The 1996 World Changers theme, "At Your Service," aptly described the efforts of Baptist youth and West Tennessee churches during the week of June 8-15.

Approximately 100 older youth representing churches in Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Oklahoma journeyed to Jackson that week to perform extensive repair work on the homes of 10 low income families in East Jackson. With the aid of laypersons and staff from 20 Madison-Chester Association churches, the project was an overwhelming success.

"World Changers is a great way for people my age to go

out and serve God," Jim Stevens, a member of Unity Church in Florence, S.C., said. "Through our work, we got to show God's love to a lot of people."

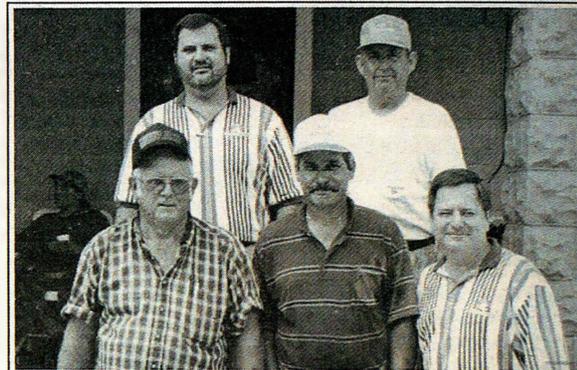
With laymen from local churches serving as crew chiefs and church and associational staff supervising the project, World Changers '96 brought together a diverse group of Baptists for a common purpose. Workers spent long days roofing, painting, and installing siding as temperatures soared above 90 degrees.

Crews of approximately 10 youth and counselors were assembled from different churches, building a team environment among all youth participating. Local volunteers supervised the building and

maintenance efforts and provided meals on-site for the crews.

The city of Jackson even got involved, providing building materials to improve the quality of life in this deteriorating section of town while the youth provided manpower that is ordinarily unavailable.

"We are indeed grateful to the young people and counselors from across the Southeast who came to Jackson to be a part of World Changers, and to the city of Jackson for providing materials," Gary Williams, director, Madison-Chester Association, said. "To perform this service in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ indeed leads to changed lives and happy faces." ■



REPRESENTATIVES FROM Madison-Chester Association and churches which assisted with the project pause on the front steps of one of the houses. From left, front row, are Albert King, Maple Springs Church, Mercer; Danny Cashion, Unity Church, Jack's Creek; Gary Williams, association director; back row, Larry Murphy of the association; and Maurice Hays, BSU director, Jackson State Community College.

Tennessee churches support Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership



A 29-member team, photo to left, of First Church, Calhoun, worked June 14-21 at Newaygo, Mich. Team members led Backyard Bible Clubs, revival services, and helped Newaygo Community Church in other ways. Leaders included Ron Sorah, pastor; Jean Eledge, choir director; and Eric Eledge, youth director.

In photo to right, David Westover, pastor, Bangor Church, Bay City, Mich., stands by the van Maplewood Church, Paris, recently gave the church. Maplewood Church worked at the Michigan church two years ago.

Two Rivers leads way in ministering to divorcees

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "There's no doubt divorce is a sin," Colline Roney says candidly.

"But," she is quick to add, "nowhere does the Bible say divorce is the unforgivable sin."

Roney, administrative assistant to the minister of education at Two Rivers Church, Nashville also directs the church's DivorceCare ministry, a national, nondenominational program designed specifically to help churches minister to people experiencing separation and divorce.

"We believe the local church can and should play a central role in this ministry. Marriages within the church are breaking up, leaving a trail of hurting families and congregations that struggle to find the right response," she said.

Divorce happens all too frequently. Fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce, Roney cited from divorce statistics. In addition, 75 percent of second-time marriages end in divorce and that number increases to 85 percent for third-time marriages, she cited.

Six years ago Roney and her husband, Don, attended a class for remarried persons at Two Rivers. Bryant Millsaps, the

Sunday School teacher of that class, made a statement that "changed my life," she recalled.

He read John 10:10 to us and reminded us that Jesus "came so we could have abundant life too." From that experience her husband accepted Christ and "divorce became my ministry," she said.

Soon afterwards, Roney, along with Donna Blair, began a "rebuilders" Sunday School class for women. Out of that evolved a class for men, but the church lacked a support group for divorced men and women.

Then Roney discovered DivorceCare, a Raleigh, N.C.-based ministry two years ago and Two Rivers became the first church in the Nashville area to utilize the tool.

"DivorceCare is a wonderful program," she affirmed.

DivorceCare uses a video series along with a workbook for 13 weeks. Each video is led by experts on divorce and recovery topics. The quality of the videos is unbelievable, she said.

Two Rivers offers the program on Wednesday nights. Participants who have children are encouraged to bring them and let them participate in choir and mission programs of the church, Roney said. DivorceCare is open to anyone, including non-mem-



COLLINE RONEY, director of DivorceCare at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, displays materials used by participants in the program, which has become a major outreach ministry of the church.

bers, she added. "We get people from other denominations and unchurched people," Roney observed.

"The ministry has turned into one of the biggest outreach tools we have," she said.

If the people already attend church and are happy there "we tell them to stay there," Roney said. Unfortunately, she noted, some churches are not open to meeting the needs of divorced people.

A woman from another denomination called Two Rivers for help. She said that her church would not help her because they did not believe in divorce, Roney said.

"We said we don't believe in divorce either, but we will help."

Roney stressed DivorceCare

is a ministry that the church does not want to see grow because it means more marriages and homes are breaking up.

"We tell participants we are sorry they are here (in the program), but we are glad they have a place to go."

In addition to being open to anyone the program is also affordable. The cost for the 13-weeks is only \$10 and that covers the cost of the workbook.

In comparison, Roney noted that eight or nine years ago she went through a divorce recovery program that cost \$90.

The program usually attracts 50-60 people each Wednesday and hundreds have participated over the last two years, Roney said.

The video sessions are led



by 16 group leaders who are Two Rivers members who have gone through the program. All have been divorced, Roney said. "I don't know how someone who has not been divorced can really know what someone who is going through a divorce is feeling."

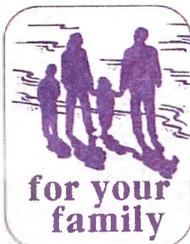
The group leaders act basically as "shepherds" to keep the sessions on track and to check regularly with the people in their group to see how they are doing, Roney explained.

"They are not there to teach or counsel," she stressed. "They have a passion to help others like they've been helped," she observed.

The ultimate goal is to reconcile couples, Roney noted. And that has happened. "We have seen reconciliations and remarriages," Roney said.

For those who cannot reconcile, the program helps participants "get on with the rest of their lives," she continued.

Church leaders or individuals who are interested in learning more about DivorceCare are welcomed to call Roney at (615) 889-3950, ext. 129, or Divorce Care in Raleigh at (800) 489-7778. **B&R**

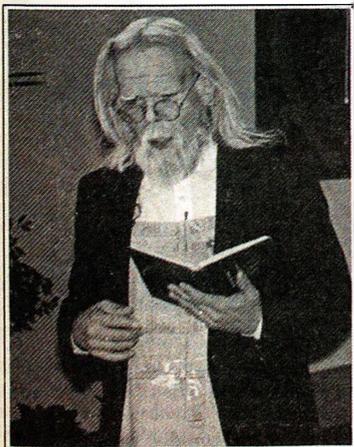


New Hope celebrates 150 years of ministry in Hermitage area

For Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — The fifth oldest church in Nashville Association celebrated 150 years of history June 23.

The "Jubilee Celebration" with guest



CHURCH MEMBER Greg Grimsley relates the history of New Hope Church during a dramatic monologue on 'Jubilee Sunday.'

speaker Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, was one of a series of events between Nov. 19, 1995 and Nov. 17, 1996, scheduled to commemorate the founding of New Hope Church in Hermitage.

The church also received special recognition from the state of Tennessee and the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society on "Jubilee Sunday." State Senator Joe Haynes and Representative Ben West presented the church a framed resolution in recognition of New Hope's sesquicentennial.

New Hope has been designated a historical site by the Tennessee Historical Society. A historical marker was erected near the chapel and dedicated in May.

The church lists 27 charter members. New Hope currently has a membership of 1,250 and a staff of five led by Pastor Raymond Vogtner.

"In paying tribute to the heritage of this church, we have to wonder why New Hope Baptist has been able to exist for 150 years," Vogtner said in an article in *The News Herald*, a local weekly newspaper.

"It would seem that in this case, the

name speaks for itself. This church has offered new hope to the broken-hearted, bruised, and hurting lives of those who have come here, and throughout the years, a measure of love and acceptance has been poured forth," Vogtner said.

Two prominent Southern Baptist leaders — William O. Carver and Byron H. Dement — were ordained to the ministry at New Hope.

Carver was a long-time professor and administrator at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary while Dement became president of the Baptist Bible Institute in New Orleans, La., the forerunner of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. **B&R**



NEW HOPE CHURCH Pastor Raymond Vogtner, right, and guest speaker Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, show Rosie Hamblen, the oldest active homebound member of New Hope, the plaque she received from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. Hamblen joined the church in September 1923. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Missions a family effort at Clearview Church

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist and Reflector

CHICAGO — First, there was culture shock. Then came awareness that similarities among people outweighed the differences. Finally, mutual loving acceptance made leaving new friends after only one week a difficult experience.

Those represented key stages 42 members of Clearview Church in Franklin, experienced during their June 22-29 mission trip from suburban Nashville to Chicago's inner-city Uptown neighborhood.

"The first day I experienced more culture shock than when we were in Chile (a 1992 church mission trip)," said Glenn Campbell, who, with his wife Lori, worked with preschoolers in a Backyard

Bible Club for neighborhood children at Sunnyside Mall. The outdoor mall was created several years ago when a street was closed to traffic after a rash of drive-by shootings.

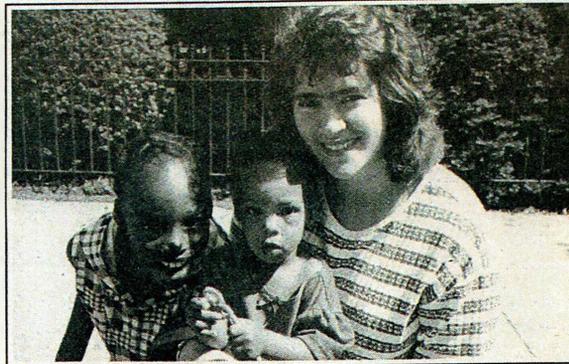
"The kids clung to us and wanted all the attention we could give them," he said. "We could have stayed there from morning 'til dark and they'd have been there."

Uptown Chicago is one of the city's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods where 84 languages are spoken. The site of the first film studio in the United States and the neighborhood where movie stars Gloria Swanson and Charlie Chaplin once lived, Uptown now has "more homeless people than any other neighborhood in Chicago," according to Margaret Lazear of the International Conference Center.

Clearview members stayed at the conference center which houses numerous community ministries.

"For 12 blocks there is a whole neighborhood determined to develop for the people who live here," Lazear said. "That's part of what makes this a special place to work."

Uptown Baptist Church also ministers to neighborhood residents through many and varied programs. During the summer, Southern Baptist



CLEARVIEW MEMBER Lori Campbell, right, made friends with Backyard Bible Club participants Cynthia, left, and Centoria. — Photo by Dan Farrell

church groups conduct weekly Backyard Bible clubs at two locations, a Sunshine club for residents of Lakeshore Nursing Home, and tackle numerous remodeling projects needed to enable the church to maintain and expand its ministries.

Clearview members did all three with a team that ranged in age from three and one-half to 60-something. Young children participated in the Backyard Bible Clubs while older children and teenagers worked alongside adults.

Former Clearview members Brian and Lesley Hill, along with daughters Jordan and Natalie, traveled from their home in Alpharetta, Ga., to participate in the mission project. Lesley worked with first through third graders while five-year-old Natalie participated. Eight-year-old Jordan helped with the Sunshine Club

and Brian worked with a team remodeling the church parlor.

Three-and one-half-year-old Savannah Hari was the youngest Clearview mission trip participant, attending with parents Robin, who worked with older children in a Backyard Bible Club, and Rod, who helped remodel the parlor.

"One of the neat things has been to see how Savannah has reacted to the experience," Robin Hari said. "She's having a ball with our group, but she's also interacted with the (neighborhood) children."

She added, "Our kids don't seem to see color differences. They're responding wonderfully."

In addition to morning activities, groups spent the afternoons cleaning apartments, playing Bingo, and doing aerobics and manicures at a senior adult residence hotel; returning to Bible club sites to play games with the children; feed-

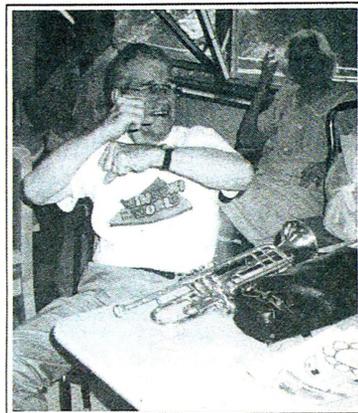
ing the homeless; and passing out fliers and posters about upcoming church activities.

Jody Waldrup, who worked on a team rebuilding a room damaged by fire, participated in the mission project with his wife and three daughters. As fairly new church members, he said one benefit of the trip was getting to know fellow members better.

Tim Bearden, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department, participated with his wife, Janet, and children, Carter and Jenny. A veteran of many mission projects, he said he had never been involved in one with his entire family. He and 16-year-old Carter worked together remodeling a room of the church.

"Even the smaller children feel a part of the excitement of doing something in the name of Jesus Christ," he said.

Clearview Pastor Bob Norman — who played the trumpet, sang, and spoke daily at the Sunshine Club — said experiences like a mission trip give leaders and members a "renewed vision about what else needs to be done. I've gotten several new ideas." Norman praised the "team spirit and positive mental attitude" of the mission team. ■



PASTOR BOB NORMAN participates in armchair aerobics with residents of Lakeshore Nursing Home in Chicago's Uptown area. — Photo by Linda Lawson

Church builds house with faith, love

By Joe Ledford
Special to Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — Tommy Chappell lives in a house God built. Not as splendid as Solomon's temple, it is nevertheless a mansion to Chappell.

Using a wheelchair since a hunting accident, Chappell was living last year in an upstairs apartment in Stoney Creek. His only way into the apartment was to crawl up the stairs, then pull his wheelchair up with a rope.

Members of nearby Unaka Church became concerned for his safety and feared he would be unable to escape if a fire occurred. They had no money and no promise of any money, only a belief that it was the right thing to do.

They saw their vision of helping Chappell come true despite seeming overwhelming

obstacles. As a result, Pastor Walker Roberson said the members now have a greater faith in God, and have a broader view of the needs of the community and how the church can help others.

As soon as plans for a house were announced, companies, individuals, and churches responded with donations of labor and materials, according to Glenda Buckles, a church trustee who helped oversee the project. The house is built across the highway from Unaka.

Buckles said each time it appeared the project would stall for want of specific items or help with construction, God provided what was required.

"It really got the church seeing what the Lord can do with a little bit of nothing," Roberson said. While the house was under construction, the church began a Big A club to minister

to children by bringing them to the church every Saturday for breakfast and Bible stories. The church's food pantry has nearly doubled, Roberson said, as the church continues to help meet the needs of people.

"They're seeing they can make a difference and they're uniting around that," Roberson said. "They're looking in every direction to see what they can do to help in our community, all because they exercised a little bit of faith."

Chappell has been in his new home for about two months. Complete except for the landscaping, the house has a sidewalk and deck that allow Chappell to roll his wheelchair up to the electric, remote-controlled door. "It's a great blessing from the Lord," he said. ■ — Ledford is a writer for the Elizabethton bureau of the *Johnston City Press*.



Tennessee Acteen

Andrea Aldridge, center, an Acteen from New Johnsonville, had the opportunity to visit with Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, right, and outgoing WMU President Carolyn Miller during the recent WMU annual meeting in New Orleans. Aldridge was just one of six Acteens nationwide chosen to serve on the National Acteens Panel. She also served as a page during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.



leaders

■ First Church, Savannah, has called **Jerry Rogers** as interim music director.

■ **Donald Caudill**, pastor, Sunset Village Church, Bristol, and his wife, Lois, were honored by the church recently on their first anniversary of ministry. A reception, which was a surprise to the couple, was held.

■ **John Joiner**, minister of music, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, and his wife, Debbie, were recognized recently for seven years of ministry at the church.

■ **Jose G. Roman** of Morristown was ordained to the ministry by Choptack Church, Rogersville, June 23. The ordination was at the request of Los Amigos de Cristo Ministry, a joint effort by the Nolachucky, East Tennessee, Jefferson, and Knox associations along with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Home Mission Board. Roman became a Christian as a result of the ministry of Baptist missionaries in Venezuela, his native country.

■ First Church, Columbia, has called **Mike Dawson** as pastor, effective June 16.

■ Forest Hills Church, Nashville, has called **Carol Turner Smith** as minister of childhood education, effective June 16. She has been director of Mother's Day Out and coordinator of child care at First Church, Hattiesburg, Miss. Smith is a graduate of the University of Mobile, Ala., and Southeastern Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

churches

■ **First Church, Obion**, will celebrate its centennial anniversary July 13-14. On July 13 a Gospel Singing and Watermelon and Ice Cream Feast will be held. On July 14 the morning worship service will feature Dan Mueller, a former minister of music/youth, and Robert Ivy, a former pastor. After a luncheon, a program featuring former ministers will begin at 1:30 p.m.

■ **First Church, Kenton**, will hold revival July 21-24. Phil Glisson of Memphis will be the evangelist.

■ **Cornerstone Church, Jasper**, is trying to locate a used baby grand piano. Please contact the church at P.O. Box 605, Jasper, 37347 or at (423) 942-0909.

■ **Curve Church, Ripley**, will hold revival July 28-31. Terry Wilkerson will speak.

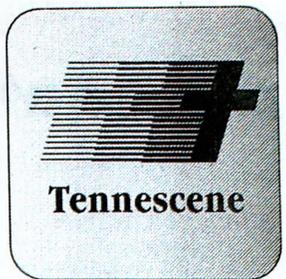
■ **First Church, Savannah**, is holding a Ladies' Conference and Prayer Luncheon July 26-27. Deborah Brunt will speak. Reservations are required for the luncheon by July 24 at noon. Call (901) 925-7484, 925-3620, or 925-3572 for more information.

■ **The New America Singers**, a 40-voice ensemble selected from the California Baptist All-State Youth Choir, will appear in concert July 17 at **Temple Church, Old Hickory**. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. The group, composed of members ages 13-23, have toured in several countries.

the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will host its first

conference targeting adults ages 55 and above on Aug. 5-7. The "Improving With Age" conference will feature Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board; Warren Wiersbe, author and speaker; Junior Hill, evangelist from Alabama; Bob Norman, pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin; and James Pulliam of Bolivar. The meeting begins with a banquet Aug. 7. For more information,



call the school at (901) 661-5160.



PARTICIPATING in the recent 79th anniversary activities of Riggs Chapel Church, Harriman, are, from left, H.M. James, son of a former pastor; Dan Murphy, former pastor; Fred (Pete) Scarborough, pastor, and Hascue Carter, former pastor.



LEADING THE GOUNDBREAKING ceremony of Holt's Corner Church, Chapel Hill, is Larry Chatman, pastor, as deacons look on. The deacons include, from left, Garrett Griffy, Randy Perryman, Charlie Perryman, David Griffy, Ricky Hazel, Paul Rogers, Ronnie Trout, Ricky Daughrty, Nick Bullock, and Glenn Trout. The church plans to add a 3,500-square-foot addition for education and fellowship purposes.



WMU MEMBERS of West Jackson Church, Jackson, pack hospitality bags for the Tennessee WMU-sponsored Olympic ministry. Members include, from left, Patsy Moore, Charlotte Thornton, Johnny Jordan, Hope Sipes, Dot Leathers, and Nancy Senter.



Tennessee samplers

Life's roadblocks

By Marvin Cameron, pastor West Hills Church, Knoxville

I am an impatient traveler. Unplanned delays on the interstate trouble me greatly. The "rolling roadblocks" of recent months have caught me unaware a couple of times. All you can do is sit and creep along until the construction is complete. That gets difficult when you have waited until the last minute to leave to get downtown or to another destination.

I really haven't found any useful

way to spend the time in a "rolling roadblock" yet. I listen to talk radio some, especially since there is an all-sports station on now. I glance at the paper if it is in the car. I make a few notes if I can reach a pen without endangering life and limb. But all of those things are just a way to pass the time.

It seems that there are more obstacles in getting around town now than ever before. As soon as the interstate gets jammed all the traffic moves to Kingston Pike or other alternate routes. When an accident occurs or construction slows traffic all of us have to adapt.

I wonder if these traffic obstacles are not good analogies for life. Everyone of us has days when the traffic of life flows freely and quickly. Things just seem to be good. Other days are "rolling roadblocks" unto themselves. How we handle those days seems to determine much of the success we will have in life.

Are you handling the roadblocks in life OK? The worship and fellowship of our church can help you find the way, even when life is under construction.

By the way, traffic on the interstate is always light on Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing you then. ■

Dealing with setbacks

By Allen Raines, pastor Everett Hills Church, Maryville

While traveling last week we stopped at a rest area in Mississippi. On entering the Welcome Center we were given a drink in a cup that listed historical facts. I found it fun to read these. That encouraged me to read later in the week an article about the history of the ice cream cone.

In 1904 at the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, Charles Menches was in St. Louis at the celebration selling ice cream. He, like other vendors, sold his ice cream in dishes. Business was so good that by mid-morning all his dishes were gone. Customers were unable to be served, and his ice cream was melting.

Menches looked around. He saw a

man from Syria selling a crisp pastry-like delicacy called a zalabia. He got some of the pastries from the man. He curled the zalabia, scooped in the ice cream, and handed one to a customer. The customer looked startled, tasted, then smiled. The ice cream was saved, and the ice cream cone was invented.

As Paul Harvey would say, now you know the rest of the story. This little historical fact is a reminder that problems and setbacks come to all of us. But God also has given us the qualities of imagination and inventiveness. And, just maybe a challenge is sent in the form of a setback to let us make it into an opportunity. ■

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

ATS reaffirms accreditation of seminary

By Brian Smith
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Commission on Accrediting has reaffirmed the accreditation of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and lifted the two-year probation imposed in January 1995 following the dismissal of then-President Russell Dilday. Dilday was fired in March 1994 by the seminary board of trustees.

The commission's action was conveyed to seminary

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STAFF POSITION: Cherokee Church, Memphis, is receiving resumes for the position of minister of music and education. If interested, please send resume to Bobby Mullins, Cherokee Baptist Church, 5340 Quince Road, Memphis, TN 38119

President Ken Hemphill in a June 14 letter from Daniel Aleshire, associate director for the Commission on Accrediting.

Four criteria were involved in the commission's decision, Aleshire said, noting the seminary will have to report to the

commission by April 15, 1997, concerning the status of the seminary relative to each area.

The criteria are: (1) that the board of trustees demonstrates that it continues to make personnel decisions according to

formally adopted criteria and procedures, (2) the board demonstrates it is paying attention to its own continuing education and development, (3) faculty and students can attest, through some fair and ap-

propriate means, that their freedom of inquiry, within the seminary's confessional boundaries is assured, and (4) the seminary should demonstrate continued development of its newly instituted procedures. ■

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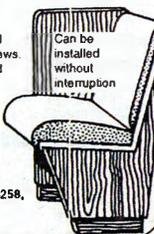
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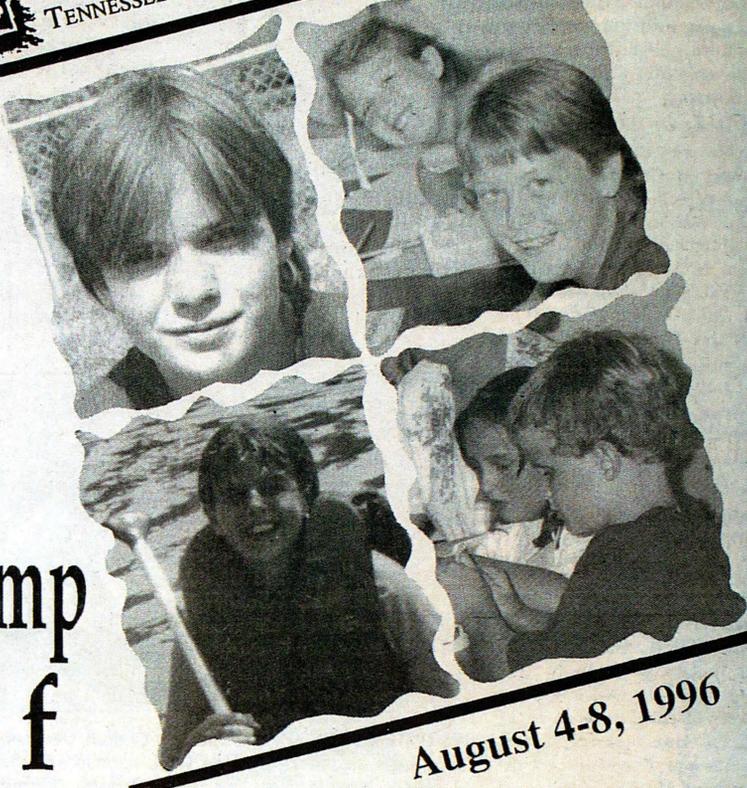
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Life's meaning

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-8, 3:1-6; 8:22-36

As we look for meaning and purpose in life it is easy to lose the big picture. Why are we here? Ecclesiastes provides a glimpse of life from the perspective of human wisdom apart from spiritual commitments. Pleasure, escape, wealth, works, and even wisdom are not fulfilling in themselves. The teacher concludes that life is empty repetition apart from and without an abiding faith in and commitment to God.

Finding life's true meaning (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Proverbs 1:7). The ancients were preoccupied with collecting and collating proverbs and other words of wisdom for the training of their youth. The Old Testament reflects this pattern in what is commonly called "wisdom literature." Secular wisdom focused on the accumulation of knowledge. Hebrew wisdom focused on right living under the authority of God. The teacher concludes "fear God and keep his commandments." Proverbs reminds us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Fear is not terror. It is an holy awe or respect. Reverence for God and obedience to God go together.

Finding God (Proverbs 2:1-5). God can be known as we are open and receptive to him. The "if ... then" clauses indicate that these are conditional promises. We must be willing to appropriate the truths of God's Word. We must actively hide these words in our heart, we have to give ear to what God tells us, we must seek after and pursue his wisdom. The fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God are inseparably related.

Finding true wisdom (vv. 6-8). Those who trust God are given wisdom by God. Worldly wisdom is the ability to take things apart. Godly wisdom is the grace to put things back together. The practical result of this wisdom is realized in meaningful living day to day. God also protects those who walk in his wisdom.

Finding a trustworthy guide (ch. 3:5-6). Some speak of "finding God's will" as if it were something distinct from finding God. Others talk as if they have a "God's eye view" on life. These verses remind us that we are to have complete confidence in God. We are not to depend on our own insights. Our focus is on knowing him. He promises to take care of making our paths straight. In other words, we may not always know the particulars of God's will but if we concentrate on relating to and knowing him, he will close and open doors to keep us in his will.

Finding meaningful life (ch. 8:35-36). Wisdom is personified. In the context of faith wisdom is relational. When one finds Godly wisdom one finds life. If one repudiates wisdom, he sins against God and against himself. We were created for God. Facing life without knowing and relating to God is about as practical as having an automobile without an engine. Such a car may look nice in the driveway and impress the neighbors but it will never accomplish its intended purpose of providing transportation. We can participate in the facade of life by getting caught up in the temporal or through Christ we can have real life. We must choose to cooperate with the grace of God that is at work in our life. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Praising God

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — Psalm 105:1-11, 43-45

History proudly proclaims God's mighty acts that made possible a love relationship with him. The writer of Psalm 105 calls us to remembrance of how God is at work.

God's works of love — vv. 1-11

Verses 1-4 are a call to worship. We are encouraged to give thanks, pray, sing, and tell of God's wonderful acts toward man. The fact that God loves us so much as to make every effort to relate to us should motivate intense adoration of him.

The reader is encouraged to glory in his name (v. 4). So often we glory in ourselves and our own accomplishments. When we glory in God, we admit that our very existence depends upon him and his grace. The person who glories in God finds their strength for living in him, seeking his face in the midst of the entanglements of this life.

What is there to remember about God's works? The psalmist lists several. In their lives, God had performed miracles before them. Heavenly wonders oc-

God and his mighty acts. He keeps the covenants that he makes with his people (vv. 8-11). Any plan of God will come to fulfillment. Any promise he makes will be honored. God had a plan for the redemption of sinful man, and that plan rested on a covenant he had made with his people.

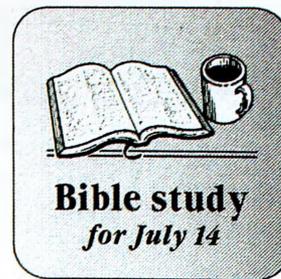
Today, Christians stand as the grateful beneficiaries of God's commitment to keeping his promises. Our salvation through Jesus is the result of his covenant.

The result of praise — vv. 43-45

As we are involved in praise to God for his faithfulness, we benefit from God's response to that praise. Praise leads the participant to obey God's Word. Verses 43-45 tell the story of a people who joyfully followed God. God gave them a place to serve him. God's purpose for giving them a land is made clear in verse 45: That they might keep his precepts and obey his laws.

As we honor God with remembrance and praise, he reminds us of the purpose of his acts of love toward us. He wants his children to model obedience in this life. When Christians follow God, they set the greatest example of commitment that the unawed person could ever see. Our obedience to God reveals the reality of our relationship to God.

The greatest praise to God for his mighty acts is for us to respond by obedience to his Word. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Convention Uniform Lesson

curred in their sight. He had led them through dark moments and rebellious moments through his wise judgments.

All of these things occurred because Israel was a people with a mission. God had given them a blessed purpose, and he was therefore committed to meeting every need they had in the fulfillment of that purpose. They were the descendants of Abraham (v. 6), his chosen people.

This points to the main thing to remember about



Letters to the seven churches

By Tom Moncrief

Bible Book Lesson

Focal Passage — Revelation 2:1-7; 3:14-16, 19-22

The exalted, glorified Christ was seen by John in his vision recorded in Revelation 1. He was in the midst of his churches holding the pastors (messengers) in his right hand. Christ was shown to be the center of the church's unity and life as well as her power and authority. The seven churches addressed represent all churches. The only way they can fulfill their mission in the world and become the church which pleases and truly honors Christ is to receive Christ more into their life.

John saw the church as it is. Each letter shows that Christ has full knowledge and understanding of each church. Any church at any time may find Christ's message and draw warning, encouragement, and consolation from these letters.

To the church in Ephesus (ch. 2:1-7). Each letter was to the church in the capital and foremost city of Asia. Paul devoted three years of ministry there. Christ's titles in this letter show his presence in his church with absolute power and sovereign protection over the churches as he moves among them. Christ dwells energetically, not just passively, in his people, the church.

"I know" stresses Christ's intimate acquaintance with each church. He perfectly knows all. He knew the faithfulness under difficulties demonstrated by the Ephesians. With all the good, they had left their first love. They hated heresy. Could it be they did not love those who differed in their beliefs? It seems always to be difficult to love those who disagree. Failing to love and becoming strongly self-opinionated and self-righteous with a censorious and hypercritical spirit misses the whole point of true Christianity.

Christ called upon the church to remember the spirit of love they had known and to repent of their sin and do the first works. Otherwise, he would come and remove the candlestick. The church is essentially a light-bearing community. Ceasing to give light shows it ceases to be the church. Any congregation is a church to the extent their faith and works are motivated by love.

Christ exhorts attention to the spirit's voice leading to heeding his voice. The Lord would respond by giving life. Out of a loving church the living waters flow and the tree of life stands beside it.

To the church in Laodicea

(ch. 3:14-16, 19-22). "The faithful and true witness" who is "the Amen" and "beginning (source) of creation" addresses Laodicea. These titles contrast with the lukewarm spirit of the church. The church made many claims to their wealth and also claimed it was by their own efforts. This claim of wealth may have been a factor in the church's condition. It may have produced a self-righteous and self-sufficient attitude which caused them to not see Christ in the right way. They were pitifully poor, blind, and naked.

The remedy for their condition was to receive real and genuine wealth from the Lord. Short of that, Christ would show his love for them by bringing affliction upon them to awaken them. Permitting persecution to come upon the people had a redemptive purpose. Rebuke and chastening may be signs of tenacious love. Judgments are expressions of deep affection intended to lead to repentance.

Our Lord invites his children to have fellowship with him, but each must invite him into the heart and life. He is ever ready to respond. He provides close communion and victory and exaltation to the heavenly realm. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



world news

Warren to leave Home Life post

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Charlie Warren, editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Home Life magazine since 1988, will leave the position July 31 as the board pursues new leadership and direction for the family publication, according to Gary Hauk, director of the discipleship and family department.

"During his tenure, Charlie has overseen a major redesign of Home Life that has moved the magazine forward in an excellent way," Hauk said. "I pray that the Lord will open a door of fulfilling service for him."

Warren said, "Home Life has touched hundreds of thousands of lives during my eight years as the editor. I am grateful that God chose to use me in such a high-impact ministry."

Warren, former associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, will become public relations director at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla, effective. Aug. 15. ■

Agency trustees take steps toward dissolution

Baptist Press

PIPESTEM, W. Va. — Trustees of the Education Commission took steps June 23-24 to implement the actions of the Southern Baptist Convention abolishing the 81-year-old agency by June 1997.

Trustees meanwhile expressed a desire to retain some flexibility in the process and to protect the best interests of staff who must find other positions of service.

The annual trustee meeting at Pipestem Resort State Park and hosted by Bluefield College, may be the last plenary session of the governing board of the agency which relates to Southern Baptist seminaries, colleges, universities, and schools.

Early in the session a motion was made that would have effectively abolished the commission as early as Dec. 31, 1996. The motion was approved without a specific date stipulated.

The trustee action prompted further discussion and a substitute motion which designated June 19, 1997, as the termination date for commission staff and programs. That motion lost by a 9-8 margin.

However, discussion on the matter produced a consensus that the trustees should retain flexibility in the agency's dissolution while keeping faith with

the action and spirit of the SBC action, part of the convention-wide "Covenant for a New Century" now being implemented.

Technically, the dissolution of the Education Commission will become a merger with the SBC Executive Committee, under Tennessee laws. Both corporations have offices in Nashville. ■

FMB leaders denounce ruling

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has joined a rising cacophony of voices protesting an Islamic court's recent ruling that Kuwaiti Christian Robert Hussein should be killed for his faith. Hussein, 45, is in hiding.

Board President Jerry Rankin denounced the ruling June 27 as a "miscarriage of justice" and appealed to all "freedom-loving Americans" to raise a cry. "We are asking believers in the United States to petition God with prayer and petition the Kuwaiti government for Mr. Hussein's safety," Rankin said.

Human rights advocates see Hussein's case as precedent-setting in Kuwait and have called on people worldwide to mount a letter-writing cam-

paign to Shaikh Saad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, and Mohammed Sabah Al-Slim, its ambassador to the United States. (Interested people can call the Baptist and Reflector office at (615) 371-2003 for addresses.)

In February the court ruled Hussein should lose his wife and custody of his two children, at least four houses, his contractor's business, and about \$4 million in assets and inheritance unless he "repented" by May. Hussein's refusal to renounce Jesus Christ — claiming freedom of religion based on the Kuwaiti constitution — led to the Islamic judge's latest ruling. ■

Nashville native tapped by WMU

WMU news office



RANKIN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Nashville native Sarah Groves has joined the staff of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union as a youth consultant. She will work with WMU's Acteens and Youth on Mission organizations, along with helping to develop other tools and resources for involving youth in missions education and involvement.

Groves formerly was interim youth director at Mountain Brook Church, Birmingham. She is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. ■

COM holds annual rally

Baptist Press

GREENWOOD, Miss. — More than 250 recreational vehicles packing 567 people spent mid-June on the parking lot of the civic center here for the 25th annual National Campers on Mission Rally.

The tradeoff for camping on a parking lot was that the campers could have their rally in the air conditioned civic center, beating the 95-degree summer heat.

Participants swapped mission work stories, ate barbecue and catfish, took classes in such disparate subjects as juggling and developing a golf ministry, and enjoyed the company of people who love to camp and do mission work at the same time.

In a campground setting where people are relaxed and friendly, "there's hardly a bobble between talking about the natural and supernatural of life," said speaker John McBride, director of missions for Shelby Association, and one of the people who dreamed up Campers on Mission 25 years earlier.

The stories of witness and mission participation abounded. Joel Land, associate director of the Home Mission Board's special ministries department, said the American Bible Society reported to him that Campers on Mission distribute more Scripture than any group they have contact with.

Besides being a featured speaker reminiscing on the first national COM rally in 1972 at Land Between the Lakes, Ky., the HMB staffer also led a seminar.

The national rally took planning and physical effort. Local COM members who planned the event had to go to Greenwood two weeks early to work with the city in setting up electrical and water hookups for the RVs. Families came from 19 states, plus Ontario, Canada, where a chapter of COM has been organized.

COM is Baptist-oriented, but any Christian camper can join. There is no charge for membership and opportunities for Christian service are constant.

The 1997 national rally will take place June 10-13 in Hutchinson, Kan. ■



August 18 is Baptist and Reflector Day

Aug. 18 is Baptist and Reflector Day on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar. The Baptist and Reflector is the official newsjournal of Tennessee Baptists. Make sure everyone in your congregation is aware of their paper. Plan now to observe Baptist and Reflector Day. We will provide a free copy for each of your members. If your church used to subscribe but no longer does so, this will be a good way to remind those members of their paper and to introduce it to new members. Use the form below to order copies of the Aug. 14 issue. Mail form by Aug. 6 to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

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