

this week's news

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AT WORK 'DOWN UNDER'

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Tennessee Baptists continue efforts at Salem

For *Baptist and Reflector*

FRUITLAND — Another Tennessee team was at work last week helping Salem Church rebuild from a fire last December.

More than 20 members of First Church, Nashville, traveled to Fruitland July 15-19 to assist in rebuilding the Salem facility.

The work at Salem has been coordinated by Beulah Association's Mississippi River Ministry, directed by James Kinsey, pastor of Sunswept Church, Union City.

The Nashville team, which include among others, a salesman, college student, investment banker, flight attendant, a handful of retirees, and a local residential contractor, followed teams from Texas and Maury Association (see photo).

The Maury team completed the roof work.

"We always receive more than we give," said Maury Association Director of Missions Robert "Jody" Gamble. "When we are strong, we help those who are hurting. We don't want you to pay us. We want to get paid by the Lord. You can never out-give God," Gamble said during a farewell cookout held in the team's honor.

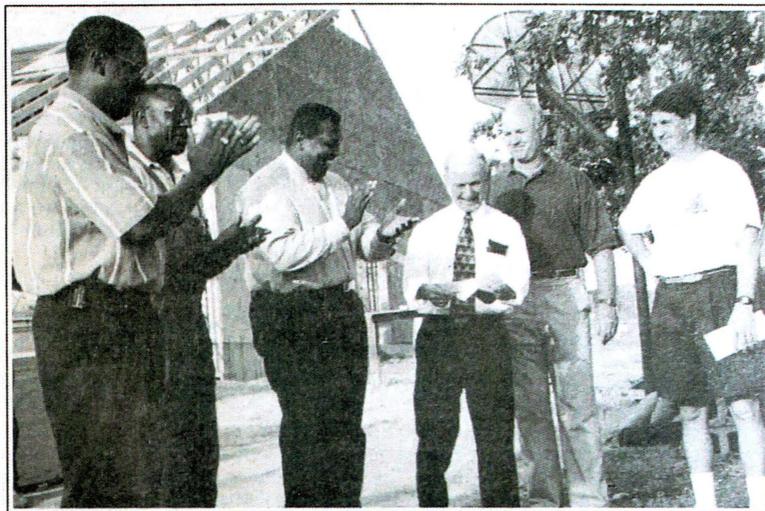
The efforts of FBC followed up a desire to help when the fire first occurred Dec. 31, 1995.

The Nashville church was the first to contact Salem after the fire. Mark Edwards, minister of music, saw the news report and knew immediately he had to do something to help Salem Baptists.

The church's first need was Sunday School material for children, so FBC sent teaching materials, chairs, hymnals, and Bibles to replace those lost in the tragedy. Edwards, who said the fire has fostered a long-term relationship between the two churches, said the offering collected during FBC's sanctuary choir's spring concert, nearly \$4,000, was earmarked for Salem's recovery assistance.

The Nashville team found the mission trip an effective means to show their conviction to racial reconciliation.

The youngest member of the team, Josh



FROM LEFT, Salem Pastor Dan Donaldson, church rebuilding project coordinator Forrest Morris, and Ken Weathersby, associate director for African American church extension for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, react as Pastor James Kinsey of Sunswept Church, Union City, and director of Beulah Association's Mississippi River Ministry, prepares to hand over a \$5,000 check from the Tennessee Baptist Convention for use in rebuilding Salem. Looking on are Jody Gamble, director of missions, Maury Association, and Greg McCoy, pastor of Friendship Church Maury Association. Weathersby delivered the check which was part of monies forwarded to the TBC from the SBC Arson Fund, during a farewell service for a Maury Association mission team which helped rebuild the Salem church, located in rural Gibson County. In addition, the Maury team presented a check for \$1,000 to the Salem church. — Photo by Chris Menees

Moody, graduated from high school in June. Recalling Jesus' words in John 17, where Jesus prayed his followers would be unified in him, Moody suggested one of the biggest needs of the church remains bridging the racial divide.

"Any way that I can contribute to that goal being accomplished gives me joy," Moody said.

Despite the tragedy members of the African American congregation have endured.

"Though we lost the building, the church never stopped," said member Rick Booth. "It was just a prelude to bigger and better things — things God had in store for his people here."

The outpouring of support has reinforced church members' faith, Booth added. "It's a good feeling to know that we are on our way back home and with the help of people we don't even know," he said.

Kinsey noted Salem is enduring stronger than ever despite attempts to destroy it.

The Mississippi River Ministry is currently coordinating mission team work to next assist the burned-out Mt. Pleasant Church at Tigrett in Dyer County, according to Kinsey. ■ — Compiled from reports written by Dwayne Hastings, Baptist Press, and Chris Menees, The *Union City Daily Messenger*.

Nominations sought for top pastors in state convention

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Nominations for Bivocational Church Pastor of the Year and Small Church Pastor of the Year in Tennessee will be accepted through Sept. 1.

A bivocational pastor must have a full-time job in addition to his ministry to qualify for the award. The small church pastor must have served full time in a church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100. Both must have held their positions within the last calendar year.

Awards will be given to pastors in each major region of the

state. Recipients will be chosen by the selection subcommittee of the TBC Convention Ministries Committee, chaired by Don McCulley of Dresden.

This is the sixth consecutive year for the awards which will be presented during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Application forms can be obtained from local associations. They should be mailed to Convention Ministries Division, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. *BER*

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Baptists minister to Olympic athletes in Atlanta

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — To Southern Baptists, this year's Olympics are a 17-day block party with an international guest list — a "Crossover World" of sorts.

The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce predicts 2.4 million visitors and athletes from 197 countries will be in Atlanta during the course of the Olympics which began July 19. The 93 percent increase in Atlanta's population means traffic nightmares, shipping delays, potential electrical brownouts, and incredible mission opportunities.

Much of the ministry involves hospitality and entertainment coordinated by Atlanta International Ministries '96, which is supported by local associations, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Home

Mission Board. Under the direction of home missionary Linda Johnson, AIM '96 has recruited 557 teams from 33 states and Canada to use creative ways of sharing the Gospel with Olympic spectators.

With temperatures in the mid-90s plus draining humidity, spectators welcome nothing more than a cold drink. A Georgia church along the Olympic torch relay route gave away 15,200 ounces of orange juice and apple juice in one afternoon. With entrepreneurs charging for water, the free offer from Southern Baptists is an easy conversation starter.

Eighty percent of the games are held in a three-mile radius near downtown Atlanta known as the Olympic ring. Within the Olympic ring, AIM '96 hosts a ministry center that

serves as a rest stop for pedestrians. The center has a coffee-house environment where guests can sit down, enjoy a cup of water and hear the Gospel. The center opened June 28, and 47 people made professions of faith there before the Olympics began.

Two blocks from the Olympic ring, Atlanta's First Church is hosting "Reach-Out '96." In cooperation with Lay Witnesses for Christ, other area churches, and the HMB evangelism office, the ministry features Christian athletes sharing their testimonies in five church rallies plus a hospitality tent at First Church. Organizers expect 2,500 volunteers from six countries and 15 states to help with the ministry.

Since area hotels are booked and some are charging \$700 a night for a room, local church-

es have opened their doors for volunteer groups. With sleeping bags and air mattresses, gyms and educational spaces serve as temporary dormitories. Area Baptist families also have opened their homes to athletes' families from around the world. ■

Ocoee coverage

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BENTON — The Olympics comes to Tennessee beginning today (July 24) through July 28.

Assistant Editor Connie Davis will cover ministries around the Ocoee River and will make a full report in the Aug. 14 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. B&R

Salt Lake City Baptists prepare for 1998 SBC meeting

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — In two years, Southern Baptists will gather in Salt Lake City, Utah — the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, better known as Mormons.

Would a "Crossover Salt Lake City" witnessing emphasis be significantly different from past evangelism efforts in Las Vegas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Indianapolis, or Orlando, which have included taking the Gospel door-to-door?

"I think it's probably too early to be too specific about that," said Jim Harding, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention since May 1995.

One of the first things Harding did when he assumed his current post was to launch a long-range planning study on how best to prepare for the 1998 meeting.

Harding, who was the convention's religious education director for five years before being elected executive director, said he and other Utah-Idaho Baptists are working with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in the planning process.

But the choice of Salt Lake City for the '98 meeting wasn't unanimous or without reservations on the part of some Southern Baptists.

In meetings a few years ago to choose the site for the '98 meeting, Harding recalled one man asking him, "Why hold the

Southern Baptist Convention in Utah?"

"I asked him what other places were being considered," Harding said. "Two places mentioned were St. Louis and Kansas City. I said that as someone who grew up in Missouri, I think I'm able to speak on this issue. I've been to countless conventions in both cities.

"If we are who we claim to be — mission-minded people who are on mission for the Lord — we need to realize that Salt Lake City is the very cutting edge of the home mission field," Harding declared.

Salt Lake City pastor Mike Gray said the "greatest thing that is going to happen is the exposure to the city's residents of who Southern Baptists are." ■

Robertson joins TBC staff; promotions announced

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Veteran drama and worship specialist Everett "Ev" Robertson will join the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Aug. 12 as part-time worship/drama/music specialist in the church staff leadership group.

Also, in actions concerning TBC staff, two Baptist Center employees have received promotions.

Robertson served on the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for 21 years as senior drama specialist where among other duties he was responsible for developing, promoting, and conducting national, state, and associational drama and communication training events.

While at the BSSB he earned the board's highest employee award, the "Career of Excellence" award.

Robertson also pioneered,

developed, and implemented contemporary communication techniques in traditional Southern Baptist church worship services and consulted with and set-up contemporary worship techniques in some of the nation's fastest-growing evangelical churches.

His new responsibilities will include designing and conducting worship conferences and events on implementing the various styles of worship, providing information and serving as a resource person on the use of creative arts in the life and ministry of Tennessee Baptist churches, and aiding churches on development and implementation of long-range plans for improving their worship services.

An ordained minister,



FERRELL



ROBERTSON



SCOTT

Robertson holds degrees from the University of Montana, Missoula, and Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Two ministry specialist positions in the communications services group will be filled by current TBC staffers. They were chosen during a July 9 meeting of the Executive Board's Central Administrative Committee.

The communications services group, which became operational July 1, is the first group to be implemented in the ServanTeam 21 remodeling plan of the TBC Executive Board.

Denise Scott was elected as communication specialist. She has been with the TBC since 1992 as ministry assistant in the church media library/church recreation department.

She is a graduate of Belmont University and is working part-time on a postgraduate degree at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Dan Ferrell was promoted to coordinator of the production services team in communication services. A 1978 graduate of Belmont University, he has done additional studies at Cumberland College and Middle Tennessee State University.

He will continue to serve as coordinator of distribution services but will assume additional responsibilities for the coordination and administration of the production services team which includes design and print services operations. ■

News of TWA crash affects Baptist pastor, teen

By Karen Willoughby
For Baptist Press

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. — An air tragedy that shook the nation will undoubtedly be forever etched in the minds of a Southern Baptist pastor who responded to the scene and a Southern Baptist teenager who was supposed to have been on the flight.

TWA Flight 800 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Long Island shortly after take-off from JFK International Airport the evening of July 17.

Bob Pohlman, a bivocational pastor on Long Island, heard the report on the 11:00 news and immediately raced to the scene and began offering his services.

The jetliner crash, which killed 230 people, is the nation's worst air tragedy since 279 people were killed in a May 1979 crash of an Ameri-

can Airlines jet in Chicago.

Soon after the TWA crash July 17, the water was full of recreation and fishing boats trying to help with the search and rescue, said Pohlman, pastor of Long Island's Emmanuel Church, Riverhead. "One Vietnam vet said the only other time he had seen anything like what they were finding was in Vietnam. He called it the carnage of war." A combat veteran himself, Pohlman went on to explain: "When shrapnel blows a person apart, you don't get much of the person left."

Pohlman is president of the local ministerial association. He met the morning of July 18 with three area Christian counseling centers to help arrange for a coordinated effort to provide grief counseling to those dealing with the search and recovery effort.

He also met with pastors of other area churches to plan an

ecumenical service for the evening of July 19, and he arranged with the Baptist Convention of New York to promote ecumenical prayer services at the associational level across the state.

"Our prayers will be for the living," Pohlman said. "Regardless of the cause of the explosion, this was a tragedy."

Along with his work related to the downed jetliner, the bivocational minister and industrial truck mechanic also was directing two summer missionaries and Vacation Bible School during the week.

"God provides the strength to do what he needs done," Pohlman said. "And he gives the blessings that encourage you to go on."

A Southern Baptist teenager from Williamsport, Pa., was supposed to have been on the flight with her high school French club, but inexplicably,

Faye Thompson decided not to go.

"I think possibly because he might have something for me to do," the high school sophomore said. "When I was born, my mom was 39. When she first saw me, she said a little prayer to God and she gave me to him for whatever he willed."

That probably will involve service as a missionary, said Thompson, a member at First Southern Church, Williamsport, Pa.

"I'm really interested in missions," she said. "That's what I most want to do, most definitely. When I was little, on TV they have specials, to send money to these people for food and clothing items. I used to watch those things and I used to feel so bad. I guess I've always been real compassionate toward others."

Her older siblings traveled all over Europe because their

father was in the military, Thompson said. But by the time she was old enough to know about it, he had retired, and all she had were the travel tales the family shared around the kitchen table.

"At first when I heard about it — the French club going to Paris and to Switzerland — I thought this would be really neat. I had never gone anywhere and had always heard about it. But when I thought about it, I said I don't know if I really want to go," Thompson recounted. "I just decided — I don't know why, but I just want to wait."

"I'm attributing that to God," the teen continued. "There's no other reason for it. I don't know why I didn't want to go."

Her concern now is for the families and friends of the students who were killed, Thompson said. ■

Former Baptist pastor inaugurated as new governor of Arkansas

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Mike Huckabee's pilgrimage from local Baptist pastor to governor of Arkansas took less than five years.

Huckabee, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, resigned his Texarkana, Ark., pastorate in 1991 to run for the U.S. Senate. Although that effort failed he was elected lieutenant governor eight months later in a special election and re-elected

to a full term in 1994. He was slated to become governor July 15 following Gov. Jim Guy Tucker's recent conviction on two Whitewater-related felony charges.

His inauguration day schedule fell into chaos when Tucker decided not to resign five minutes before Huckabee was to take the oath of office.

After considerable discussions and the potential for an impeachment process, Tucker changed his mind again and Huckabee was inaugurated. ■

Senate OKs bill to form gambling study panel

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate has approved legislation establishing a commission to study the impact of gambling.

The Senate voted July 17 to approve a slightly different version of a bill passed in March by the House of Representatives. The House is expected to OK the Senate version July 22, a House staff member said. President Bill Clinton has expressed support for the legislation.

The bill calls for the commission to have nine members assigned to study the social and economic impacts of gambling on government, communities, families, businesses, and individuals. The commission would be appointed within 60 days after the enactment

of the legislation and would make its report no more than two years after its first meeting.

The panel would have three members named by the president, three by the Senate majority leader, and three by the speaker of the House. The cost of the commission would be about \$5 million, according to a Congressional Budget Office study.

"We are very pleased the Senate has passed this bill," said Will Dodson, legal counsel and director of governmental relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Gambling in this country is spiraling out of control. Therefore, it is important that we take swift action to study the impact of this dramatic increase ...," he said. ■



Tennesseans attend NFBM meeting

Twelve Tennessee Baptists took part in the recent Triennial Meeting of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions. From left, front row, are Brooks and Rebecca Ramsey, Memphis; Ben and Susan Bledsoe, Memphis; Becky Collins, Dickson; Marjorie Goforth, Covington; Cathryne Howard, Covington; back row, Bill Irving, Knoxville, Tim Bearden, TBC Brotherhood Department director, Brentwood; Barry Barrett, Murfreesboro; M.B. Howard, Covington; and Joe Collins, Dickson. NFBM promotes direct missions involvement through national fellowships using members' professional and vocational skills.

Criminal justice ministry conference set for Aug. 2

For Baptist and Reflector

GOODLETTSVILLE — A conference for church and community leaders and others interested in criminal justice ministry will be held Aug. 2 at First Church, Goodlettsville from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The session will be led by Don Gibson, director of lay leadership for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other speakers include Emmett Solomon, retired head chaplain for the Texas Department of Corrections; Harold Ellis, a lay leader in criminal justice ministry from Belton, Texas; Mark Hollis, coordinator of the "Inmate Discippler Fellowship," a ministry of Southwestern Baptist Theolog-

ical Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Shay Coffman, a lay leader from Dallas.

Topics to be addressed include volunteer assistant chaplains, types of ministry, equipping the individual volunteer, and developing skills and techniques for prison ministry. Anyone interested in prison ministry should consider attending the conference.

The conference is free and open to the public. Call (615) 859-1346 for reservations (cost of lunch is \$5, payable at the door). For more information, call Jim Buck, volunteer coordinator, criminal justice ministry, Brotherhood Department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, at (615) 255-8893 or 851-1336. B&R



opinion

Thanks to group

I wanted to write a letter of appreciation for Bob Davison, his team, and all the youth in the "Impact Your World 4 Christ" group, that did such an excellent job in our association recently.

Not only did they do an excellent body of work here at our office, but all of the agencies that they ministered through were highly complimentary of their ministry to their clients.

These folks increased the respect our association has in our community, and put forth a picture of Tennessee Baptists as a people that are genuinely concerned, deeply caring, and committed servants of Christ.

We look forward to their return, and are planning greater ministry opportunities for them.

Mike Brooks, DOM,
East Tennessee Baptist Assn.
Newport 37821

Appreciates camp

It was good to read Pastor Freeman's letter about his son's experience at RA (Royal Ambassador) Camp. I wish every boy had the privilege of attending the camp and having the same experiences.

I have had the privilege for a number of years of serving as missionary in RA Camp. To me this is one of the highlights of my year. This year was tops. We had excellent leadership and the boys responded in a fine way. During the two weeks of camp 26 boys made professions of faith, several committed to a church-related vocation, and there were many other commitments. It was a joy to share my experiences as a volunteer in missions. I hope

to have more opportunities.

I salute Bob Davison and the entire staff for a wonderful two weeks of RA camp.

Marshall Hargrave
Jefferson City 37760

Another response

I am responding to the letter, "Gives a Reason," July 17, *Baptist and Reflector*. I was unaware that conservatives who "took over" the convention in the 1980s were people who did not enjoy missions reports, committee reports, seminary reports, and inspirational sermons. I was shocked to hear that people who were "genuinely interested" in such things had been "excluded from Southern Baptist life." I don't recall interest in those matters as ever having been a litmus test for SBC involvement.

More than 45,000 conservatives and moderates attended our 1985 annual meeting in Dallas. Of that record number, 15,000-20,000 would have classified themselves as moderates. If their only reason for attending the convention then was to listen to reports and hear a few sermons, where were they this year in New Orleans? Did a group of moderates elect Tom Elliff as president?

Our "difference of opinion" in the 1980s was whether we as a convention would stand for the inerrant Word of God. The "few" mentioned in the letter were actually thousands who said year after year, "We will stand for God's Word." Those same thousands of people meet each year to be updated on convention life and hear great preaching. I am sure Frances Dial is welcome.

Derrick Lynch, pastor
Leoma Church, Leoma 38468

sound bites

— by Ferrell Foster & Tim Ellsworth

New Releases

top singles —

Christian Hit Radio

1. "Take Me To Your Leader," Newsboys
2. "He Is," Ashley Cleveland
3. "High," Tony Vincent
4. "If This World," Jaci Velasquez
5. "I'll Be Around," Michael W. Smith

Adult Contemporary

1. "We All Need," Aaron*Jeffrey
2. "If This World," Jaci Velasquez
3. "The Message," 4Him
4. "I'll Be Around," Michael W. Smith
5. "I Know You," Cindy Morgan

Top Singles source: The CCM Update, June 17

► **Big Tent Revival, Open All Nite** (Forefront): BTR's second release sticks with what worked in the first one — a catchy classic rock 'n roll sound and searching lyrics. The CD offers interviews and videos that can be played in a CD-ROM. Take notice of this album.

► **4 Him, The Message** (Benson): One of Christian music's most popular groups over the past six years, 4 Him takes its signature harmonical sound to a different level in *The Message*, its sixth release. "Sonic flourishes abound, combining sophisticated arrangements with exceptional voice textures," the record company bio says.

L.S. Underground, Bring It Down Now

(Gray Dot): LSU is in a class by itself. Gray Dot calls this collection "the final release from alternative pioneers." It's on the edge, even the stuff that's nine years old. The lyrics come at faith from the dark side of doubt. The album includes remixes, live cuts, and new material. The CD reaches the maximum length of 72:25, with 18 tracks. The cassette has even more stuff.

► **Linnae Reeves, Linnae Reeves** (StarSong): Linnae offers pretty much of a standard pop sound, although the album's quality leaves much to be desired. The lyrics border on the shallow and the vocals have too much of a little girl sound. Save your money.

► **Havalina Rail Company, The Diamond in the Fish** (Tooth & Nail): Take one large blender. Insert Henry Mancini, Los Lobos, Cab Calloway, Bob Dylan, Astrid Gilberto, Duane Eddy, Esquivel, BB King, Sean Connery, and a Bible. Mix well. You will end up with the only jazz-rock-blues-samba-lounge concept album about a spy's longing for God. Weird and wonderful.

— Ferrell Foster is acting editor, *Illinois Baptist*; and Tim Ellsworth, is reporter for the newsjournal; e-mail address: 70420.40@compuserve.com



about letters to the editor

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



Partnership Prayer Requests

July

- 24 — Pray for volunteers to complete the seminary chapel in Warsaw, Poland.
- 25 — Pray for the team led by Bernard Bull of Carson-Newman College to Costa Rica. The students will work with missionary kids July 29 — Aug. 12.
- 26 — Pray for national unity in Canada. July 1st was Canada's 129th birthday.
- 27 — Pray for health care volunteers to lead two projects in early fall in Poland.
- 28 — Pray for the pastors' wife retreat being held in Michigan through Aug. 2.
- 29 — Pray for Canadian natives Sherri and Ian Buntain and their children who have returned to mission work in Malaysia.
- 30 — Pray for the pastors in Poland as they work and pray for the partnership in 1997.

Relationships require the setting of boundaries

Clear generational boundaries promote stability as values and rules are set by the immediate family instead of being handed down from the family.

This is best illustrated by one of my recent clients. She was divorcing her second husband. She had married and divorced her first husband twice. As we explored the reason for her fear of making a lasting commitment to a man, some interesting facts emerged.

She expressed a real fear of being dominated and controlled. She disclosed how her mother had always chosen men who dominated and abused her and, thus my client tried to avoid that. She talked about how her mother had been abused by an uncle and her father and how those experiences had led to her inability to form appropriate relationships with men because she never could establish appropriate boundaries. At



BARKLEY

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

25 and coming out of her third marriage, my client was flabbergasted at the similarity between her own experiences and those of her mother.

There is an old adage, "Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Family systems therapy teaches that these kinds of enmeshed relationships are passed on from generation to generation while each succeeding generation denies that they will repeat the pattern. Part of the explanation for this comes from the process by which some families pass on unstated rules and values which become binding upon the next generation even though the next generation vigorously disclaims these rules and values.

The Bible speaks of the sins of the fathers being visited upon the following generations. I believe this process of intergen-

erational influence is what the writer is describing.

This effect is seen most clearly in the homes where abuse, addiction, and abandonment have occurred. The rule is that you don't talk about the family "problem" and maybe it will take care of itself. This is one example of how clear generational boundaries prevent the repetition of the problems of the previous generation. As the "problem" is addressed, solutions begin to surface and hope is envisioned.

Much of the chaotic family situation of the present can be effectively dealt with so that the next generation does not inherit the problems with which we refused to deal. We are bound to repeat the mistakes of our forefathers only when we refuse to address the issues that arise in our own lives from their mistakes.

We are not chained to the style of living with which we grew up. We can change the rules, set new values, and take charge of our own future. *B&R*

Baptist journalism saga is history

Have you read a good history lately? We have one for you.

Baptist newspapers are older than most of the Baptist state conventions. Some of them were founded prior to the birth of the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist newspapers have been around for a long time.

The *Baptist and Reflector*, one of the oldest, was started in 1835; that makes us 161 years old. Georgia's *Christian Index* traces its lineage back to 1822.

Our histories have been told in books and pamphlets. But for the first time, we now have a history of the association for Southern Baptist papers.

Founded in 1895 by E. E. Folk, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the Southern Baptist Press Association has played a vital role in enhancing the strong voice of Baptist people.

The association's first hundred years are chronicled in Bill Junker's new book, *Contending for the Right to Know*.

The history is accurate and lively. Junker did exhaustive research to obtain the real story of the SBPA. Having done that, he put the facts together in a very interesting compilation.

How did the SBPA and its individual newspaper members affect the life and work of the state conventions? How did they affect the development of the Southern Baptist Convention?

Who were the "movers and shakers" in Baptist life? Were all the editors eccentric? Were they qualified for the work?

Like any good history should, Junker's book reports on these questions. In the book, he has told about the papers and the association, "warts and all."

The book was commissioned four years ago by the

SBPA (now the Association of Baptist State Papers), Association members felt the story needed to be told, especially since a century of "cooperation" was approaching.

Bill Junker has been able to portray the personalities of editors, papers, and the association. He writes about the progression of Southern Baptist life on the world scene, and the role of the papers.

In a sense, *Contending for the Right to Know* is a biography of a great organization and its working parts.

It is good reading for people interested in how we got

to be who we are.

Copies of the book are available in most Baptist state paper offices. Our heritage is worthy of pride and thanksgiving. The book tells of that heritage with amazing clarity. *B&R*



Like a mighty army, let's unite for morality

In spite of all the evidence concerning the evils and costs of gambling, gambling seems to have a strong grasp on America.

This fall, as the November elections are held, the gambling issue will be a factor.

In particular, voters will be involved in the areas of the state where senators are being elected. Voters will want to know how the candidates feel about gambling in general, and prospects for a state-run lottery in particular.

Voters should remember that one more vote by the Tennessee senate would allow a statewide lottery to be considered in the next gubernatorial election.

The House of Representatives has looked favorably on the lottery in two sessions now, walking lock-step with the gambling interests.

The Senate held out until some last minute maneuvering resulted in a weak "yes" vote as the session closed. Also approved was a move for simulcast video gambling at tracks in Tennessee from horses races at out-of-state tracks. That deal was so smooth and qui-

et that many gambling opponents were unaware of it until it was all over.

However, no track has been built in Tennessee even though voters in Shelby County have approved parimutuel betting.

Tennessee Baptists, and other anti-gambling groups need to be organized. Scatter-gun efforts don't have the same clout as an effort with support and participation from all areas of the state.

From Kingsport to Memphis, and all points in between, now is the time to prepare. The elections for a new General Assembly will be held this fall. All voters need to know the stance of candidates on gambling and all other moral issues.

At present, there are several Baptist regional groups working against these issues. Let's all work together. If you would like to know what others are doing in this area, and are willing to share what is happening in your area of the state, let us know.

Families need a morally clean environment. We can help families by opposing gambling. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Mildred, on telephone to Molly: "I'm looking forward to having you this morning for coffee. Do you think you can find the street?"

Molly: "Sure, your instructions were great. What is the house number?"

Mildred: "Don't worry. You won't have to remember that. We will be the only one on the cove not having a garage sale today."

Take this truth

Are you like everyone else? You shouldn't be! Especially, if you are a Christian, you should not be like a non-Christian.

Your standards should be higher and your convictions stronger. Remember, you should also have a sweeter and kinder spirit.

Memorize this Scripture

If you love only those who love you ... what is special about that? Do not the very pagans do as much? (Matthew 5: 46-47 Moffatt)

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to be myself; but help me because, as a Christian, I am to be my "best self." *B&R*

Mountain top life, with and without a mountain

Sublime Point provides one of those "love at first sight" experiences. From the overlook there, you can look down on Wollongong, Thirroul, and several other Illawarra towns.

We debarked from the airliner after an overseas flight of about 15 hours. We claimed our baggage and hustled through customs.

Several enthusiastic Australian Baptists greeted us with bright smiles and hearty welcomes. They display an immense Tennessee state flag, to remind us who we are.

They put us on a very comfortable bus, which took us south from Sydney for an hour, and finally we arrived at the overlook, and it is not yet 7 a.m.

We quickly realized why it is called Sublime Point. The view takes your breath away. As the song says, "On a clear day, you can see forever."

Oh, the brilliant sun put on a remarkable show for us, highlighting the green foothills below, shining like a beacon on

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

the distant homes, streets, churches, and towns where we would be ministering for two weeks. The sun's rays sparkled on the rolling waves of the Tasman Sea, ebbing and flowing ceaselessly.

More Australian Baptists met us there and huddled about us. They knew us! We met our host families, and they began their nurturing.

Pastor John Taylor and others properly welcomed us, and explained that Sublime Point is also a point of prayer. We pray here often, for the people, the towns, he said.

And then, Pastor David McGrouther prayed. From that moment, we knew we were in the right place. If there had ever been any doubt about the mission trip, all was now fair dinkum. We knew it.

David poured from his heart a strong

but sweet prayer — for us, the new arrivals, and for the days of witness that lay before us. He prayed for the sensitivity of the Spirit, for the necessary courage and wisdom, and invoked God's blessings on the new relationships and for what we were to be about.

Sublime Point! Let others claim the beauty from Monte Bre, Sugarloaf, views from towering buildings, and Everest.

For the moment itself was sublime, and even in that early hour, we knew it.

We lived between the escarpment and the sea for two weeks. We followed the Lord's way. We walked alongside his people in the Illawarra, New South Wales, and the place became familiar to us. Our new friends blessed us.

A fortnight later, the bus took us along that route again, headed back to Sydney, the airport, and home. But the sighs were audible as we passed by Sublime Point.

Sublime? Yes, sublime. *B&R*



ALLEN

Non-rational explanation may be needed

After subjecting the first five books of the Bible to an exhaustive computer analysis, researchers in Israel came to a different conclusion than was expected.

The Torah, or Books of Moses, had long been assumed by skeptics to be the work of multiple authors.

But Scripture scholar Moshe Katz and computer expert Menachem Wiener of the Israel Institute of Technology analyzed the book's material through sophisticated computer analysis.

They discovered an intricate pattern of significant words concealed in the canon, spelled by letters separated at fixed intervals. Katz says that the statis-

think about it

by Don Bowery, pastor, First Church, Mountain City

tical possibilities of such patterns happening by chance would be one to three million.

The material suggests a single, inspired author. In fact it could not have been put together by human capabilities at all.

Adds Wiener, "So we need a non-rational explanation. And ours is that the Bible was written by God through the hand of Moses."

Did you ever hear someone say, "I was

an outcast, a helpless alcoholic, a disgrace to my family, and a nuisance to the world, until I began to study mathematics, and learned the multiplication table. But since that time I have been as happy as the day is long.

"I feel like singing all the time; my soul is full of triumph and peace?"

And did you ever hear a man relate his salvation to the multiplication table or the sciences of mathematics or geology? But thousands will tell you that they were wretched, lost, broke their mothers' hearts, reckless, helpless, homeless, hopeless, until they heard the words of salvation, love, and grace in the Bible. *B&R*

Associations continue ministry to migrants

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — For the third year, four associations which have pooled their efforts to minister to the Hispanic populations in the area, held annual summer events.

The Hispanic population in the greater Knoxville area includes migrant farm workers and, increasingly,

families who are remaining in the area all year, according to Michael Brooks, director of missions, East Tennessee Baptist Association.

The ministry, called Los Amigos de Cristo, was begun three years ago by Knox County, East Tennessee, Jefferson County, and Nolachucky associations to expand upon the

summer events. It has begun a group in Morristown which meets each week and hopes to begin another soon at New Market Church, New Market. The summer events, though, minister to the migrants who leave the area after summer. As a result of the two summer

events, about 40 people made professions of faith, Brooks reported.

Hispanic Day was held at Camp Ba Yo Ca, an associational camp of Knox County Association. It drew 45 children from the Morristown and Newport area and 89 workers.

Carroll Webb, coordinator of the event from Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville, noted activities included nature trail hikes, crawdad hunts, creek wad-

ing, fishing, swimming, crafts, drama, clowns, puppets, and games.

At the close of the day Jose Roman, pastor-director of Los Amigos de Cristo, told the group about God and how to accept him as Savior. Roman, of Morristown, is a native of Venezuela.

Baptists also hosted the annual Hispanic Festival at a public school in Newport. About 180 Hispanics and 75 workers attended, reported Webb, who also coordinated this event.

A measure of its popularity was the fact that people came two hours early, she said. In addition to activities, the two-hour "Jesus film" was watched by about 50 people.

To help the people, clothing was available. Eye examinations were conducted by a Parrottsville health clinic. Food was provided by members of churches in Morristown. And members of Valley Grove Church, Knoxville, gave out printed materials in Spanish. **B&R**



RECEIVING GIFT BAGS from Margaret Dixon, center, of Calvary Church, Morristown, are Hispanics attending the Hispanic Festival in Newport.



POSING with a new friend is Carrie Tullock, left, of Calvary Church, Morristown.

Nashville creative arts team to minister during Olympics

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Sporting more than American pride, a creative arts team from Creevewood Church, Nashville, is Olympic bound. The team, known as Mid-River Productions, will serve July 28 - Aug. 3 in Atlanta.

To be based at Euclid Avenue Church in the Little Five Points suburban community of Atlanta, the team will present drama and interpretive movement to music in order to gather a crowd and present the Gospel message. Working through the Home Mission Board's Atlanta International Ministries (AIM) '96, the team will be assisted by a hospitali-



MEMBERS OF Mid-River Productions are, from left, first row, Corrie Morris, Rachael Hardeman, Clair Sumrall, Becky Sumrall; second row, Rachael McCord, Doug Eaton, Christy Ikner, David Brooks, Maggie Jones, Joe Hartman, and Erin McCord.

ty team and an evangelism team.

The Tennessee volunteers, including nine youth and four

adults, are led by Becky Sumrall, interim minister of recreation at the church and Christy Ikner, youth drama leader.

Ikner reported the biggest challenge in preparing for the ministry was meeting the request to use more secular music than Christian. "The process of choosing music that would both attract a crowd and set forth a positive message was indeed a challenge," said Sumrall. The creative format of Mid-River combines a dramatic sketch with interpretive movement of a song.

The production company's main ministry goal, said Ikner, is to use music and dra-

ma as a platform for presenting the Gospel. The group tries to capitalize on the cultural interest in entertainment.

For the last two years, the arts team has been developing an original repertoire to use in churches and it has been training church groups.

With the same anticipation as the Olympic athletes, Mid-River Productions anxiously awaits the moment for which it has been training. For them, before American pride comes Christian commitment, which is the focus of this team as it seeks more than a gold medal at the Olympics. **B&R** — Christy M. Ikner contributed to this story.

Concord Association team works in Canada

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — A group of 23 volunteers from five churches in Concord Association are working in Canada to conduct a church camp July 24-28 for about 200 Filipinos, who are residents of Calgary, Alberta. Their work is in support of the Canada/Tennessee Baptist Partnership.

The church camp is in Cremona, about 45 miles from Calgary. The effort is an outgrowth of prior visits to Canada by Brian Harrell, pastor, Harvest View Church, Kirtland, who is leading the group

along with Tim Fisher, pastor of Eagleville Church, Eagleville.

Other volunteers are from Mount Hermon Church, Murfreesboro; Southeast Church, Murfreesboro; and First Church, Murfreesboro. Only three of the 23 have been to Canada previously.

The host Canadian church is Second Filipino Church, Calgary, which will arrange to bus about 100 youth to the camp each day and an additional 50-70 adults July 26.

Harrell described Calgary as a cosmopolitan city which

has about 12,000 Filipino residents. After three years of living in Canada, a Filipino can sponsor other Filipinos, which accounts for the growth of the ethnic group. Harrell said the Filipinos are hardworking people who often choose separation from family members if allowed an opportunity to move to Canada.

One of the goals of the pastor is to begin other churches, said Harrell. Toward that end, several members of the Second Filipino Church are now attending seminaries. **B&R**



Warren accepts OBU position

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA — Charlie Warren, editor of *Home Life* magazine and former associate editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, has been named director of public relations at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Warren has worked in Southern Baptist communications nearly 27 years. Since January 1988, he has been editor of *Home Life*, the Baptist Sunday School Board's monthly family magazine with a monthly circulation of 525,000. He worked at the *Baptist and Reflector* from 1979-88.

A 1969 OBU graduate, Warren will oversee OBU's communication efforts. As a member of OBU's executive cabinet, he will be involved in strategic planning for the university, which has seen enrollment grow by more than 70 percent since 1982.

Warren also was associate editor of the Brotherhood Commission's *World Mission Journal*, a senior editor at the Foreign Mission Board, and a writer at the Texas Baptist Convention. ■

Evangelism thrust points to 2000

Aussie Baptists' hearts on fire, prayers blazing

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector
Second of two articles

NEW SOUTH WALES — In the Illawarra region of this southeastern Australia state, Baptist work is challenging hedonistic attitudes.

Though numbered as a minority among Christian faiths, and an even smaller minority when measured against national population, Baptists plan to move strongly into the second millennium.

A group of 34 Tennessee Baptists recently helped several Australian Baptist churches in this area make a dent in the "outside" world.

We worked in ministry alongside four Baptist churches in Wollongong, Thirroul, Kiama, and Port Kembla.

The varied ministries were not unlike those done by Southern Baptist churches in Tennessee. Once we adjusted to the differences in English language, it was not hard to adapt to the Australian culture. As one of the team members said, the Southern portion of any country is "laid back" and sensitive to the needs of other people.

One of the aims of the two-week journey was to use evangelism to reach the communities where we worked. Evangelism was a high priority, but we also were able to help strengthen the local churches by working with them in a variety of other ministries.

The three Tennessee Baptist pastors led the groups as they worked with Wollongong,



DAVID MCGROUTHER, pastor of Thirroul Church, above at left, says some words of farewell to Tennessee Baptists as they gathered at Wollongong Church on the first leg of the light back to the USA. The mission trip was from June 20-July 4.

Thirroul, and Kiama Baptist churches.

Port Kembla Church had the *Baptist and Reflector* editor for two services on June 23.

Pastor David Cook used the afternoon to "show off" the Port Kembla (Wollongong) gigantic steel plant. The plant uses iron ore from the interior and coal from the local mines. Several thousand workers are employed at BHP industrial complex.

The Port Kembla area,

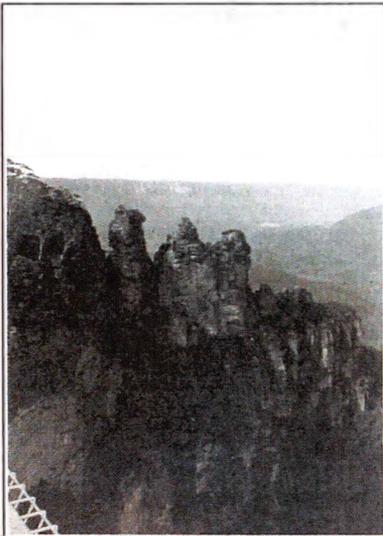
where many Baptist church members are employed, is at the heart of Australia's "industry world."

It is a self-contained city and like the entire area, places high emphasis on total recycling of all materials.

Home groups provide a strong emphasis on prayer and Bible study. In a way this supplants Sunday School, since most churches do not have Bible study for adults.

The Tennessee teams also

FAMED THREE
Sisters rock formation in the picturesque Blue Mountains inland from the Illawarra region.



Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

FOOTHILLS frame shop in Austinmer is in the capable hands of June and Clyde Bock, left, and Clif Caladine, all members of Thirroul Church (below).



ANN LUCK, above, performed solos at churches and schools in the Thirroul area. A Southern Seminary student, she is from Lenoir City.



SYDNEY, below, is New South Wales' capital, and is blessed with a spectacular harbor. One of its most recognizable features is the Opera House, right.



took part in special meetings such as men's and women's nights out.

Meeting at restaurants, the nights out featured speakers, usually the Tennesseans, to lead discussions on home life, marriage relationships, parenting, and daily devotionals.

The Australian host families and other church members were faithful to include the Tennesseans in events such as picnicking on Sundays at the commons, "playing" some cricket, and trying our hand at

the game of bowls. We felt we were being treated as family members, and not as visitors.

We were also introduced to Australiana Night at church — which, at least at Thirroul, turned into a sort of talent show.

As in most mission trips, the visitors were blessed as much, or more, than those to whom we intended to minister.

It was an affirmation that God has his people all around the world, and especially "Down Under." *B&R*



RAY LUCK, above, director of missions, Loudon County Association, speaks to a group of ministers at a prayer breakfast emphasizing prayer for the A.D. 2000 evangelism thrust



MEMBERS OF PORT KEMBLA church, right, have fellowship at 'tea' after morning worship time

Kentuckians brace for onslaught of gambling woes

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Energized by two more Indiana casinos opening their doors for business in 1997, Kentuckians Against Casino Gambling recently held their first strategy session in a year.

The group includes representatives from a diverse spectrum, such as the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Temperance League, Kentucky Council of Churches, Roman Catholics, and Lexington's Keeneland Race Track.

"We hope to get other participants," said Nancy Jo Kemper, director of the Kentucky Council of Churches and an outspoken casino opponent, "groups like the Urban League, PTAs, and some other civic and community organizations."

"We're a pretty massive group and we think we can amass some pretty good arguments against it."

While the broad-based coalition succeeded in preventing casino interests from getting legislation to the floor of the 1994 Kentucky General Assembly, some may think they lost the war.

After the Indiana Gaming Commission recently awarded Caesar's World a license for Harrison County, the company announced a plan for a \$228-

million complex southwest of downtown Louisville.

A riverboat casino also is planned for the Lawrenceburg, Ind., area, a half hour from Cincinnati and its northern Kentucky suburbs. The pair will join Indiana and Illinois casinos operating next to Henderson and Paducah.

The neighboring casino push is part of a national trend in the 1990s that has seen more than 500 spread across the country, according to a recent issue of *Christianity Today* magazine.

That article said casinos now operate in 27 states, providing a million jobs and \$40 billion in annual revenues.

Claude Witt, director of the Kentucky Temperance League, declined to reveal the anti-casino group's battle plan but said it will try to educate people about the threat casinos pose to Kentucky's businesses and other interests.

He also pledged an active campaign against Caesar's plans to erect a multi-million-dollar gondola system that would ferry people across the Ohio River from Jefferson County to the casino.

"I think we won the battle and the war continues," he said. "I don't think we've lost. The thing that concerns me the

most is the tragedy of the church as a whole not being willing to recognize this as a problem. There's no unified effort to look at this as a moral issue."

Witt, a member of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, said while it is difficult to cite a "thou shalt not" from the Bible, Scriptures about covetousness, stealing, and being good stewards apply to gambling. So does the verse about Roman guards casting lots for Christ's clothing, he said.

Witt finds agreement from Bill Patterson, a Baptist pastor in Henderson, Ky., which last November saw Casino Aztar open for business in neighboring Evansville, Ind.

Henderson has its own gambling problem, too, he said, with that city's Ellis Park attracting a bevy of gamblers to

wager on live and televised horse racing.

"God's way is to work for what we have," said the pastor of First Church. "Gambling undercuts the work ethic and breeds the something-for-nothing attitude, which is getting more pervasive in our society."

Yet, Witt acknowledged the issue must be fought on economic grounds, which he said will be an uphill battle because so many states have bought the argument that gambling represents a "quick fix" for budget problems.

The budgetary bonanza for Harrison County has certainly attracted the attention of officials there. Caesar's was to present two community foun-

dations with \$6.75 million in June to pay for road construction, economic development, and expansion of the county library, according to the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

But Kemper said he believes the impact of such eye-popping development will only have short-term effects on Kentucky. And, she said, the proliferation of casinos may soon cause their attractiveness to sputter.

The more states that legalize it, the easier it will be to resist, she said, with the "glut" helping to illustrate the threat casinos pose to Kentucky's horse industry.

"It's universal," Witt said. "I look for the same problems here." ■

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people

■ Carr's Chapel Missionary Church, Speedwell, recently ordained **Johnson Mayes** and **Steve Dunn** as deacons.

leaders

■ Ararat Church, Jackson, has called **Craig Clayton** as mission pastor. He will serve at the church's truck stop ministry and in a nearby mobile home park.

■ Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, has called **Luckey Steele**, minister of youth and young adults, Stock Creek Church, Knoxville, as minister of youth and education, effective Aug. 19.

■ **William A. "Bill" Cox Jr.** of Nashville has been called as staff evangelist of Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage. Cox, who has worked at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, is a music evangelist and the national coordinator of volunteers in

evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

■ **Larry W. Fields**, pastor, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, will celebrate the 10th anniversary of his service there.

■ **Andrew Brown** of Martin has been called as minister of children and youth at Westside Church, Halls, effective June 9. Brown, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee - Martin, was president and vice president of the Baptist Student Union there.

deaths

■ **Adonis Rodriguez**, 56, pastor of the Mision Bautista of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, died July 15 at his home. Rodriguez was a native of Venezuela where he was a high school principal and college language teacher. He moved to the United States in 1987 and began serving at Red Bank in 1990. He was a graduate of McCormick Theological

Seminary in Chicago.

■ **Sammie Meek**, retired preschool worker for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died July 9 in her home in Jackson. Meek worked for the TBC for 19 years, including 15 years leading ministries for children and babies and finally as director of preschool work for the Discipleship Training department. She also worked for four years for the Sunday School department. Meek pioneered ministries for mentally handicapped people. A memorial service in her honor will be held at the Baptist Center Aug. 21 at 2 p.m.

churches

■ **Cedar Fork Church, Philadelphia**, will observe its 152nd anniversary July 28. Keller Brown, former pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. Following a luncheon, Gene Higgins, a vocalist, will sing.

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, will hold homecoming activities Aug. 25.

■ **First Church, Goodlettsville**, will hold a Criminal Justice Ministry Conference Aug. 2 for people interested in a criminal justice ministry. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Don Gibson, director of lay leadership for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will speak among others. For more information, call (615) 255-8893 or 851-1336.

■ John Jacobs and the Power Team will be hosted by **Alta Loma Church, Madison**, Aug. 14-18. The team will perform at 7 p.m. each night.

■ Seventeen people made professions of faith during a June 17-21 revival at **First**

Church, Lavergne. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of Gleason, spoke.

■ **Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville**, will celebrate Founders Day and Homecoming July 28 on the occasion of its 59th anniversary. Dan D. Haskins Jr., pastor; Betty Jo Brown, and Ted Edens will be honored for five years of ministry to the church.

■ **Oaklawn Church, Jackson**, will hold revival Aug. 1-4. Larry Moore will speak.

■ **Short Creek Church, Christiana**, will hold homecoming activities Aug. 11. Willard L. Runnels, pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. Other activities include a luncheon and afternoon music program. Also, the church held Vacation Bible School with an olympic theme. An average of 35 children attended.

the schools

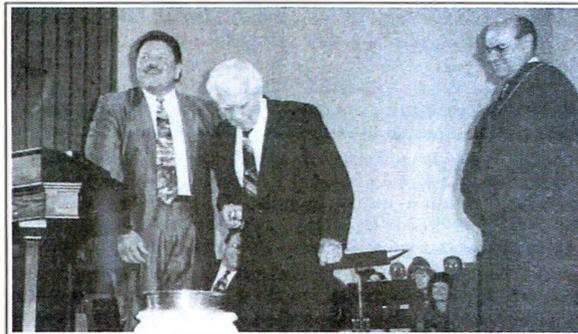
■ Drew Maddux, president

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 businessman and his efforts to help youth.

■ Evans P. Whitaker, vice president for development, Wingate University, Wingate, N.C., has been named director of development at **Belmont University**, Nashville, July 1. He also has worked at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C., and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation.



TENNESSEANS attending a writers conference at Woman's Missionary Union headquarters May 1-4 include, from left, seated, **Carolyn Ross Tomlin**, Jackson; **Char Gray**, Nashville; and **Karen Dockery**, Hendersonville; standing, **Barbara Donaldson**, Dandridge; **Lloyd and Jodi Blackwell**, Nashville; and **Dixie Ruth Crase**, Memphis.



BURNING A NOTE representing debt on the educational addition of **Hermitage Hills Church**, Nashville, are, from left, **Dean Haun**, pastor; **Johnny Bates**, and **Don Kohanski**. The ceremony was held on **Heritage Sunday**, June 30, which was part of the church's 40th anniversary celebration. The \$1.5 million debt was paid three years ahead of schedule.



Tennessee samplers

How to get help

By Charles Dinkins, interim pastor
First Church, Lawrenceburg

You guessed it! We're not talking about finances, wants, spasmodic desires, or the such. The emphasis in this article is devoted to the spiritual needs of each of our lives.

► Step one — take a look at your-

self. Are you experiencing spiritual maturity day by day? Are you going forward in spiritual growth or are you at a stand still or even worse in retreat? Do you make excuses for these conditions, or seek to rationalize them? Even worse, do you blame others for your conditions? To be sure those of us who adopt the above can never get help so long as we embrace such attitudes or motives.

The first step is to face up to **reality**. The prodigal son is a wonderful example. He departed from his father, wasted his resources and his influence, and ended up in the "hog pen." Such is the inevitable consequence of leaving God, the church, and spiritual verities out of your life.

But what was the secret to his recovery? First, he made **discovery** (Luke 15:17), "He came to himself." That sim-

ply means he faced up to reality, he saw that his problem was himself. This is usually the case. Then he made **decision**, "I will arise and go to my father." Then he made **confession**, "I have sinned" (Luke 15:18). Did he get help? **Yes.**

► One's **methods** are important in getting spiritual help. Most of us want a "quick-fix." Thus, we may resort to a quick prayer. "Lord, do it and do it now." Even worse, we may resort to the emotional such as imagination, or feeling, or a vision and the like.

Now, with deep care, love, and concern, let me say that imagination and rationalization can offer no hope apart from **divine revelation**. By this, I mean nothing less than a thorough search and study of the Scriptures. The holy Scriptures reveal to us God, his ways, his will. But to merely study will

not help much unless we **understand** what we read and then put it into **practice**. Such a course will lead to definite help and sure victory. So, let's abandon speculation and follow the revelation of the Scriptures.

► One's **self** — discipline is important to getting spiritual help. A part of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 6:23) is "temperance." The word means self control. In II Peter 1:6, self control follows knowledge (not feelings, emotions, imaginations) and this suggests that what is learned must be put into practice.

► **Conclusion** — So you want help! It is available and each of us can "lay hold of it, but remember there are no automatics, no quick fixes, no short cuts. It requires human cooperation to fully experience the divine operation. ■

Once-taboo subjects now aired in support groups

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Subjects churches once considered too personal for public discussion are now topics for group studies growing in popularity across the Southern Baptist Convention and with other Christian groups, an editor of LIFE support products said.

Dale McCleskey told participants in Discipleship and Family Development Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center that shame and guilt contributed to the lack of healing and support groups in churches until recent years.

"But about four years ago Baptist Sunday School Board leadership realized millions of people go to support groups," McCleskey said. "The reason a lot of secular support groups developed is that we in the church were not doing what God wanted us to do. There was a tremendous need. The church was intended to meet the need, and people were having a problem finding the help they needed."

The opportunity to participate in a Christian support group enables people to freely identify their "higher power" as Jesus Christ, Kay Moore told participants in an earlier session July 4 during the Jericho Missions Festival at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center?

"Churches traditionally have ministered effectively to

persons with physical problems," said Moore, a former editor of LIFE support materials now living in Richmond, Va. "But for many years people have felt uncomfortable in coming to the church with the deepest needs of their hearts."

However, she said the BSSB has released more than 40 resources dealing with family, lifestyle, and addiction issues that once were only whispered about in church.

One of the earliest courses, "First Place," provides a Christian context for weight loss, Moore said.

"It enables people to rely on Christ's power, not willpower, to help them with weight loss and healthy eating habits," Moore said.

Another early release, "Search for Significance," is designed to build self-worth on the forgiveness and unconditional love of Christ. "This is an excellent starting point for a church's support group ministry," Moore said. Re-

lated courses include "The Search" for youth, "Untangling Relationships: A Christian Perspective on Codependency" and "Breaking the Cycle of Hurtful Family Experiences."

Moore emphasized LIFE support courses are "lay-led. These are not therapy groups. The leader is there to facilitate. Members are told over and over not to tell others what to do. They can share out of their experiences."

Other LIFE support group studies include:

> "Making Peace with Your Past," to help understand problems and feelings from childhood experiences that affect your life today. Related is "Moving Beyond Your Past," designed to help people take responsibility for their own emotional and spiritual wholeness."

> "Shelter from the Storm: Hope for Survivors of Sexual Abuse" provides understanding in the effects of sexual abuse, a means to let go of the past and the ability to reclaim trust, control, and intimacy.

> "A Time for Healing: Coming to Terms with Your Divorce" offers help in grief for broken relationships, understanding past issues that may have contributed to divorce, understanding how to reconcile relationships involved in the dissolution of the marriage, and dealing with practical issues such as finances, employment, custody, legal needs, holidays, and emotional adjustments. Related are "Healing the Wounds — Teenagers Learning to Cope with Di-

voice" and "KidShare: What Do I Do Now?" for children in grades three through six.

> "Recovering from the Losses of Life," dealing with death of a loved one, loss of a job, broken relationships, leaving home, loss of identity or loss of a dream or goal, among others.

> "Conquering Codependency" helps change the compulsion to rescue and control others. Related are "Conquering Eating Disorders: A Christ-Centered 12-Step Process" to deal with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating; "Quitting for Good: A Christ-Centered Approach to Nicotine Dependency"; "Conquering Chemical Dependency: A Christ-Centered 12-Step Process" and the workbook "Conquering Chemical Dependency: First Steps to a Christ-Centered 12-Step Process," both of which offer insights into chemical dependency and

the process for restoration; "Killers: Alcohol and Other Drugs" for youth.

> "LIFE Support Leader's Handbook" and "LIFE Support Group Series Training Video" for help in starting and conducting support group ministry. Related are "Wise Counsel: Skills for Lay Counseling" and "Family and Friends: Helping the Person You Care About in Recovery."

McCleskey said a resource for blended families, "New Faces in the Frame," will be released soon. All resources are evangelistic, he added, presenting the Gospel as Jesus did.

LIFE resources are available from the BSSB at 1-800-458-2772. ■



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For more information or to register, call Rusty Sumrall at (615) 259-3034, or Donald Mauldin at 371-2047. Fee is \$20 per couple.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Nashville Baptist Association



FILM PROJECT

A group of Florida Baptists is presently working on a major biblical feature film based on the life of Daniel.

Veteran film specialists with several successful name films to their credits are assisting in the development of this film.

If you have an interest in being a part of this project or knowing more about it please send \$10 made out to Kingstone Films at the address below. A preliminary prospectus with information on the film and how you can be involved on either a donation, investment, or prayer support basis will be sent to you. Please remit to the address below and a packet will be mailed to you within 2-4 weeks.

Attn: Art A. Ayris
First Baptist Leesburg
220 N. 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Wisdom

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Proverbs 17:1, 6; 6:32; 12:4, 20:7, 31:10-11, 28; 4:3-4; 22:6; 29:17

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding family values. We should be concerned about the family. Consider these alarming statistics: in 1992 while there were 2,362,000 marriages in the United States, there were 1,215,000 divorces. In the same year there were 1,231,600 births to unmarried mothers. In 1993 unmarried couples living together totalled 3,510,000. Thirty percent of all households with children are headed by single parents. Even the word "family" has been the subject of much debate. The book of Proverbs abounds in wisdom for family life.

Promoting family harmony (ch. 17: 1, 6). The wise person realizes that harmony in the home must be actively pursued. Harmony in the home is of greater value than material prosperity. Nothing that destroys the home is a worthwhile pursuit. We indicate a lack of real conviction by the misplaced priorities that often govern our lives.

Avoiding destructive actions (ch. 6:32; 12:4). Unfaithfulness to one's marriage is ultimately self-destructive. We live in a culture that has lost its compass when it comes to moral purity. Godly standards will be both salt and light. Moral uprightness is also the key to personal spiritual health and well-being. The lack of such integrity indicates that one lacks wisdom. The believer should "flee" all moral wickedness.

Cultivating constructive actions (ch. 20:7; 31:10-11, 28). "The righteous ... leads a blameless life" or "walks in his integrity." In other words, the depth and consistency of one's character is revealed in the way life is lived on a daily basis. A pattern of consistency is the greatest legacy one can leave their children. Proverbs 31:10 begins what appears to be a eulogy of the "wife of noble character." This is an acrostic poem with each of the 22 couplets corresponding to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Both the moral character and the industrious hard work of this woman are praised. She is a priceless asset to her husband, home, and family. This type of woman elevates the family and is a blessing to the community.

Valuing and guiding children (ch. 4:3-4; 22:6; 29:17). It has been estimated that the average father spends less than a minute of quality time with children one-on-one each week. When our children are young they are most teachable. Therefore time is required to pass on words of wisdom and commandments by which children can live. Both parents should make a concerted effort to have individual quality time with children (and with each other) on a regular basis.

The Bible encourages parents to take their responsibility very seriously. We cannot use a "cookie cutter" or "one size fits all" approach with children. Proverbs 22:6 implies that we must train a child according to their developmental stage in life and consistent with their needs. The Bible does not condone child abuse in any form.

"Discipline your son ..." is not simply an exhortation to punish, it is an encouragement to use the right means to achieve a healthy and well rounded approach to life. Parents should heed Paul's words of advice, "do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Praising God who cares

By Kevin Goza

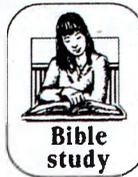
Focal Passage — Psalm 139:1-14, 23-24

Our text for this week took on special significance a few years ago when I was in the Philippines. While sitting in a hotel room in Manila, the first night of our mission trip, this passage gave me special comfort. Not knowing where I was going to end up for the week, or what the conditions were going to be, or who I would be staying with, or even what I would be doing, I sought the Lord's presence. He graciously revealed himself to me through Psalm 139. He truly is a God who knows and cares.

God knows me far better than I know myself — vv. 1-6

An amazing thing about this passage is the personal nature of how the psalmist related to God. He not only says that God knows him, but he talks to him from that perspective. It is a personal psalm. He is talking to God, not to some celestial stranger.

In a brief few verses, the writer covers all of life's



Convention Uniform Lesson

experiences and comes to one conclusion: No matter what the circumstance, God is there with his perfect knowledge.

God is with me at all times — vv. 7-12

This portion of the passage is especially encouraging. There is no place in existence where a person can

be that is void of the presence of God. The fact that the question is repeated twice in verse seven underlines the dependability of God's presence.

Verse eight points to the truth that, even after death, God's presence is a sure reality. The child of God will never be in a position of being away from God.

God is not only present, he is involved in our life (vv. 9-10). The hand of God on us is a wonderful picture of God's loving involvement with us in whatever we face.

Even when things become most difficult, God is there with us (vv. 11-12). "Darkness" represents the worst of circumstances. God's sustaining presence pierces even the darkest of nights we might face. In that hotel room in Manila around midnight, that truth overpowered this writer.

God gives perfect guidance in all situations of life — vv. 23-23

Does God have the liberty to search and know you? God is there, but he will be there for us only as we give him free reign in our lives.

The psalmist invited God to be intimate in his life. In doing so, God would have the opportunity to guide his steps, thoughts, and ways.

Without claiming to be perfect, the writer wanted it to be known that he had not turned to idols to replace God's presence. These verses reflect the humble awareness that God knows all about us. □ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Bible study
for July 28

Judgment and assurance for saved

By Tom Moncrief

Focal Passage — Revelation 6:2-5, 8-9; 7:2-4, 9, 14

There is general agreement in interpreting Revelation 1-5, but many differing interpretations are applied to the rest of the book. Whatever interpretation one follows, it needs to be kept in mind that judgment of God on those who reject him is certain. At the same time assurance is given that God is always present to protect his people. Opening the seals shows that God has brought about circumstances in history and these principles are in operation any time when circumstances are the same or similar.

Four horsemen are pictured with the opening of the first four seals of the book. They represent four powers of evil which are God's agents for punishing the world for its sin. Preceding each of the four is a call from one of the four living creatures which stand for all creation. The first four seals are judgments upon creation. The church is included as much as the church is a part of the world. Jesus in John 17 said his followers are in the world but not of the world. To the extent that a Christian is of the world, these judgments are on him.

The first horse (white) symbolized victory (ch. 6:2). It and the rider rep-

Bible Book Lesson

resent a conquering invader. This probably represents the personification of evil — the Antichrist who opposes and mimics Christ. In Revelation evil always attempts to imitate good. This horse and rider may represent the way of spiritual evil in history.

War, bloodshed, carnage, and discord are represented by the red horse and his rider (vv. 3-4). They indicate that war is one of the great afflictions of the world.

The rider of the black horse with scales signifies famine, scarcity, hunger, calamity, and distress (v. 8).

Death and Hell are personified by the pale horse and its rider. Only a limited portion are permitted to be afflicted by this action. These first four seals symbolize events of the past, present, and future and show that the course of world history is also the course of the world's judgment leading to the final judgment.

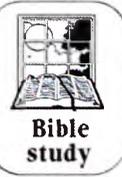
Martyrs under the altar indicate they have been sacrificed for the kingdom (v. 9). They have on white robes (v. 11), which means purity and victory. They died for the Word and their testimony. Although they are in God's presence they long for the ultimate triumph of the kingdom for which they died but are told to wait.

Between opening the sixth and seventh seals, an interlude is intended to reassure the church (ch. 7:2-

4). The 144,000 sealed with the seal of the living God were from all the tribes of the children of Israel. They stand for God's elect, the entire congregation of the redeemed on earth during "end time." They are not assured of being exempt from further suffering but given assurance of union with Christ and of the daily experience of his love amidst all trouble and distress. They are protected from judgment about to befall the wicked.

Following this John's vision of the great multitude before the Lamb shows the triumph of the redeemed who have passed through tribulation. Eternal salvation of all of God's people is sure.

The robes of multitude are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. This is seen as the prophet's way of stressing grace in salvation. Because of their faith and purity of lives by divine cleansing they can stand before the throne of God. How great are God's love and mercy. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of First Church, Cleveland.





world news

Missouri director sets retirement

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Donald V. Wideman has announced his retirement as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, effective Aug. 31, 1997.

Wideman, 68, made the formal announcement during the quarterly meeting of the MBC executive board July 9. The board accepted his retirement announcement and elected a search committee to seek his successor.

"I will have concluded 10 years of service, which will be a fulfillment of the suggested tenure by the search commit-

tee," said Wideman, who noted he will be 70 by the time he retires. "By starting the process now, this will allow sufficient time for a search committee to conduct a thorough search and have a replacement on the job by the time I leave." ■

Credit card aids U.S. volunteers

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Home missions volunteers will get a financial boost when Southern Baptists use a new KeyMission credit card designed to generate money for the Baptist Volunteer Mission Fund.

Volunteers do not receive a salary, but they often need assistance with expenses such as transportation and housing. Money also is periodically needed for volunteer projects such as construction materials. Bob Banks, retired Home Mission Board executive vice president, said the Baptist Volunteer Mission Fund will make it financially possible for more people to volunteer and for

more projects to be completed.

The credit card is a MasterCard with a percentage of every purchase made benefiting the Baptist Volunteer Mission Fund. Banks said he expects the fund to receive at least \$30 a year from each card. State conventions which help market the card will receive a portion of the money to support volunteer work in their state. ■

Albanians become new Christians

Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania — Twenty-nine new believers — most of them teenagers and young adults — were baptized into a new church at Fier, Albania, by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries Gale Hartley and Lawrence Duhon.

Most of the new Christians had been attending Bible studies for several months, Duhon said. Duhon, a Texan appointed as a missionary evangelist by the FMB in 1995, planned

to move his residence to Fier to nurture the new Christians in that young church. ■

Husband's death not end of career for missionary

Baptist Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Packing and shipping a lifetime of memories to the United States seems an unusual way to assert you are "coming back home" to Thailand. But Delores Hill is doing just that.

Her husband, Dan, 54, died May 22 when he apparently fell asleep while driving near Cadiz, Ky., and the car overturned. Hill was en route to their two younger sons' U.S. Army basic training camp graduation in Indianapolis.

Delores Hill returned from Thailand immediately and began "asking the Lord for a sign about what I should do." She set a deadline of May 30 — just four days after the funeral — to decide if she would return to Bangkok as a single mis-

sionary. That would dictate a abrupt adjustment since "we' always worked as a team." Th Hills had served as Souther Baptist missionaries in Asi since 1974.

"Even now I'm still workin through parts of the grief, will for a long time — perhaps forever — but his death didn' negate my call. Coming bac was what I wanted to do from the first because it is still par of who I am." ■

Journalists trades in deadlines

Baptist Press

DALLAS — After 32 years of telling the Texas Baptist story, Orville Scott will spend a bit more time telling bedtime stories to grandchildren once he retires July 31 as coordinator of news and information services for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

But even after he hands in his press pass, Scott plans to continue editing a State Missions Commission magazine, working on special projects for Texas Baptist Communications, and indulging his passion for penning poetry — preferably while sitting on the front porch of the country home he is having built in East Texas.

Besides the thousands of news and feature articles he has written for the *Baptist Standard* and both the secular and denominational press, Scott's works in verse have appeared through the years in evangelism conference programs and various other Texas Baptist publications. Co-workers have dubbed him "poet laureate of the Baptist Building." ■

Extension office honors director

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Richard Tapscott, director of Seminary Extension for the Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association, Princeton, Ky., has been named Extension Center Director of the Year.

Tapscott was presented a plaque by Seminary Extension representative, Leon Boyd, at the director of associational missions meeting during Home Missions Week at Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Tapscott has been his association's Seminary Extension center director 16 years. During that time, the center has had at least two classes each year, with an average of 20 students enrolled in each. ■

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 give every family in your church its 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 is a good way to remind Baptists 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.

Taking advantage of our free offer is simple and easy. Use the form below to order copies of the Aug. 14 issue. Mail it to the address below by **Aug. 6** and we will send the number of copies requested of the Aug. 14 issue. Remember, there is no obligation. We believe people will want to subscribe when they see the paper for themselves.

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