

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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WORKING AT ASSOCIATION

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## Tennessee group ministers with Australians

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor  
*Baptist and Reflector*  
First of two stories

THIRROUL, New South Wales — The land of Down Under. Many "place names" here in Australia are aboriginal, natural beauty is extraordinary, the churches small, but the people are "for real."

This missions/evangelism trip to Australia began months ago through the planning of Tennessee pastor Bob Brown of Broadway Church in Maryville, and Australian pastor John Taylor of Wollongong Church, Wollongong.

Though not a partnership program as such, the mission group was recognized by the Foreign Mission Board.

As a result of that friendship, 34 Tennessee Baptists flew to New South Wales June 20, debarking in Sydney after a long flight from Knoxville-Chicago-Los Angeles.

The 14-day mission journey was life-changing. Each of us discovered that Tennessee Baptists and Australian Baptists are kindred spirits.

Wollongong is a great steel city an hour's drive from Sydney. The Tennesseans worked

with churches in several small towns along the Pacific Coast near Wollongong.

The Tennesseans split into three groups. Brown led a team of 20 that stayed in Wollongong and worked with the church there.

A team of eight headed by Ray Luck, director of missions, Loudon County Association, was stationed in the Thirroul area. David McGrouther is pastor of Thirroul Church.

James Mason, bivocational pastor of Fort Sanders Church, Knoxville, led a group of six working in Kiama with Kiama Church.

The groups' main mission was to assist local churches

with church and local community programs and projects.

The Tennessee Baptists were able to speak and have programs in local schools and adult retirement homes.

They also provided speakers for several churches and assisted in regular weekly home groups. Messages were given at local pastors' meetings

which included several denominations.

In Wollongong, for example, a 5:30 a.m. prayer and breakfast meeting called together 17 ministers to pray for people.

Australian Baptist church families provided board and lodging in their homes for the Tennessee Baptist visitors. — See Tennessee, page 7



CHILDREN OF AUSTINMER School near Thirroul, New South Wales, pause to talk with Janey Longworth, a college student from Philadelphia. She did clowning and miming for schools and other groups that were ministered to by Tennessee Baptists in the recent mission/evangelism trip. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

## Olympics ministry gears up

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BENTON — The world is coming to Tennessee (and the southeast).

The 1996 Summer Olympics will begin July 19 and run through Aug. 4. The canoeing/kayaking competitions will be held on the Ocoee River in Benton, July 24-28.

Ministries will be held at the Benton site and other Olympic venues (locations where the games will be held) in Georgia and Alabama.

Each venue will have several ministry sites where volunteers will have an opportunity to welcome visitors and share a face-to-face Gospel witness.

Polk County Baptists along with those in neighboring areas are eagerly awaiting the event, said Polk County Association Director of Missions W.L. Shipman. "We are excited about the ministry opportunities," he said.

About 15,000 people are expected at the Ocoee River venue during each day of the finals (July 26-28), he said.

Shipman noted the association has received about 30,000 hospitality bags as of July 12 and they anticipate a total of

45,000 bags before the events begin.

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union members, along with WMU members nationwide, have been preparing hospitality bags filled with various items such as candy, lip balm, sun block, and will include a Gospel tract.

Carrol Kelley of Tennessee WMU said their office sent out more than 75,000 bags for use across the state. Many of the bags will go to the Ocoee site while some will be sent to AIM in Atlanta, she said.

"Churches across our state have responded well in sending hospitality bags," Shipman affirmed.

Other Baptists are also involved in the Tennessee endeavor. Shipman said about 550 Mississippi Baptists will have worked in the association by the end of the summer with Olympics and resort ministries.

Shipman asked Tennessee Baptists to pray that "doors open to us and will continue to stay open. ...

"We're prepared to do our best to see that everyone who comes here will have a Christian witness in some form before they leave here," the director of missions pledged. **BR**

## Designated gifts accepted for burned Tennessee churches

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Several churches have inquired concerning designated funds for burned African American churches in Tennessee only.

Such contributions should be sent to the Tennessee Baptist Convention with the designation "Arson Fund — Tennessee African American churches," according to James Porch, executive director, Executive Board.

These funds will be joined with those sent to Tennessee from the Southern Baptist Convention Arson Fund.

A report of those contributions designated for Tennessee churches only will be sent to the SBC Executive Committee office.

All monies designated for Tennessee African American churches will be distributed through the Missions Department of the Executive Board. **BR**

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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**For revival thrust**

# Baptists invited to seminaries by President Eliff

Baptist Press

DEL CITY, Okla. — The president of the Southern Baptist Convention has issued an invitation to Southern Baptist ministers to attend one-day convocations at seven seminaries with "preaching, singing, and powerful praying as we turn our hearts toward God."

Tom Eliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., issued the invitation in a July 15 letter to Southern Baptist pastors, state convention executive directors, state Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood and division directors, and associational directors of missions. More than 40,000 of the letters were sent in a cooperative effort by the SBC president and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Labeled an "urgent invitation," Eliff said the 20th cen-

tury "is rapidly drawing to a close. Tragically, this could be the first century in our nation's history to pass without a great, sweeping move of God. Will that be the case? Many of us believe the Lord is saying 'turn to me!' He is calling us to revival: calling us to the cross; calling us to the crucified life."

Eliff said the seminaries are opening their campuses for the day "when all energies and interests will be focused on revival." He urged Southern Baptists to find the nearest campus, "on the day most suited to your schedule."

Primarily directed to Southern Baptist pastors and leaders, the convocations will be a day in which at least three generations of SBC ministers join hearts in "crying out to God for revival in the land," Eliff said.

James T. Draper Jr., BSSB

president, said the board believes the cause of renewal, revival and spiritual awakening is "so important that we were glad to underwrite this mailing."

"I hope thousands of Southern Baptists will respond to our president's invitation and attend these convocations," Draper said.

Each convocation beings at 10 a.m.

Meeting dates and locations: Aug. 29, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Sept. 3, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Sept. 4, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Sept. 10, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Sept. 11, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and Sept. 12, New

Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

A convocation also will be held Sept. 5 at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Elliff said.

Eliff said, "Come as early and stay as long as you like. ... I urge you to begin praying now for a mighty moving of God during these days. Such a concerted effort, touching lives, churches and campuses, will be in vain 'unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.'"

Eliff, a former missionary to Africa, was elected president of the SBC at the June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans.

The "cry for revival" was a vivid theme at the SBC annual meeting as Ronnie Floyd, Arkansas pastor, delivered the convention sermon calling for Southern Baptists to make plans for prayer and fasting. ■

## House approves Defense of Marriage Act

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly July 12 to approve legislation designed to enable states to refuse recognition of homosexual marriages.

The Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 3396, cleared the House by a 342-67 margin which did not reflect the fervent debate on the floor.

The legislation has been on a fast track since it was introduced in both the House and Senate in early May in response to an expected Hawaii court ruling which threatens to legalize homosexual marriage in a sweeping way. In a case scheduled to go to trial later this summer, it is expected a Hawaii court will declare homosexual marriage constitutional.

If such a union made in Hawaii is legal, it likely would be considered legal in all other states under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, unless a state is able to show it has a compelling policy opposing such unions. Eleven states have enacted legislation banning homosexual marriages.

The bill says no state shall be required to recognize a homosexual marriage from another state. It also amends federal law to define marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife" and to define a spouse as "a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."

Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission consultant Ben Mitchell said, "The lopsidedness of the vote shows two things: First, that the American people

are not willing to redefine the institution of marriage on the whim of a radical segment of our society; second, that Americans are tired of having the homosexual agenda shoved in their faces.

"The tactics of the homosexual lobby are as old as humanity. The way we sinners often deal with sin is to redefine it. We try to make it palatable and rationalize it away. Thankfully, the House has shown that it is not willing to do so," said Mitchell, the CLC's consultant on biomedical and life issues.

While opponents of the legislation charged it is politically motivated and mean-spirited toward homosexuals, supporters said it is a timely response to an attempt to legalize same-sex marriage through the decision of one state. ■

## In wake of Hurricane Bertha Baptist feeding units respond

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Hurricane Bertha left less damage and dislocation than first expected, yet Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding units have been at work in the Carolinas since Saturday, July 13, according to Mickey Caison, Adults in Missions associate director at the Brotherhood Commission and off-site coordinator for the disaster response.

As of July 15, North Carolina Baptist Men have two feeding units in operation. Unit 1 is based at Hampstead High School in Hampstead, N.C., near Wilmington and Unit 2 is at Cape Carteret Baptist Church in Cape Carteret, N.C., near Jacksonville. The units provided 25,000 meals Saturday and Sunday.

The evening of July 14, a Charleston, S.C.-based unit was activated to support the unit at Hampstead. The July 15 meal count is expected to surpass 20,000.

No other state convention's units are on either "standby" or "alert" status.

The preliminary damage report from the American Red Cross, released July 15, shows 1,000 homes damaged and six shelters open, with 78 people. Red Cross is continuing its assessment of damage and the need for clean-up and recovery units. Most of the damage has been limited to beach and barrier island areas. ■



disaster relief



### Bledsoe Association breaks ground

Leaders of Bledsoe Association break ground June 2 for its Association Mission Strategy Center. The land was donated by First Church, Gallatin, and is located in downtown Gallatin. The 2,324-square-foot center, which will cost about \$133,000, will be funded with proceeds from the sale of the association's camp in Westmoreland. The association still has access to the camp, noted Mike Pennington, director of missions. Participating in the ceremony are, from left, Elmer Suddarth, Paul Mosteller, Dottie Mosteller, J.C. Lewis, Ann Lewis, Ed Hardy, Mike Pennington, Theta Campbell, Greg Bowers, Wert Campbell, Jack Goodwin, Grace Morris, Buck Morris, Mark Drake, and Neil Jackson.

# AFA president mails Disney packet to 28,500 Baptist pastors

By Ken Walker  
For Baptist Press

TUPELO, Miss. — Southern Baptist pastors looking for additional reasons to support a boycott of the Walt Disney Company will be finding them in their mailbox.

On July 3, the American Family Association (AFA) mailed packets to 28,500 SBC pastors containing a letter, fact sheet explaining reasons for the boycott, and a list of Disney's products. The packet will include a postcard that can be returned to Disney Chairman Michael Eisner. Wildmon said AFA has printed 500,000 boycott cards, which are perforated to allow the sender to mail a message to Eisner and retain the product list.

The AFA also is mailing a series of public service announcements to approximately 1,200 Christian radio stations. President Donald Wildmon, a United Methodist minister, said these outlets generally

have been supportive of past boycotts by airing the PSAs.

Boycotts generally take up to two years to have an impact, Wildmon said, adding because of Disney's size, it could take two and a half to three years before the company sees any difference on its bottom line.

"I've done this for 20 years and I know how it works," he said.

"If the SBC or AFA calls for a boycott, you're not going to see any effect in 30 days. It's foolish to think you are. But if you aggressively promote it ... you'll see an impact.

"We're getting feedback from the public about Disney, wanting information or verification (of its actions). This is the way boycotts normally catch on, from the grassroots level. I saw an editorial from the *Texas Catholic*, the diocese paper for Dallas, which has endorsed it. I expect other denominations to come on board."

The SBC resolution cited five primary reasons for its

concern about Disney, such as extending insurance benefits to employees' homosexual partners, hosting homosexual theme nights at its amusement parks, and distributing films that attack Christian values.

The AFA fact sheet provides further details of the company's actions. Among them:

(1) Objectionable elements in children's movies, such as censoring Pocohontas' conversion to Christianity in its recent animated feature. It also portrayed two characters in "The Lion King" as homosexual. For the latter claim, it cited a *New York Times* interview with the actors who played the roles.

(2) Hiring a director specifically to produce a movie belittling Christian beliefs and another movie about a man's pursuit of a lesbian. Disney also hired a lesbian director to develop female and lesbian movies, drawing praise from a gay magazine.

(3) A company subsidiary, Miramax, distributing movies

that contain graphic and sexually-explicit language, are excessively violent or pro-homosexual or contain nudity.

(4) Helping underwrite a Hollywood benefit for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

(5) Including the actual number of a phone-sex line in the 1994 movie, "The Santa Clause."

Those who want to boycott Disney may find it tough to forego all contact with the entertainment giant, which owns the ESPN sports network and ABC, which features such family-oriented fare as "Home Improvement" and Friday night's "TGIF" programming.

Disney companies also hold the rights to popular shows like "Live With Regis and Kathie Lee" and "Siskel & Ebert," market numerous family-oriented videos, and own a host of daily newspapers and radio and TV stations.

Wildmon acknowledged the company's size will make the battle extremely difficult and

make it hard for people to avoid all contact. Given the situation, he said participants should shun Disney products at a level that is comfortable for them.

A boycott is something you can't force people to participate with, he said. Obviously, not all Christians will participate; some don't agree with the idea of boycotts, he added.

Despite criticism of the measure, he said he expects it will eventually register when viewers either cancel or refuse to take cable's Disney Channel and stop purchasing other Disney products.

"This is a matter of Christian stewardship," Wildmon said.

"It's about spending your money where it would make a difference for the kingdom of God, and where it would not be detrimental to his kingdom.

"You don't fight battles because you can win 'em. You fight them because they're the right battles to fight, and this is the right battle to fight." ■

## BSSB division reorganizes to add new SBC assignments

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board's church leadership services division has announced a reorganization to incorporate assignments from the Southern Baptist Convention as part of the "Covenant for a New Century."

Two new departments will assimilate stewardship education, church history and heritage education, capital fund-raising, and assisting churches with Christian school and home school min-

istries, according to Mike Miller, division director. At the same time, an existing department will be eliminated, merging its program assignments with those of the new components.

The church services department, which included the church media library program and church architecture services, will merge with the new Christian schools and media services department and the church stewardship and architectural services department.

Mancil Ezell, who was director of the

church services department, will continue as associate director of the division and will direct the Christian school and media services department, including the church media program (formerly church media library program).

Dennis Conniff, who directed the church media library program, will lead the church stewardship and architectural services department, including church architecture services, Together We Build (capital fund-raising), and church stewardship

services. Davis Byrd will continue to lead church architecture services.

The pastor-staff leadership, music ministries, and multicultural leadership departments do not assume new assignments.

David Tiller, a 15-year board employee, will become director of the church media program.

Miller said announcement of staffing for Christian schools, home schooling, weekday early education, capital fund-raising, and church stewardship services will be made later this year. ■



### Fund established

Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, represented by Kenny Cooper, left, and the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, represented by Bo Childs, recently entered into an agreement to establish a Disabilities Ministry Resident Support Fund to assist in covering expenses of residents of TBAH's group homes who have limited financial resources available to them. The fund is being established with an initial gift of \$5,000 from John and Mildred Pickard of Antioch. For more information about the fund, contact Cooper at (615) 371-2051.

## BWA meeting underscores evangelism

Baptist Press

HONG KONG — Against the backdrop of Hong Kong's uncertain future when it reverts to China in less than a year, Hong Kong Baptists received the support of Baptist leaders around the world who met in Hong Kong for the Baptist World Alliance annual general council July 3-9 at Tsimshatsui Baptist Church.

"We promise to pray for you," Nilson do Amaral Fanini, BWA president, told Cecil Chan, president of the 50,000 member Hong Kong Baptist Convention.

Hong Kong Baptists expressed confidence in their future.

"When Hong Kong reverts to China, we expect a lot of changes," Chan said. "One thing we are sure of, God holds the future. We shall have no

fear, but continue to move forward with courage, grace, and strength."

He noted there are 1.2 billion people in China who "share our culture and in less than 360 days, the barrier to spread the Gospel in China will be removed."

Global reports of Baptist leaders and actions taken at the annual meeting reflected a march forward in evangelism, justice, aid, and fellowship.

Led by Fanini, a Brazilian pastor from the Rio de Janeiro area, BWA's call to focus on evangelism has never been clearer.

In the 11 months since Fanini was elected BWA president in Argentina, he has traveled to every continent and seen more than 8,000 people make first-time decisions to follow Jesus Christ in response

to evangelistic preaching.

The general council voted to reaffirm the priority the BWA gives to evangelism.

The council also addressed racism. "We will undermine our work for evangelism ... if we do not address the problems of racism," said Daniel E. Weiss, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA and president of the North American Baptist Fellowship, one of BWA's six regional bodies. He described racism in North America as "a major moral crisis."

A resolution on church burnings in the United States, largely attributed to racism, called on Baptist churches everywhere to commit themselves to work together for healing and reconciliation "to counteract the evils of racism." ■



## 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

17 — Pray for Colson Bargain, infant son of Lloyd and Laura Bargain of First Church of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, who was born two weeks ago with a hole in his heart and other heart problems.

18 — Pray for Jill Horner and Vicki Cockrum as they prepare to be in Wisla, Poland, with phase II of the Orphan's Camp project.

19 — Pray for Bray Road Church as they prepare to leave their church site for a new location.

20 — Pray for a blessing upon the many volunteers working this summer at Canadian Baptist Seminary.

21 — Lift in prayer a praise for the teams who have traveled to Poland this summer and worked throughout the country in the Lord's name.

22 — Give praise for the 70 men from First Church, Kingston, framing a new building for Ainsworth Church in Michigan.

23 — Pray for the recruiting of new students for the Canadian seminary.

### No side-stepping

Thoughts keep churning in my mind as I hear the flap about Southern Baptists' resolve to witness to Jews.

John 12:32 says "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Jesus was referring to his death on the cross. What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to us today?

It seems to me the greatest need of our world is to get a good look at Jesus, alive, and making a difference in the lives of his followers.

I believe we will lift up Jesus if the Holy Spirit directs and controls our attitudes, actions, and rhetoric, and if God's redeeming love propels us from our comfort zones into a love-needy world.

Could it be that Southern Baptists are side-stepping our God-given responsibility to lift up Jesus?

Are we trying to do for Jesus what he will do for himself? I hope not.

Erline Burchyett  
Nashville 37211

### Gives a reason

A recent issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* carried a headline "Registration Dips." The article stated that the SBC registration secretary had not analyzed the reasons behind this. May I offer an explanation?

During the 1980s the group (particularly two men) that instituted the "takeover" of the SBC was stirring people into a frenzy to go to the convention and vote. That is all they went for — to rubber stamp the nominations for committees. It took a few years, but the

"takeover" is complete now and there is no need for those people to go and vote.

In the meantime many who were genuinely interested in missions reports, committee reports, and seminary reports, along with inspirational sermons, etc., have been systematically excluded from Southern Baptist Convention life.

Because they dare to have a different opinion from the few who seem determined to dictate Southern Baptist beliefs and practice, they are not welcome.

Frances Dial  
Cookeville 38501

### Update on Ford

My wife, Marolyn Ford, author of *These Blind Eyes See*, is a Southern Baptist evangelist who has shared her life story of having been blind for 13 years, and how God so miraculously restored sight to her blind eyes through answered prayer.

For five years now, Marolyn's digestive system has not functioned. She has had to drink a gallon of Colyte medicine twice weekly. In spite of this, she has continued to travel and share her story overseas and in the States as a Southern Baptist evangelist.

As of March 1996, Marolyn can no longer eat food or drink liquids. She is now on "Nutritional IV Feeding" which takes 14 hours to drip. Her spirit is up, but she is having a hard time adjusting to the new way of living.

Marolyn will not be able to travel sharing in meetings as full time as she has been doing for the past 23 years. Her engagements will be accepted according to her feeding intake

and strength. She knows she has Jesus, our great healer and miracle working God.

Thank you for your cards, letters, and support. We appreciate it very much, and are especially grateful for your prayers.

Acie L. Ford  
Memphis 38128

### New Englanders

Are there college and university students from Tennessee who are coming to school in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)? The Baptist Convention of New England serves these six states, and has ministry on 25 campuses.

On most campuses we have no way to know of any Southern Baptist students enrolled.

We need persons in Tennessee churches to help us contact them. Our churches are small, as are our campus ministries.

We want to provide assistance and ministry to those who come to our area institutions. We want to know who they are and how to contact them. We would meet them at airports or train stations and help in any way.

Please send information to Student Ministries, Baptist Convention of New England, 5 Oak Ave., Northborough, Mass. 01532, (508) 393-6013; FAX (508) 393-6016.

Remember to pray for ministry on the strategic campuses in this area.

Nell Magee  
Northborough, Mass. 01532

### Hymns we sing

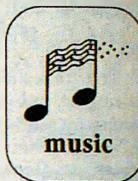
By William J. Reynolds  
professor of church music  
Southwestern Seminary

### "At the Cross"

Isaac Watts wrote the hymn, beginning "Alas, and did my Savior bleed," in 1707, and it has been sung by Christians around the world for almost three centuries.

Using Watt's stanzas, Ralph Hudson, a Methodist minister living in Alliance, Ohio, in 1885 added a refrain, and wrote a new tune that is known as "At the Cross."

There is a great similarity between Hudson's version and a song entitled "Take Me Home," dating from the mid-19th century.



music

The song begins: "Take me home to the place where I first saw the light, To the sweet sunny South take me home, Where the mockingbird sang me to rest every night, Ah, why was I tempted to roam."

Hudson apparently liked the song. He borrowed the phrase "where I first saw the light," and changed "take me home" to "at the cross" for the opening of the refrain.

For over a century Hudson's song has grown in popularity so much that Isaac Watts would probably be surprised at the widespread use of his hymn to this music: ■

## Healthy families develop an alliance of trust

A major characteristic of a healthy family is their alliance of trust. This trust is established between spouses, parents, and children, and even between siblings as they experience exchanges of behavior that prove each other trustworthy.

I meet people who want to be trusted without knowing how to be trustworthy. Many times I have heard a family member blurt out during therapy, "Don't you trust me?" The answer was a painful, "No!" Too many experiences had occurred where that family member showed himself to be untrustworthy.

Some parents today demand to be trusted by their children because it is a parental right to have the trust of the children.

Trust is an attribute that must be earned instead of demanded.

Parents who are not dependable or reliable have eroded the basis of trust from their children. How many times have we

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

promised to go somewhere with our child only to have something come up at the last moment?

All of us have had the unexpected get in our way, but when this becomes the expected pattern of behavior the child has no reason to trust parents.

Parents also should be the source of nourishment and nurture.

In healthy families the child grows to be a trusting person because the basic needs have been consistently met by a loving parent.

When these basic needs are not met, the child grows to be distrustful and suspicious of everyone and everything, having difficulty establishing relationships.

This is particularly damaging when it affects the spiritual development of the child who has difficulty trusting Jesus because of the problems the child had with care takers who did not honor the trust

placed in them.

There is yet another side of this issue. There are children who do not seem to understand why their parents can't trust them when they have not been trustworthy. Just as trust is not a given for parents, neither is it for children.

When parents discover the children are not where they said they would be, the message is loud and clear. The parents get the idea "I can't trust my child!"

The one job that a child has is to work at becoming an adult who makes his own decisions and takes responsibility for himself.

Parents must turn loose of some of their decision making in order for this process called "growing up" to occur. This procedure is hampered when parents feel they can't trust their children.

The trust that is experienced and learned in one's family of origin is one of the essential building blocks for a healthy marriage.

The child who does not experience trust may have difficulty giving trust and being trustworthy as an adult. ■



BARKLEY

# Trying to catch leaves on a windy day

It is hard to picture the Disney corporation as anything but pure, simple, tears and laughter entertainment

We don't have an easy answer, but the decadence of the entertainment industry in general carries mind-boggling evidence. It is like trying to catch leaves on a windy day. No more funny cartoons and child-safe movies? No more taking the kids to the Disney movie without reading the reviews or the rating? And can we depend on either?

Most Southern Baptists, even those who attended the June SBC session in New Orleans, were shocked earlier to learn that Disney had strayed from their decency standards of earlier years. Most would still say they believe the Disney people would not tamper with the morals of children or adults.

Is the resolution passed in New Orleans a warning to Disney and a wake up call? Probably the deepest fears are that Disney is changing from family-oriented movies to anti-family programming.

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment." The resolution, although not calling for a boycott, does imply the possibility.

Further, it encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration to their purchase and support of Disney products and to boycott Disney Company stores and theme parks if they continue this trend."

So it seems the matter is left hanging, placed in the hands of families where it probably should be. And we are expected to listen for reports from the CLC's monitoring.

The resolution goes deeper than opposition to Dis-

ney's support of homosexuality and its themes. The official Disney responses to the SBC's resolution have been less than friendly. They have tended to belittle the honest motives of parents, not only Southern Baptists, who want wholesome and clean entertainment.

Most Disney films in the past were appreciated and enjoyed by children and adults. How many videos of favorite family-oriented Disney films do you have at home? Parents are frantically asking whether such films are relics of better days.

Best estimates are uncertain on the effects of a boycott against Disney products. Disney interests are enormous, touching many areas of life. A total boycott is not impossible, but could be improbable.

Individual families and Baptist groups can, and should take measures to persuade Disney of the moral weakness of its position. At the same time, we must remember that the changes are not sudden. They have been underway for many years in American entertainment. The *Baptist and Reflector* has vigorously campaigned against these weaknesses.

We have given warnings, and urged Baptists to stand against the swing toward indecency. Too many Christians have done nothing, even contributed to the swing by watching the movies and television programming that steadily worsens.

Perhaps we felt it would not harm us. Perhaps we thought that companies such as Disney would be the stoppers, the hope for sanity. This was wrong-thinking. So now the kettle is boiling, and it is painful.

It is sad that Disney's moguls think it necessary to join the rush to irresponsible productions. We think most Americans felt that even though the movie and television industries promoted immorality, violence, and anti-family programming, we would always be

able to depend on Disney for clean, decent entertainment.

This is a real tragedy. It seems that Disney took the pulse of America and determined that the time is right for throwing caution to the wind and taking a big share of the entertainment dollars.

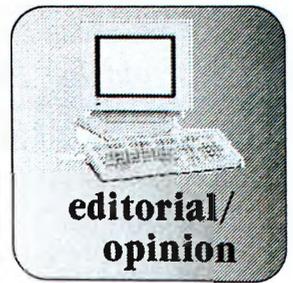
The Disney responses indicate total misunderstanding of Southern Baptists' desire for clean entertainment. They seem to have overlooked the opportunity to respond to the needs of families, which would seem to be a moral obligation to any commercial venture that cares about family values.

While the vast interests of Disney may not be hurt financially by a partial or total boycott, perhaps company leaders can look beyond the rhetoric of the resolution and their responses — and face up to the real question. Is money more important than the moral values of America? Will greed win, or will responsible thinking about the welfare of family life?

Is it possible for Disney's leaders to sit down with Christian leaders, and other leaders who care about family values?

No one wins when arguments and differences are debated in public media. That's where we are now, and both sides deserve a more thorough and real opportunity to talk to each other. Earnest discussion can prove whether the sides understand each other, and could lead to solutions to a very troublesome problem.

It won't just go away. **B&R**



## Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Marooned man being rescued after two years on a desert island: "Say, am I glad to see you! What do you have in your hand?"

Rescuer: "A copy of this morning's paper with all the latest news. Read it and see if you still want to be rescued."

### Take this truth

When I look at what's going on in the secular world, I get terribly discouraged.

The fact is, however, I can look at another world — God's kingdom on earth. Some wonderful things are happening in it.

The great news is that God's kingdom is the one that will eventually be victorious. Aren't you glad you are part of it?

### Memorize this Scripture

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord ... and he shall reign forever and ever (Revelation 11:15).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to remember that always I am on the side that will eventually be victorious. In the strength of that assurance, may I never become discouraged. **B&R**

## When stuff is falling around, keep an open mind

Chicken Little is well known for her shout of warning when an acorn fell on her noggin.

The story line is that she ran around loudly telling the world that the sky was falling.

Probably she was also good at giving the false alarm that the wolf was coming.

Here in the office on Maryland Way, Brentwood, sometimes I feel like Chicken Little.

No, the sky is not falling, but the noise of machinery digging and clanging, roaring and reverberating, is a good imitation of a falling sky.

If Chicken Little were giving the news of what is happening here, she probably would be telecasting instant alerts for everyone to take cover or abandon the area as quickly as possible.

But we know better. Although the discomfort of change is nerve-bending at times, the end result will be better traffic



ALLEN

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

conditions and a new look for the heart of Brentwood.

The Baptist Center is temporarily "out of order." As the construction workers dig and pound, we are realizing the streets and our building will take on a new look. Visitors may find it difficult to locate a front entrance, or any open entrance at all. Those of us who work here face some ticklish traffic flow.

The noise of progress is just that, constant noise, some progress — and we are learning to be patient.

If city authorities are correct in their planning, the intersection of Maryland Way and Franklin Road will be able to handle the traffic load by January. Visitors, please bear with us.

This is a very busy intersection. The Baptist Center is in the heart of the city. This reconstruction is teaching us that progress is necessary, and that it often

causes pain, even if it is temporary.

It is beneficial also to have a good attitude about any changes that come our way, even if we have no point of entry control. We can control personal attitudes, and this controls the outcome.

Facing change is difficult if your rut has been comfortable. But someone has said that a rut is merely a grave with open ends, the road to nowhere. So when change comes, our comfort zone is determined by how we accept change.

Change that brings efficiency and better methods for accomplishing our goals is acceptable and good. Change for the sake of change may not be good. But change that results in good and opens doors to opportunities in Christ's name is desirable.

Often each of us can be an important part of successful change. Life is not meant to be stagnant.

So Chicken Little, cease and desist. The construction continues. The noise is loud. But, hark, there is light at the end of the tunnel! **B&R**

## How churches can show the way to children

### think about it

Raymond Lloyd, pastor, First Church, Jefferson City

Vacation Bible School in our churches is a special time for children. I enjoy the children, interacting with them, teaching them, seeing the commitment of dozens of women and men who work with children.

They are all appreciated.

I strongly believe the church should provide offering envelopes for every child from two years up, and that parents ought to teach them the joy of giving through the church. Perhaps it starts by giving them a few pennies, or nickels, even dimes; then teaching them to give 10 percent of their allowance and then a tithe of their first jobs.

And let us not be ashamed about sharing our faith with our children. Let it be "table talk" or "bed time talk" or "fishing talk." Children's faith is a simple faith, but it is also pure. It is a time of beginning.

When a child recognizes sin in his or her life, and realizes Jesus died on the cross to forgive them and give them eternal life, it is a time to make that initial step of following Christ as Savior and Lord. Being saved is more than loving Je-

sus. It is a simple understanding of sin, the need of a Savior, that Jesus died to save us, and a commitment of one's life to him. Some decisions may be made too early, but they also may never be made.

Don't discourage your children; engage them in conversation and answer their questions; bring them to the pastor.

This is the church's business — being a birthing place for new born Christians, and aiding in every way in the birthing process.

The church needs to be involved in social outreach and evangelism. It is not either/or, it is both/and. **B&R**

## 16-year-old dies from 'huffing' ...

# ... His parents hope to help others

By Terri Lackey  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A quick glance under the bill of Ricky Stem Jr.'s baseball cap is testimony that he really was a good kid. There, among the sweat stains and doodles, is the reference of a Scripture verse penned in the handwriting of a child. Philippians 4:13 — a verse about hope and strength.

Ricky won't be wearing that cap anymore. A Christian since age 7, the 16-year-old died June 20 after "huffing" fluorocarbons from his home air conditioning unit.

"We're claiming that verse as our own," his mother, Diane Stem, said of the Scripture that has been Ricky's favorite since he was a young child. Through their pain, Stem, a 16-year employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and her husband, Ricky Sr., are hoping to warn other Christian parents their child could be next.

"Ricky's in heaven, and I'm going to see him again someday," Diane Stem said during a recent interview at the family home. "I can't think of a better person than the Lord would have at his table than my son, but I wanted him a little longer here."

Huffing is one of many ways young people use inhalants, according to Valerie Handy, an alcohol and drug specialist in Nashville, who said the chemicals produce mind- and behavior-altering effects.

"All kids have to do is look under the kitchen cabinet," Handy said, to find one of more than 1,400 products that can be used as inhalants. Some of those include airplane glue, butane, paint thinner, cleaning products, any aerosol sprays, gasoline, correction fluids, even whipped cream.

"This is just a cheap and easy high for the kids," Handy said, "and it can turn their brains into silly putty."

That is, if they live. Ricky Jr. was one of more than 1,000 Americans who die each year from inhalants — 500 of those are first-time users. Those who don't die can possibly suffer damage to the liver, lungs, kidneys, brain, and nervous system.

The Stems, who have a daughter and grandson, say they were caught completely off guard by Ricky's death

by inhalants. He had attended church services three times the week before he died. That is the same number of times he tried the dangerous teenage fad, taught to him, his parents say, by a fellow Christian youth.

"He hadn't even tried it enough for us to notice any symptoms or a change in his behavior," Ricky Stem Sr. said. "After church on Wednesday night, the day before he died, we sat out on the deck for two hours, just laughing and talking. Within a week of the first time he tried it, he's dead."

Ricky Jr. would have been a junior at Friendship Christian School in Lebanon next fall. He was an outstanding student and star athlete. The Stems received his report card in the mail the day he died. A first-string pitcher as a sophomore, Ricky Jr. led his high school team to the state tournaments. Pro-baseball scouts had watched him play, his father said.

"Ricky was a leader in his youth group at church (FBC, Mt. Juliet); he was all mid-state baseball player, he was a health nut, he worked out all the time and watched his eating habits," Diane Stem said. "I don't want some Joe Blow like me reading this article and saying, 'Oh, well, that kid was probably into all sorts of bad stuff, and his parents were too stupid to know.'"

"I want Christian parents — and all parents — to know that the kids who wouldn't do the other types of drugs, the heavy drugs, are doing this."

Ricky Sr. added: "If Ricky could come back, he would tell his friends, 'Don't do this, this is crazy, this is just silly.'"

But Ricky can't come back. He ministers now through death. At least seven people accepted Christ following his funeral, his parents said.

"Ricky was not afraid to witness to people," his mother said. "He led a lot of people to the Lord. There were over 1,000 people at his funeral, and I told all those kids, 'Look close at him in this casket. That could be you.'"

"Kids Ricky's age think they are invincible. They think nothing can touch them. Ricky was on top of the world. He had everything going for him," she said. "But he made a bad choice, and now he's dead."

Stem said she believes peer pressure was at the root of her son's experiment with inhalants.

"It's so important to fit in at that age," she said. "We don't drink, so we don't fit in a lot of places, but as adults, we don't give a rip. But when you are at that young age, it is important to fit in with the crowd. And even though Ricky is a Christian, he probably didn't want to seem too good."

Stem said she called to alert all the parents of the teens she later learned were huffing.

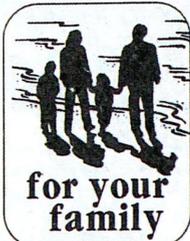
Some appreciated the information; others denied it could be possible.

"Parents should assume their kids are doing it before they assume they are not," she said. "We had no reason to think he was doing anything."

A 1995 study by the National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) indicates parental intervention can significantly deter drug use, even among older teenagers. Drug use, the study showed, declined sharply among teens whose parents frequently discussed the subject with them. Of those whose parents "never" talked about drugs, 34 percent smoked marijuana versus 24 percent who indicated their parents talked to them about drugs "a lot."

Diane Stem said now when she looks at a boy with a baseball cap and realizes "it's not Ricky," she becomes more determined to warn parents about the danger of inhalants.

"My life will never be the same. I've got a story to tell, and that's all I've got," she said, fingering the Mother's Day card Ricky gave her this year. "The Lord is going to use Ricky's death. We cannot let it be in vain." ■



### From 'huffing'

## Facts, figures about inhalants

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "Inhalants" refers to substances that are sniffed or "huffed" to give the user an immediate head rush or high.

Users of inhalants tend to be between the ages of 7 and 17, but can also be as young as 4.

National Drug Abuse figures show:

(1) in 1995, almost 22 percent of eighth-graders had tried inhalants, an 8 percent increase over 1994; (2) an estimated 359,000 kids between the ages of 12-17 use inhalants each month; and (3) using inhalants once can put a person at risk for sudden death, suffocation, visual hallucinations, severe mood swings, numbness, and tingling of the hands and feet.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lists five ways a person can die from using inhalants: (1) asphyxia (solvent gases limit oxygen, causing breathing to stop); (2) suffocation (seen when plastic bags are used); (3) choking on vomit; (4) careless and dangerous behaviors which result in death by accident; and (5) sudden sniffing death syndrome (presumably from cardiac arrest).

Prolonged use can result in: headache, muscle weakness, abdominal pain; decrease or loss of sense of smell; nausea; nosebleeds; hepatitis; violent behaviors; irregular heartbeat; liver, lung, and kidney impairment; irreversible brain damage; nervous system damage; dangerous chemical imbalances in the body; and involuntary passing of urine and feces. Short-term effects of inhalants can result in: heart palpitations; breathing difficulty; dizziness; headaches.

Clues to spot inhalant abuse: paint, marker or correction-fluid stains on clothes or skin; empty spray cans, rags or plastic bags in child's room; rashes or sores around the nose or mouth; red, runny eyes or nose; drunk, dazed or dizzy behavior; excitability; anxiety or irritability; nausea or loss of appetite; increasingly poor school performance, apathy, or absenteeism.

For more information or help regarding a person who may be using inhalants, call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at (800) 729-6686. ■

## TBC to offer strengthening families/growing churches conferences

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Family Ministry office will sponsor eight "Strengthening Families/Growing Churches" conferences across the state in August and September.

Dates and locations are:

Aug. 27 — First Church, Jackson, and Leawood Church, Memphis

Sept. 10 — Two Rivers Church, Nashville, and First Church, Columbia

Sept. 17 — Central Church, Johnson City, and Red Bank Church, Chattanooga

Sept. 24 — Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, and First Church, Cookeville

All conferences will be held from 7-9 p.m., local time.

The conferences are designed to create an awareness of the need for comprehensive, effective ministry with families through the local church. It will also equip church leaders to plan, implement, and evaluate family enrichment efforts in the local church. At the same time, participants will learn how churches can help families and reach them for membership.

To help church leaders understand

how to grow churches through family ministry, the conference will identify the value of family ministry and integrate family ministry into existing church programs, assist leaders to choose projects to help families, and introduce new family materials.

For more information, call Don Mauldin, TBC consultant for family, single, and adult ministries at (615) 371-2047. **B&R**

## Praying on mountains, and telling the Good News to others



**COLEDALE SCHOOL** children listen as *Thelma Scroggins*, right, talks about Tennessee. From left, *Dora Caladine*, Thirroul Church; *Judy Luck*, Loudon; and *Ann Luck*, Loudon.



**FROM POINT SUBLIME**, several towns can be seen sprawled below on the seashore. Baptists and other Christians frequently meet for prayer session for the unchurched people.



**Tennessee features**

### Australia — at a glance

Australia's population is sparse, located mostly on its coastal areas, southern and eastern. The Australian continent is about the size of the 48 contiguous United States.

The island nation gained freedom from Great Britain in 1901, and is a parliamentary democracy.

Canberra is the capital city, but the major cities in population are Sydney (oldest), about 5 million; Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth.

Population is about 17 million, with about 80 percent of British origin. Australian Aboriginal people make up about one percent. The official language is English.

The economy is mixed, based on industry, agriculture, and mining. The country is subject to severe drought.

Australia is a secular state with freedom of religion. There are less than 100,000 members in the Baptist Union of Australia, with about 800 churches.

The first Baptist worship service was in Sydney in April, 1831. The East Coast was discovered by Captain James Cook in 1770, and the first settlements were penal colonies beginning in 1788.

Australia includes New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and Northern Territory. **B&R**

## Tennessee group ministers with Australians

— From page 1

The Tennessee Baptist teams were called to work alongside Australian Baptists in the Illawarra region, which begins just south of Sydney.

Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, is the largest and oldest city in Australia, and boasts one of the world's best harbors. Well-known for its "sea shells" shaped opera house, Sydney also has a well-

equipped jetport and all the amenities and economic necessities of a major city.

The Illawarra region of New South Wales (southeastern area of the nation), stretches from the highlands to the sea.

It is marked by the lush rural countryside and the rolling waves of the Pacific.

The towns where we ministered are sandwiched between a highland escarpment, rich

with coal deposits, and the ocean. Connected by electric rail system and convenient, scenic roads, the towns are nestled between the foothills and the shoreline.

The modern rail system from Sydney joins the people of our localized area: Stanwell Park, Coal Cliff, Scarborough, Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Thirroul, Bulli, Bellambi, Corrimall, Fairy Meadow, and Wollongong.

The people who cared for us and guided us through the ministries assigned to us, are just like the names of their towns — colorful, friendly, strong, independent, and completely trustworthy.

So alike Southern Baptists, and Tennessee Baptists at that, they were instant "cousins" and kindred spirits.

Though we were graciously introduced to the land — flora and fauna, all the natural scenery and manmade wonders — we immediately grasped the greatest blessing of the two weeks stay. The peo-

ple. The people, the churches of the area, are highly motivated to seek God's will and way for their communities and nation.

Most of the churches are deeply involved in prayer, in frequency and meaning.

More than once we were hustled from warm beds to set off for the church house or the mountain top for prayer, early and late, intense and heartwarming.

One of the greatest movements underway in the Illawarra at present is a concerted effort to bring the knowledge of Christ to everyone in the area by 2000

It is a compelling emotion to meet with fellow Christians on the highest hill, to look out across multiplied miles and pray for the people of the country and the towns.

They pray for renewal, and they include America in their prayers. What a blessing!

In another issue we will look at other areas of work "down under." **B&R**



**MAVIS, ELAINE, AND NOEL** share ideas at tea time in the JAM (Jesus at Mortdale) shop in the Sydney suburb. The shop is sponsored by Mortdale Baptist Church.



## Wollongong, Great Steel City, has lively and active Baptist churches

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** was necessary almost every night at Wollongong Church. Tennessee Baptists comprised a large part of the special choir.

Photo at right, Bob Brown, center, and John Taylor talk about the Wednesday evening service with local member. Brown, pastor of Broadway Church, Maryville, and several of his members, worked with the Wollongong Church and Pastor Taylor. — Photos on this page by Wm. Fletcher Allen



## Church helps Riverside Association build new office

# Missions is a 'family affair' for Memphians

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

LIVINGSTON — Missions is a family affair at Cherry Road Church in Memphis.

For several years the church has held a "family missions trip," said Les Collier, director of men's ministries at the church.

This year, 25 people, including two "guests" from Ardmore Church, Memphis, journeyed to Livingston to help Riverside Association begin a new associational office building.

Part of the Memphis team, led by Minister of Education Tom Crocker, taught Vacation Bible School at nearby Hermitage Springs Church in Clay County. The church is one of only two Southern Baptist congregations in the entire county.

This was the third time in recent years that a Cherry Grove mission team had worked in Riverside Association, Collier noted.

The church has ties to the Middle Tennessee association. One of the team members, Diane Long, is a sister to Sarah McMillen, wife of Riverside Director of Missions Ken McMillen. In addition, a Cherry Road member, Bill Foote, is a retired home missionary who is well known in Riverside Association.

Cherry Road is a missions-minded, blue-collar, inner-city church, Collier observed. The church budgets \$2,000 for the trip, plus each adult member pays \$100 which covers everything except meals while traveling to the site, Collier said. The church also provided some

VBS materials.

"Missions projects are just a part of what we do," he said.

Many of their efforts deal with construction. "Basically, we can take a building from the ground up," Collier said, noting their only requirement is that the foundation be laid.

Team members brought their own tools and used materials furnished by the association.

During their week at Riverside, the team put in the flooring and walls. Other teams and associational volunteers will work to help complete the building, McMillen said.

The Riverside DOM is grateful for the work done by Cherry Road.

"We appreciate so much the work done by Cherry Grove members," McMillen said.

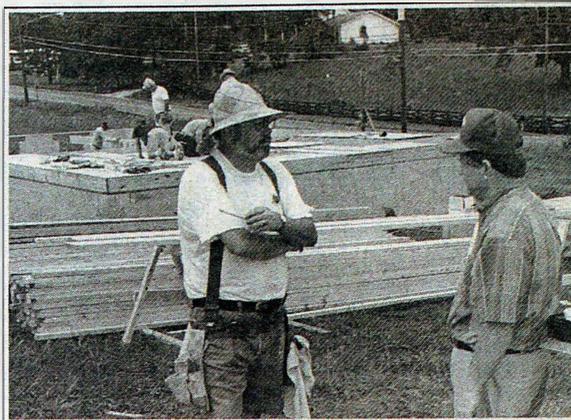
The association is constructing a 4,480-square-foot office building that will also house a basement apartment. The association's office currently is in the basement of the director of mission's house.

The new building will greatly enhance the work of the association which is made up of 25 churches and a mission, McMillen said, noting the new office will be centrally located between Jamestown and Byrdstown.

The building will cost the association approximately \$80,000, but will have a value of about \$200,000, he estimated.

"A small association like ours would not be able to build an office building like we need if we had to pay for the labor," McMillen said.

As for Cherry Road, the



**RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION** Director of Missions Ken McMillen, right, visits with Les Collier of Cherry Grove Church, Memphis. Cherry Grove recently sent a 25-member team to help Riverside build a new associational office building and conduct Vacation Bible School at a nearby church.

work is a labor of love.

Coming back to Riverside this summer enabled them to see the fruits of work they did four years ago at Friends Chapel Mission, a small congregation that at the time only had seven members, Collier recalled.

The church is now thriving under new leadership, Collier said.

"We were wondering if we were wasting our time (at Friends Chapel)," Collier remembered. But, "God's at work there now," he affirmed.

Some Friends Chapel members even came up during the week and assisted with the work on the Riverside building.

"We encourage churches we help to help others when they can," Collier said. **B&R**



**JACOB RENFRO**, age 11, was the youngest member of the Cherry Grove team.



**WORKING ON THE FLOOR** of Riverside Association's new office building are, from left, Johnny Renfro, Mike Graham, and Raymond Burton. Renfro and Graham are members of Cherry Grove Church, Memphis, while Burton is a member of Ardmore Church, Memphis. The team recently spent a week in Livingston working on the project. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

## WMU training set

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Four WMU Design Seminars are scheduled across the state in August.

The seminars, designed for WMU directors, assistant directors, church-wide missions coordinators, and pastors, will include ideas for involving the church visually, financially, mentally, spiritually, organizationally, and physically in missions. There will be no age-level conferences.

Dates and locations are: Aug. 3 — First Church, Trenton; Aug. 10 — First Church, Jefferson City; Aug. 17 — First Church, Athens; and Aug. 24 — First Church, Mt. Juliet.

All seminars begin at 9 a.m., local time, and adjourn at 2 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and includes lunch. Reservations are needed two weeks in advance of seminar date. For more information, call (615) 371-2038. **B&R**

## Union offers seminary extension classes

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University, in cooperation with local associations, will offer 10 seminary extension courses in nine West Tennessee communities beginning in August and September.

Regular university requirements are waived for the courses, which are open to all individuals 16 years old or older. Course work leads toward a diploma in pastoral ministries or Christian leadership.

Up to eight credit hours from the seminary extension program may be transferred to Union for college credit.

Courses, dates and times of first class, location, and teachers are as follows:

Ardmore Church, Memphis, "Hosea," Sept. 12, 7-9 p.m., Wrex Hauth  
Beech River Center, Lexington, "Southern Baptist Heritage," Aug. 27, 7-9 p.m., Michael Moore  
Big Hatchie Center, Covington, "Ephesians and Philippians," Aug. 19,

7-9 p.m., Paul Moore

BSU Center, Dyersburg State Community Center, "Formation for Ministry" and "Working With Youth in the Church," Sept. 9, 5-7 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Charles Halliburton

Gibson Center, Trenton, "Ephesians and Philippians," Aug. 29, 7-9 p.m. (registration only), Wayne Perkins

Hardeman Center, Bolivar; for details, call the Hardeman Association office at (901) 658-9378.

Shiloh Center, Adamsville, "Ephesians and Philippians," Sept. 12, 7-9 p.m., Jimmy Garrett

Weakley Center, Dresden, "How to Understand the Bible," Sept. 3, 7-9 p.m., Richard Skidmore

Western District Center, Paris, "New Testament Survey, Part 1," Sept. 5, 7-9 p.m., Lynn King

Tuition costs vary in each association. For more information, call Union at (901) 661-5160 or the local DOM. **B&R**

## Interfaith witness training scheduled

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention will sponsor an Interfaith Witness Associate Training conference on Islam on Aug. 2-3 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

The conference will be held from 2-9 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Meals and breaks will be provided. The cost for the weekend conference is \$15.

Those interested in attending can call Tim Hill or Gail Parrish in the Evangelism/Missions office at (615) 371-2031 or send your name, address, and phone number along with a check made payable to the Home Mission Board to: TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Registration deadline is July 26. **B&R**

## leaders

■ **Steve Clinton**, minister of youth, First Church, Clinton, has been called as minister of students and recreation of Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, effective July 1. He has also served as a staff member of Robertsville Church, Oak Ridge, and churches in Missouri and Texas.

■ **Carol Vaughan**, retired public school teacher of Jackson, has been called as Church and Community Ministries director, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations, effective, July 1. She has worked in many mission efforts in the United States and overseas as a short-term volunteer.

■ First Church, Paris, has called **Andy Milam** of Savannah as minister of music and senior adults and **Danny McFarland** of Paris as minister of activities and youth.

■ **John Draper**, director of missions programs, Shelby Association, has been called as director of missions in Baltimore, Md., effective July 26.

■ **Mark Mangrum**, pastor, First Church, Whiteville, has been called as pastor of Holly Grove Church, Brownsville, effective Aug. 1.

■ **New Hope Church, Paris**, has called **Chad Shankle**, a student at Union University, Jackson, from Paris, as music director and youth leader effective June 16.

■ **Roy B. Wyatt**, who served as a missionary in Spain from 1953-62 and Chile from 1967-1993, has moved to Knoxville with his wife, Joyce Cope of Rogersville. He can be reached at 7510 Jana Lane, Knoxville, 37931, (423) 670-

9684. While in Chile he worked at the Baptist Academy in Temuco and the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali. Most recently he was distinguished professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C.

## deaths

■ **Lois Winningham**, 47, former receptionist/secretary, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Brentwood, died July 11 after an extended illness. She was the wife of Dwyte Winningham, senior vice president of the homes.

## churches

■ Homecoming is scheduled at **Macedonia Church, Ardmore**, on Aug. 11. Terry Mitchell of White House will speak and Tim and Amy Wuester of Gallatin will lead the music.

■ **Forest Hill Church, Parrottsville**, participated in the bicentennial celebration of Parrottsville on July 4. Pastor Jim Dampier spoke and several members were in a parade. Two members, both past age 90, rode in a horsedrawn carriage and two trucks carried children of the church. The church also had a booth from which members distributed free watermelon and literature about the church. About 50 members of Forest Hill Church participated in the events.

■ **Harmony Church, Elizabethton**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 11.

## state events

■ A World Changers national project will be held in Maryville July 29 - Aug. 3. It will draw about 340 junior high school students and their leaders. The youth will repair homes for needy people which were chosen by the Blount

County Community Action Agency and the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, which directs World Changers.

■ **Reed Wright Ministries** of Cleveland will hold the Central Baptist, Hixson, Bible Conference July 21-24 at Central Church, Hixson. It will feature Jerry Vines, pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Junior Hill of Hartsell, Ala.; Bob Pitman, pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis; Jerry Atkins of Chattanooga; Jackie Kay of Millington; and Ron Phillips, pastor, Central

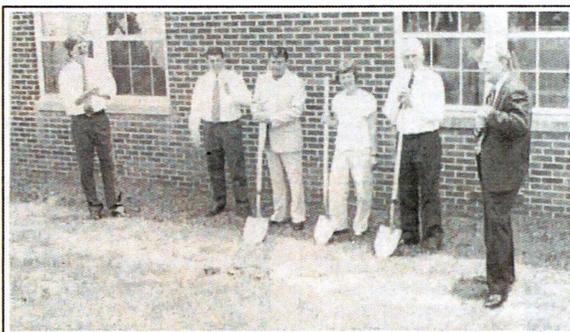
## the schools

Church.

■ **Drew Maddux**, president of Maddux Realty and Construction Company in Hendersonville, and a member of First Church, Hendersonville, was inducted recently into the Collegiatius of Belmont University, Nashville. The honor, which is equivalent to an honorary doctorate, recognizes the contribution of Maddux as a



*PORTRAYING Rachel and Andrew Jackson are Tamara Robinson and Gary Beaty of the Tennaissance Theatre Company, who will participate in the play 'Tennessee's Music and Heritage' at Woodmont Church, Nashville, on July 21 beginning at 6:30 p.m.*



*PARTICIPATING in the June 30 groundbreaking service of Highland Church, Tullahoma, are, from left, Mark Smith, chairman of deacons; Steve Ballard and Jimmy Saine of a construction company; Kathy Bomar; Frank Henderson; and Don Dixon, pastor. The church is constructing a fellowship hall and renovating educational facilities allowing for an expanded Child Development Center and other ministries.*



*MEMBERS OF the Cambodian congregation of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, who earned the certified witness status of Continuing Witness Training, include, from left, David Chang, pastor's assistant; Khorn Chim; Touch Ieng, pastor; Fred Trexler, assistant pastor, Highland Heights Church; Jeanette Terwilliger, a worker in the congregation; and Soth Phok.*



## Tennessee samplers

### Make some memories

By Pete Tackett, co-pastor, youth/education  
First Church, Bluff City

Last week, Lori, the children, and I took a vacation and just played for a few days. While that may not mean much to you, it brought back a flood of memories to me.

At another church I served, there

was a deacon named Ed who took me under his wing and made it a priority to pray for me and encourage me. Ed wasn't a great deal older than me, but he was enough older that he could play the wiser brother and help me see my blind spots without making me mad.

At that point in my life, I felt that I was going to have to change the entire world all by myself. During a period of several months while I was serving as interim pastor, I burned the midnight oil frequently, often ignoring my family in the process. Ed, coming by the church one night and seeing the lights on, stopped in to chastize me. A successful businessman and a devoted family man, he was aware of my workaholicism, understood my drive, but was concerned about my family.

That night, with tears in his eyes and a waver in his voice, he shared that one of his deepest regrets was not taking more time from his work when

his boys were younger to make memories. He even went so far as to say that if he had it to do over again, he would borrow money if necessary to vacation more often. He reminded me that little ones don't stay little forever and that we need to enjoy them while we can.

All of this became more important to me when I preached Ed's funeral. He died in his 40s of leukemia. So much for having plenty of time.

I tell you this to remind you to spend some time making memories this summer. It doesn't have to be big or expensive — it just needs to involve your family spending time together. ■

### The word 'if'

By Patrick Fife, pastor  
Immanuel Church, Lawrenceburg

If ... almost all words are much

longer, harder to define, more difficult to pronounce, and more essential to conversation. However, few words are more significant than the little two-letter word, if!

If a frog had wings, it wouldn't bump its bottom every time it hopped. If a hyena didn't laugh, it would be only another vicious animal traveling in packs.

Ifs for churches are extremely large words. Our church would be full — if our people would attend. Our financial condition would be excellent — if our people would tithe. Our church would grow — if our people would visit. Our church would be better — if our pastor worked harder, preached better sermons, or did more visiting.

Is it possible for us to see ourselves in the above scenario. All of us need to be more faithful in attendance, in stewardship, and in visitation. In short, we need to work harder at being more obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ. ■

# FMB, 'friendship families' seek to reach internationals in U.S.

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Nearly 20 million people from foreign countries are living in the United States temporarily, many from countries closed to Baptist missionaries.

That is why the Foreign Mission Board has begun an effort to reach internationals in the U.S. temporarily for education, business, or other reasons, said Bill Wakefield, FMB vice president of international outreach.

The program is based on matching internationals with "friendship families." The families are recruited from among retired and former foreign missionaries, missionary kids, and others with cross-cultural experience. The "friendship family" helps internationals get adjusted to their new environment and then befriends them while they are in the United States.

"The broad attraction for (the international) would be

the opportunity to experience American family life and culture," said Helen Bond, who along with her husband, Clayton, serves as Louisiana's international outreach representative. ■

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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

**PEWS FOR SALE:** Excellent condition, light blue upholstery, 22 pews, 12-ft. long, upholstered seats with racks; 25 choir chairs; 2 pulpit chairs & lectern, 20-feet of modesty rails plus 2 rails for instruments; available October; free delivery possible, reasonably priced; call (423) 877-6940 or 877-3098.

## Music & Youth Position

Full-time music and youth director; experience needed; must have love for lost souls. Send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church, 1601 Chickasawba, Blytheville, AR 72315, Attn: Pastor.

## Church Pews For Sale

FBC, Cleveland, is renovating its sanctuary and is replacing its pews. 1,000 linear feet (54) pews of L.L. Sams Colonial-style padded pews will be sold. Prefer to sell altogether, but will split if needed. Pews are as is with purchaser removing pews immediately. One-third down to hold pews; remainder by certified check prior to removing pews. Contact Church Administrator at (423) 476-5526.

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## Foundation trustees approve grants

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, recently approved several grants and established a \$10,000 Scholarship Fund in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Hyran Barefoot.

Barefoot retired May 31 as president of Union University, Jackson. The income generated by the fund will be used to award a scholarship to a Union student each year.

Grants awarded included \$2,500 to the Student Ministry

Fund; \$2,500 to Good Samaritan Church, Lawrence, Mich., to help complete a new building; and a matching \$2,500 grant to Carroll-Benton Association and Chalk Level Church to assist in a trucker's ministry. The association and church must raise \$2,500 to get the matching funds.

The grants were made from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation Special Ministry Fund. Grant request forms may be obtained from: Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. *B&R*

## Reed Wright Ministries Presents

# "Central Baptist Hixson Bible Conference"

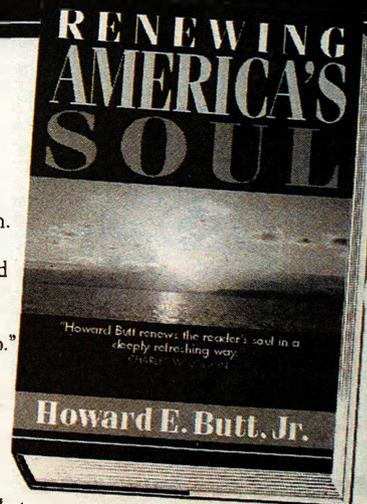
July 21-24, 6:45 p.m.

## Featuring

- Dr. Jerry Vines, pastor, FBC, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Dr. Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartsell, Ala.
- Dr. Bob Pitman, pastor, Kirby Wood Baptist Church, Memphis
- Dr. Jerry Atkins, evangelist, Chattanooga
- Dr. Jerry Kay, evangelist, Millington
- Dr. Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Hixson
- Dr. Fred Guilbert, music, Central Baptist Church, Hixson

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## Wisdom in speech

By L. Joseph Rosas III

**Focal Passage — Proverbs 18:21; 21:23; 4:24; 18:6; 20:19; 24:28; 12:25; 16:24; 15:1, 2, 4, 28**

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." Yet words do have great power. They can be the building blocks of a loving relationship or the destructive stones of anger and resentment that are used to destroy. This is why a truly wise person will learn the lesson of discipline and use prudent speech.

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings, proverbs, admonitions, and rhetorical questions. Written and collected by several contributors over a long period of time this is a difficult book to outline. Numerous themes appear and re-occur throughout the book. Chapters 1-24 are attributed to King Solomon, chapters 25-29 are Solomon's proverbs as compiled by King Hezekiah's men, chapter 30 is comprised of the sayings of Agur and chapter 31 is attributed to King Lemuel. Proverbs, like all Hebrew wisdom literature, gives practical and down-to-earth advice for wise living.

**Words are powerful (ch. 18:21; 21:23).** The initial thought of life and death residing in the power of the tongue is echoed in the thought that those who use the tongue will reap the fruit of their words. Words, once spoken, cannot be taken back. The whole of Scripture is replete with warnings and admonitions regarding the control of the tongue. Lincoln once observed that it is "better to be silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." As 21:23 says, "he who guards his mouth ... keeps himself from calamity."

**Words can be destructive (ch. 4:24; 18:6; 20:19; 24:28).** Jesus said the heart is the ultimate source of our words. If we wish to control our mouth we must guard our heart. Silence in the face of wickedness is itself wicked. Only one lacking in wisdom, a fool, is constantly looking for strife. Such foolishness invites punishment. A gossip can't be trusted so the wise will avoid one who talks too freely. Notice that being a gossip is not that different from being a false witness.

**Words used wisely accomplish good (ch. 12:25; 16:24; 15:1).** Proverbs 12:25 reminds us of the power of words to lift the spirit and restore the fallen heart. An appropriate word at an opportune time can be the difference in success or failure. The "gentle answer" that "turns away wrath" can refer to kind speech, courteous reply, the wisdom of silence, or caution in speaking. David's anger toward Nabal was softened by Abigail's kind words and deeds. Our churches, convention, country, and world desperately need godly men and women who have the grace of the gentle answer.

**Words reveal character (ch. 15:2, 4, 28).** The spoken word is like a window on the soul revealing all that is within. In these verses we see the ultimate comparison of the wise and the fool. The wise properly dispenses words to bring hope and comfort. He is blessed and is a blessing. The fool is like a torrent that cannot be stopped. The wise is marked by prudent speech, putting the mind in gear before putting the mouth in motion. How can we praise God and then curse man? James 3:11 asks rhetorically, "can both fresh water and salt water come from the same stream?" The obvious answer is an emphatic "no." May we speak out of the consistency of our hearts. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

## Faith and relationships

By Kevin Goza

**Focal Passage — Psalm 34:2-10, 18-22**

Deliverance is an awesome tool in the hands of God. The concept of deliverance has two basic elements: unresolvable trouble and unusual rescue. David faced unresolvable trouble, and discovered that God was more than able to mount an unusual rescue.

**An act of deliverance examined — vv. 2-10**

What an invitation the writer extends in verses 1-3. The thrill of God's deliverance cannot be contained. One excited soul brings encouragement to those in affliction.

When one seeks God, God is found because he chooses to answer (v. 4). Notice that the first trouble one is delivered from is fear (v. 4b). When God is sought and found, the countenance of the seeker is changed. The shame of affliction is covered by the glory of God (v. 5).

Notice how David described himself. He was by no means a poor man in terms of worldly wealth. Yet, when he compared himself to the matchless splendor of God, he realized his own poverty. Jesus talked

the protecting. As El-isha experienced angelic deliverance (II Kings 6:15-17), so God's people today can be assured of God's protective intervention in life.

Deliverance and protection leads one to praise God for his goodness (v. 8). The fear of the Lord opens the door for his bountiful blessing.

Great encouragement comes from verse 10. The lion represents the strongest of this creation. God's weakest are stronger than the world's strongest. Even the great lion will do without sometimes, but God's children never go wanting.

**The necessary brokenness that precedes deliverance — vv. 18-22**

When God's people experience any type of pain, it is because God allows it to happen. Therefore, it must be true that God has a plan for pain. Without affliction, deliverance would not be possible. Verse 19 informs us that the afflictions of the righteous are "many" (so much for those who teach that serving God brings life without suffering!). However, they are not without hope, for God always delivers.

The bones spoken of in verse 21 represent the center of a person's body. In the Hebrew mind, crushed bones represented broken health or oppression. God is committed to our security.

Please note that evil facilitates its own downfall (v. 21). Those who live in evil will be crushed by evil. However, God's children rest in God's redemptive provision (v. 22).

God uses affliction to break us, help us to see our spiritual poverty, and to deliver us into total trust in him. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Bible study  
for July 21

### Convention Uniform Lesson

about the necessity of recognizing our own spiritual poverty (Matthew 5:3). We can only hear from God and receive his deliverance when we have accepted our own inability to deliver ourselves.

When God delivers, he makes arrangements to protect the delivered (v. 7). Angels are God's messengers to do his bidding for his people. Even though the presence of an angel cannot be detected by the senses, that does not detract from the truth of angelic protection. Notice it is the "angel of the Lord" who is doing

## God's throne and the lamb

By Tom Moncrief

**Focal Passage — Revelation 4:1-3, 9-5:5, 9-10**

In the midst of persecution the churches of Asia faced an uncertain future. The letters to the churches gave assurance that God was fully aware of the situation.

**God on his throne (ch. 4:1-3).** John now looked and saw an open door to heaven. Still "in the spirit" he could see God on the throne in all of his majesty and glory. The actual real presence of the Lord was experienced by John who had a receptive and responsive spiritual nature. God said he'd show John what must take place. Symbols used to describe the scene express that the almighty, everpresent ruler of the universe can overrule trials and tribulations of his church here on earth to his ultimate glory. The rainbow symbolized living hope since God's sovereignty and his mercy are never separated. The vision is to fill us with awe at the radiant glory of the unfathomable mystery of God's majesty.

**Unceasing praise by creatures and elders (vv. 9-11).** All creation is represented by the creatures (beasts) who are joined by the church (elders) to give praise to the Lord. The almighty (v. 8) really means "all-ruler." He rules over all and lives for ever. All of God's cre-

### Bible Book Lesson

ation gives praise to him continually. The crowns cast before the throne were crowns of victory and this shows recognition by the church that victory was in God's power.

**A search for one to break the seals (ch. 5:1-4).** The one on the throne held a book in his right hand. It was written on front and back and sealed with seven seals. This indicates it was complete and full and needed no addition nor had place for any. God's complete will and purpose for humanity was symbolized by the book. The scene now depicts the Redeemer rather than the Creator. In the Redeemer lies the hope of man's salvation. The Creator relates himself to creation by seeking to save his creatures from their moral ruin. So he revealed himself as redeemer in Jesus Christ. Without Christ, God's plan for his world could never be realized.

A call was made for someone to open the book, but none was able to do so. John wept because of not seeing any way to break the seals and unfold God's will for humanity. God's purpose and will is of great importance to the church since it is God's agency to accomplish his will.

**Heavenly praise for the wor-**

thy Lamb (vv. 5, 9-10). A word of encouragement comes from one of the elders. The Lamb that has been slain has lion-like strength to break the seals. The ultimate triumph of good over evil was potentially achieved in Christ's death and resurrection. He conquered then and the victory is a continuing process. To open the seals means to reveal but also means to carry out God's will and purpose. Thus, God's plan of history is revealed and made effective. The visions of the breaking of the seals in the Revelation represent the gradual steps of access to God's will and the contents of the book.

The new song was sung in celebration of the Lamb's redemptive work and the new redeemed order. He broke the bondage of sin and liberated man for God and for the church. He liberates men from the power of darkness and translates them into the kingdom of Christ. Christ's redemption establishes God's kingdom in power.

The saints already reign (spiritually) upon the earth. This is a present spiritual reign with the hope of the coming kingdom in its fullness. There is full access to God for praise, worship, and intercession. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.



world news

NAMB process on track, says transition group

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — One of the key components of the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, the creation of the North American Mission Board, is on track, according to officials of the Implementation Task Force.

A group of ITF members dealing with the particulars of the NAMB organization met in Nashville July 1 to concentrate efforts and to stay on schedule with the transition plan for the first 90-120 days, according to Bob Reccord, ITF chairman

and pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.

The NAMB will include the current Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission.

"We are beginning to calendar the events that will help facilitate a smooth and effective transition," Reccord said.

Reccord said the ITF continues to work with the agencies that are being merged or dissolved "to establish the best and most effective timeline."

Other agencies affected include the Education, Stewardship, and Historical commissions, and the Southern Baptist Foundation. ■

SEBTS expands to Tampa, Fla.

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is expanding its off-campus program for the fifth time in the last three years with the establishment of an extension center in Florida.

Beginning Aug. 19, the seminary will offer courses at the new Tampa Bay Area Extension Center, said seminary President Paige Patterson. Classes will be held at Idlewild Church in Tampa.

SEBTS also has extension programs in Snellville and Augusta, Ga.; Charlotte, N.C., and Norfolk, Va. ■

University offers classes at Glorieta

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — A first-of-its-kind partnership will get its official launch July 29 at the opening of Wayland Baptist University's satellite campus at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The academic venture is the result of joint efforts by the Baptist Sunday School Board which will provide physical facilities for the campus and Wayland, a Baptist General Convention of Texas school.

A 10:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication program will be held and will include remarks from BSSB

President James T. Draper Jr. and Wayland President Wallace E. Davis.

Classes at the new campus begin Sept. 3. ■

Melick resigns from Criswell

Baptist Press

DALLAS — A difference in view over a key point of end-times theology between W.A. Criswell and Richard R. Melick Jr. has prompted Melick to resign the presidency of Criswell College in Dallas.

Melick said he leans to a historic premillennial view, that the church is raptured after the tribulation, while Criswell is known for a premillennial pre-tribulation view, that the church is raptured before the tribulation.

Melick said he and Criswell had worked well together. "I love Dr. Criswell. I have the highest regard for everybody at the college. We just reached an issue that had to be resolved. The timing (of the resignation) is what I think is best for the college." ■

Nursing school opens in India

Baptist Press

BANGALORE, India — Bangalore Baptist Hospital opened its long-anticipated nursing school July 1.

The new program will award a diploma in general nursing and midwifery after a three-year course of study.

The school was named in honor of Rebekah Naylor, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary surgeon who has served in Bangalore since 1974. The project required construction of a teaching building, a 96-bed student hostel, and two apartments for staff. Ruth Ray Hunt of Dallas was the primary donor for the project.

Three Baptist schools — Baylor University, Samford University, and Oklahoma Baptist University — have signed agreements to provide faculty exchanges and other resources for the new nursing school. ■

Prayer sought for Mexican leaders

Baptist Press

MEXICO CITY — Southern Baptists are asked to pray for Mexican Baptist leaders Orlando and Edna Gutierrez.

Gutierrez, pastor of Horeb Church in Mexico City and president of the Mexican Baptist Convention, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

His wife, Edna, who has served as president of Mexico's Woman's Missionary Union, suffers from cancer. ■

Thai hill tribes hear Gospel

Baptist Press

BANGKLA, Thailand — Five hill tribes in remote mountain regions of northern Thailand heard the Gospel — most of them for the first time — when a team of missionaries conducted medical and dental clinics in six villages.

More than 1,000 medical patients and 400 dental patients were treated, and more than 500 school children received health and dental screenings, reported John Gibson, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary who directs Bangkok Baptist Hospital.

About 2,500 people watched evangelistic films or programs, and 5,000 pieces of Christian literature were distributed. A church planter stayed two weeks after each clinic for follow-up ministry. ■

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 Baptist state newspaper. Baptist and Reflector Day provides an opportunity to make sure every family in your church gets their own personal copy at no cost.

Plan now to observe Baptist and Reflector Day. We will provide free copies for 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. Many Tennessee Baptists have not seen the "new look" introduced by the Baptist and Reflector last month. Now is your church's opportunity to let your members see what they miss each week if they do not subscribe either individually or through the church.

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