

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 162 / Number 30

Statewide Edition

July 31, 1996

this week's news

- ▶ TBC Pastors Retreat planned for August. — Page 2
- ▶ Olympic bombing slows but does not stop ministry in Tennessee. — Page 4.
- SBC agencies join forces to combat hunger. — Page 4
- Partnership newsletter features Michigan. — Pages 5-8



MISSIONS IN MICHIGAN

- ▶ SBC president calls for spiritual awakening convocations. — Page 10
- ▶ TBC's Gilder honored by HMB. — Page 10

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

Tennessee/Michigan Partnership — alive and well

By Lannie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Age has not weakened Tennessee's long-standing partnership with Michigan Baptists, leaders on both sides agree.

Instead, the partnership is still vibrant and needed after 15 years.

Though the number of volunteers to Michigan has dropped since the initial years of the partnership, more than 1,000 Tennessee Baptists ventured to Michigan last year and that many or more are expected to serve there this summer, said Terry Sharp, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership Missions Department.

Noting the Michigan/Tennessee partnership is the longest-standing official partnership in the Southern Baptist Convention, Sharp observed many relationships have been formed over the years and more churches work directly with each other.

"That's fine," Sharp said, "because the work is being accomplished."

Sharp, however, would like to know more of what churches are doing. "If we know it, we can offer prayer support," Sharp noted, adding that it also would enable his office to recognize Tennessee Baptists for their work and to share their stories with other Tennessee Baptists. "Their stories could be an encouragement especially to smaller churches," Sharp said.

Michigan Baptists welcome

Tennessee volunteers. Michigan leaders are convinced their convention is still very much a mission field.

The state has more than nine million people and more than six million of those are lost, said Billy Whitt, missions director for the Baptist General Convention of Michigan.

Baptists in the state comprise less than 1 percent of the population, he added.

Still, progress has been made in the state over the last 15 years, Whitt affirmed.

When Tennessee and Michigan entered the partnership Michigan had 197 churches. Now, there are more than 300, Whitt said.

Bob Galey, pastor of Oakland Woods Church, Clarkston, and president of the Michigan convention, said he doesn't know of a church in the state that has not benefited from "a Tennessee hammer" or a VBS, Backyard Bible Club, or survey team.

"This partnership is so vital to our state. I don't know where Michigan would be today without the Tennessee partnership," Galey said.

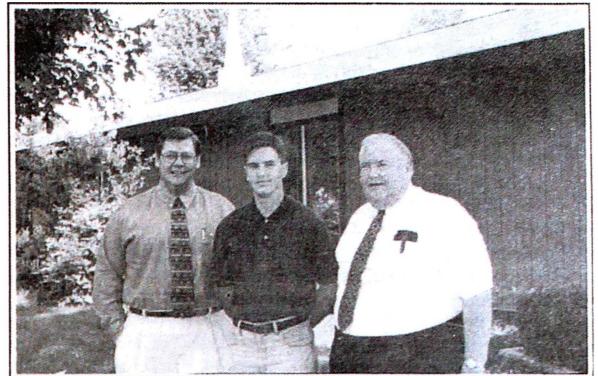
TBC Executive Director James Porch made several trips to Michigan while serving



PORCH



SHARP



SCOTT ELLEDGE, center, a summer missionary sponsored by First Church, Smyrna, visits with his host pastor, Bob Galey, left, of Oakland Woods Church, Clarkston, and Billy Whitt, missions director for the Baptist General Convention of Michigan. Elledge began service at Oakland Woods June 3 and will continue through Aug. 9.

as pastor of First Church, Tullahoma.

For 15 years the Tennessee/Michigan partnership "has provided the opportunity to thousands of people to become directly involved in the missions enterprise," Porch said.

"At the present time, we are well into the second generation of Tennessee Baptists who are involved in this productive partnership," he noted.

Porch observed that during the partnership "the quality of fellowship and a sense of mutual involvement in service to Christ has proved to be a stimulus to many of our churches.

"We thank God for this opportunity and pray his continuing guidance upon us as we continue the partnership," he said.

Tennessee and Michigan leaders are seeking ways to increase the level of interest in the partnership and participation.

Two such ways are the "sister church" relationship and "New Beginnings" (see separate story on page 7).

The sister church program identifies and introduces churches in both states who may have mutually supportive ministries.

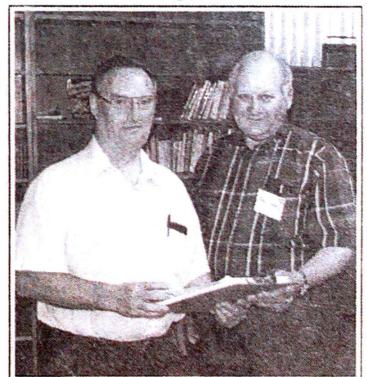
The goals of the program are to provide consistency in missions support and to provide aid for struggling

churches and missions.

No financial commitment is necessary. Key ministries which may be shared are revivals, Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools, surveys, prayer retreats, or other endeavors.

Two churches who are already in such an arrangement are Oakland Woods and First Church, Smyrna. Ironically, both pastors, Galey and Ken Hubbard of the Smyrna congregation, are presidents of their respective state conventions. And, Sharp is a member at First, Smyrna, and Whitt belongs to Oakland Woods.

Sharp noted the significance of two convention presidents — See Tennessee, page 7



PASTOR OLLIE TROUTT, left, of Madison Heights Fellowship Church, near Detroit, goes over survey forms with Pastor Raymond Long of First Church, Bean Station. Long led a team of 13 Grainger County Association volunteers to Michigan in mid-July.

Hurry, it's a special day

BRENTWOOD — *Baptist and Reflector* Day in Tennessee Baptist churches is Aug. 18 on the calendar.

Traditionally churches devote some time to observe the occasion. Some churches, especially non-subscribers, order extra copies for that day, to distribute to visitors, members, and shut-ins.

You can still do that.

Determine how many papers you need to have available on Sunday Aug. 18.

Call, mail, or FAX your information along with your re-

quest to the *Baptist and Reflector*, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood 37024.

Your package of Aug. 14 papers will be sent in time for use Aug. 18.

Requests for these extra copies for use on Baptist and Reflector Day must be received here by Aug. 6.

There will be special features in the issue, appropriate for the special day.

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- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
- ▶ **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone — (615) 371-2003.
FAX — (615) 371-2080
- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Address changes** — *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

Pastors Retreat set for Aug. 12-15 at Camp Carson

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Pastors Retreat '96 will be held Aug. 12-15 at Camp Carson in Newport.

The retreat is sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Evangelism Department.

Leading the Winter Bible Study topic on *Ephesians: One Body in Christ* by David Dockery, new president of Union University, Jackson, will be James Fitch, former Baptist Sunday School Board staffer.

Serving as camp co-pastors are the officers of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference — David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, McMinn-



DAUGHERTY



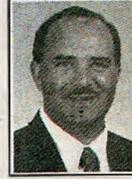
FITCH



LEDBETTER



MOORE



THOMPSON



WRIGHT

ville; Verlon Moore, Hilldale Church, Clarksville; and David Thompson, Alta Loma Church, Nashville. They will speak.

Other speakers include Frank Houston, pastor, Bethel Church, Morristown; Don Ledbetter, evangelist, Brooks, Ga.; and Reed Wright, vocational evangelist, Cleveland.

Kathy Biggers, a Gospel

singer from Nashville, will present special music.

Archie Fendley, minister of activities at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, will serve as camp recreation director.

A new feature of this year's retreat is a talent show on Wednesday evening, coordinated by Jim Milsaps, pastor of Royce Church, Oak Ridge.

Cost of the retreat is \$75 and includes food and lodging. Most of the lodging facilities this year are air-conditioned. Sessions will be held in the activities building.

Advance registration is encouraged. For more information about the retreat, call the TBC Evangelism Department at (615) 371-2058. *B&R*

Volunteers minister with 'Southerners'

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Volunteers of six Tennessee Baptist churches recently returned from two weeks working with Baptists in the Wollongong, Australia, area.

The 34 volunteers were placed strategically in three groups and ministered in the Illawarra region, headquartered with three churches. (See *Baptist and Reflector*, July 17 and July 24.)

A six-member group serving in Kiama with Pastor Angelo Giovas, First Church, was led by James Mason, pastor of Fort Sanders Church, Knoxville.

Pastor Bob Brown, pastor of Broadway Church, Maryville, and organizer of the volunteer team, led a group which worked with the Wollongong Church.

A third group, led by Ray Luck, Loudon County association director of missions, ministered with Thirroul Church.

The Kiama church meets in a child care center, said Mason. On the first Sunday night meeting, an 85-year-old man accepted Christ as Savior in a meeting planned for youth.

The group visited schools and was able to give personal testimonies and relate the message of Christ.

They also conducted Bible teaching and share groups during their visit.

Mason said the group assisted the local church members with all of their ministries during the two weeks, and especially on the two Sundays.

"The hardest part of the entire trip," Mason said, "was having to say goodbye to people who opened their hearts and homes to foreigners, the Tennesseans."

The teams observed that

Australia has admitted more and more immigrants, said Brown.

There are huge Chinese and other Asian population groups, he noted. Many South Americans and East Europeans are making Australia their home.

Wollongong University has more than 10,000 students, and the entire area is a mission field, Brown said.

Taylor reminded the Wollongong group that they ministered to at least 14 nationalities.

Brown preached four times on June 23, once each to the Spanish and the Cantonese congregations, and twice to the Anglo members.

As with the other two groups, those at Wollongong were welcomed into the local schools, teaching Scripture classes.

At Wollongong, the women team members helped with an evangelistic women's meeting led by Linnie Brown. More than 70 attended.

Brown spoke to a ministers' fraternal luncheon, with leaders present from several denominations.

The Wollongong church scheduled a special emphasis for several evenings, with a youth crusade on a Saturday. Australians consider anyone between 12 and 29 as youth.

The host churches scheduled enough free time for the three groups to see some of the country. The special interest places included Sydney, Canberra (national capital), the Blue Mountains, parks, and other places of dramatic beauty and national interest.

"The success of any mission effort can never be told by the number of decisions made," Brown said, "but rather the number of disciples made through the months and years

that follow.

"I believe that those going on such trips receive far more than they give. There is something that happens to American Christians when they realize they have brothers and sisters much different, yet very

much alike. I believe it expands our horizons by seeing how the Holy Spirit works among all the great churches of Jesus Christ."

Mason and Luck agreed with that assessment. *B&R*



TENNESSEE BAPTIST women meet with Kiama Church women for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and exchanging of ideas. This was one of several different ministries during the group's stay with Kiama Baptist Church, Kiama, New South Wales.



KIAMA MAYOR, left, met with one of the teams. Others, from left, Larry Kirkland, Nancy Mason, James Mason, mayor's assistant; Gaynelle Radar, Shelby Lord, and Pam Ensley. The groups ministered with the churches each day, and had opportunity to see the surrounding area and experience Australia culture.

Having a bad day at the office?

While it is not good to dwell in the past, sometimes a name, a place, or an event storms out from yesteryear to offer us a new look at an old and weary world.

A seldom-explored desk drawer revealed a crisp and succinct note from an old friend. Two years ago he wrote it, and it was dated on Christmas Day.

The last two paragraphs are stellar examples of wisdom and mirth, voices that offer balm to the soul.

"My own health is fairly good," wrote the 98-year-old retired missionary, "but temporarily I am having to leave off my jogging until I can get myself a new pair of knees."

And then he wrote, "I am wishing for each one of you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1994. I trust all Christian churches may be getting ready to make the 21st century our Christian Millennium."

Christian Millennium! Not only is that a good idea, it is a necessity if moral and cultural sanity are ever to have an opportunity. No excuses.

The world is having a "bad hair" day, and he asks for a Christian Millennium. Of course he is right. Having a bad day at the office cannot diminish the deep need for a surging renewal that encompasses the entire world. No excuses!

Having a bad day at the office is not grounds for divorcing oneself from the reality of the world's condition. Come what may, the church triumphant is marching on.

For a good example of how people can get along together, one only has to observe the great multitudes who attend the Olympic games. People, people everywhere. There were no reports of fights, riots, out-of-control arguments, or rowdy mob behavior.

Those people related with each other because they had a common goal. Most of them were in family groups and they had come to be a part of something unique, special, extraordinary.

So no bad hair days, no bad days at the office, nothing like either of these, could deter those who were determined to have a good experience.

Complaints were minimal, compared to what could have gone wrong. Even a dastardly bomb attack could not keep most people away from their rendezvous at the Olympic games.

There were sufficient cheers and support for all around. And we can learn from that. The missionary

who envisioned a Christian Millennium must have had faith more than most of us. Let's have a Bold Mission Thrust in complete fashion, including the beginning of that millennium. Bad day at the office? We all experience those. But the church triumphant rushes toward 2000. Let us recognize the Spirit of God's bold leadership and claim the millennium for Jesus Christ. *B&R*



It's not too early for church budget planning

It's the middle of summer, and many families are in the spirit of vacation time. Most of us don't want to think about the fall startup of school, or the beginning of a new church year.

But reality beckons. Tomorrow ushers in August, and September follows closely.

Guess what. It is budget time. Some wistfully believe that church budgets are only for the brave accountants, the company officers, the bank cashiers and officers.

Not so. The church budget is not just some figures and facts hastily planted on papers or computer printouts. The church budget is a plan for good stewardship, opportunities for ministries, ideas for improvement ourselves, our churches, and the world around us—spiritually.

Would it be a good idea for the church to spend a month or two praying for God's leadership, and seek-

ing his revelation of what his plans are for the church? Would it be too unusual to wait until the word comes from him?

Too often the budget falls short, or the plans do not match the needs. Too often there is a laziness about real stewardship. Too often we feel as though God has no interest in financial matters, and cares nothing about our planning.

Tennessee churches will be into budgeting soon. They will be searching for God's perfect will, anticipating the gift of his specialized plans for each church.

Missions and evangelism are high priorities in our churches. It should be so also for the care of the church staff. Let God lead as salaries and benefits are studied for the pastor and staff members. The workers are worthy of good treatment.

We should budget according to God's plans. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Wife to husband: "That little chocolate bar recommended for an appetizer was really delicious. How did you like yours?"

Husband to wife: "It was excellent, Honey. How about passing me a couple more?"

Take this truth

Don't mistake the initial joy of the Christian life as the "full thing." The delight of knowing we are saved from the guilt of our sin, and that we are going to heaven is great. The happiness we find in "helping others for Jesus' sake is even greater."

Memorize this Scripture

"Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to realize that the Christian life means much more than the "first time experience" of coming to Christ. In him there is always "more, so much more."

B&R

Genuine heroes have not rehearsed for the role

A genuine hero can be portrayed as someone who really doesn't want to be one.

We are calling constantly in our world today for real heroes to step forward. We are asking them to come out of hiding, show themselves.

But you see, that is not the nature of a real hero. The heroic deed, to them, is not heroic. A heroic action is not necessarily something that just happens, but often it is the unexpected event that propels the sometimes unlikely and unwilling candidate to heroism.

Dealing with life heroically often requires stamina beyond average, candor that is risky, and benefits beyond compare. The "great cloud of witnesses" can be a part of that grand excitement.

Heroes are bridge-builders, door-openers, quintessential friend of all. Heroes, by their actions, build bridges that span the chasm between reality and unreality.

They make it happen when well-meaning naysayers say it is impossible. In the

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

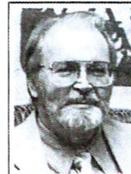
right place and at the right time, they are, even though their willing attitude puts them there — rather than a certain plan.

The Atlanta Olympic Games had many unique twists in individual lives and sufficient heroes.

A diminutive American gymnast stands well above the average competitor. We call Kerri Strug a hero. She says she doesn't think so.

She made the most of a rare opportunity to help the American women's team. Strug was the last best chance to give the team a gold.

She failed badly in her first vault, and twisting her ankle in the process. She said she heard something pop in her ankle. Well, I suppose she glanced at the overall score, or heard her coach whisper a reminder to her.



ALLEN

She would have her second go at it, even on the injured ankle. She would have to have a good vault, going for the gold.

So she listened to her coach, heard the roars of the partisan American crowd, and assessed the scores.

Perhaps it was fear. Perhaps it was vanity. Perhaps it was not knowing anything else to do.

But perhaps, just perhaps, for that one brief moment, a young gymnast threw caution to the wind, and did it for the team.

She made a great vault, landed on both feet despite the pain, scored high — and the American team won the gold.

She stands with other heroes: outclassed runners who finished last, competitors who were injured before competition, those who failed in the eyes of others, but represented their countries well. They were not losers; they were heroes. The people knew it. *B&R*

Life throws some curves at us — what then?

think about it

by Patsy Hurd, WMU director, Holston Valley Assn.

sometimes cause illness in our own lives. And we must try to understand each need and circumstance (1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 138:7-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Everyone may feel like Job at times. Is that curve ball a test to see how secure my faith in God is? Often these bumps come when we are trying to do our best.

We need to remember to look up to our source of strength. He will lift us up from these dreary times in life. He has given us this precious thing called prayer, which enables us to reach out to him.

He has given us the gift of his Word to guide us through bad times. He has given us the special treasure of friendships for our encouragement, our sounding board, and fellowship.

He has given us the ability to try to see things the way he sees them. As God's children we are to look at circumstances in godly ways.

God always gives us just what we need when we need it, and he expects us to use it. He wants us to know that he provides for us, loves us, and cares for us — especially when life throws those curve balls at us. He has provided us with all the necessary answers. *B&R*

SBC agencies join to fight world hunger

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In an acknowledgment of the unceasing tragedy of world hunger, three Southern Baptist Convention entities have forged a cooperative new working relationship to equip Southern Baptists to more effectively respond to the needs of the hungry.

Alarmed by the ongoing decline in giving to world hunger needs by Southern Baptists, the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Christian Life Commission have reaffirmed their responsibility to confront the problem of hunger in the United States and around the world.

The entities agreed to jointly underwrite the cost of a new staff person at the Christian Life Commission whose sole assignment will be hunger awareness.

The entities also are cooperating in the publication of a hunger guide. The booklet is designed to help local church leaders build hunger awareness within their congregations. The theme for the guide is "A Dollar In — A Dollar Out," said Richard Land, executive director of the CLC.

"When Southern Baptists send money designated for hunger relief to the Christian Life Commission, they can be assured all 100 cents of their dollar goes directly to hunger relief." According to longstanding agreements, 80 percent of such gifts goes to relief efforts overseas, with the remainder sent to the HMB for hunger relief in the U.S.

Such a funding system is not common to all organizations asking for money in the name of hungry people. "Southern Baptists need to be aware that many so-called ministries don't use 100 percent of their receipts for hunger relief efforts," said C. Ben Mitchell, CLC consultant on life issues.

Southern Baptist world hunger offering receipts peaked in 1985 and have been falling since. Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, noted the general public's interest in hunger seems to rise and fall depending on television news reports featuring stories of famine and starvation in faraway lands. ■

Volunteers gather at Tennessee venue

Bombing curtails ministry at Olympics

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

OCCOE — The bomb which exploded at the Olympic City Park in Atlanta early last Saturday changed the plans of Baptists planning to minister at the Olympic venue in Tennessee.

Andy Jordan of Polk County Baptist Association who is directing Whitewater Ministries for Tennessee Olympic events, canceled the plans of 31 youth and summer missionaries who were to work in concessions July 27-28 during the Canoe/Kayak Events in Ocoee.

A local coordinator of workers also cancelled his workers, Jordan reported.

Short-term ministry efforts should be safe training experiences for mission service, he said. "We're here to do a work, but you don't want to put somebody in harm's way if you can help it," said Jordan.

The youth were part of some 200 volunteers from different states based at the association's Camp Agape in Benton to minister to athletes and visitors to the Tennessee venue and area. They were redirected to other ministry sites, said Jordan.

Some volunteers were committed to work at a street festival in nearby Cleveland, a site not unlike the Olympic City Park in that the event was Olympic-related and open to the public.

Amanda Day of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union said the 16 Women on Mission Enterprisers she directed decided not to cancel after the bombing although they discussed the similarities between the two situations. The Enterprisers were leading children's activities at the street festival.

"There are too many WMU

members and Tennessee Baptists praying for us for anything to happen to us," said Day.

Edgar Gray, a member of Manley Church, Morristown, who was directing a clown troupe at the street festival, said the group also had decided to continue their work at Olympic-related events in the area.

"We feel for those people [affected by the bombing]. We're praying for them and we're just human so we're concerned, but we've just ignored that [the bombing]. What we're doing fulfills our mission," said Gray. **B&R**

Kuwaiti man loses rights over his belief in Christ

By Marty Croll
For Baptist Press

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — On the soil where American soldiers fought to secure freedom, Robert Hussein passes each day unprotected from tyranny.

Once a wealthy contractor, Hussein, 44, has been stripped by Kuwait's courts of his civil rights and his material wealth — assets totaling \$4 million — and driven into hiding. Now his enemies would have his life as well.

His crime? Refusal to renounce his faith in Jesus Christ and embrace Mohammed, the founder of Islam.

Claiming the Kuwait government is actually behind the attacks against him, Hussein has gone into exile. His wife and two children, ages 4 and 7, and his brothers and sisters risk death if they commu-

nicate with him.

Like many nations, Kuwait declares by its constitution it allows freedom of religion, while its Muslim-dominated court system contends the constitution gets its power only from Islamic law — which does not allow conversion from Islam.

But Western nations consider Kuwait a free nation because of its constitution and its elected Parliament. "We are telling everyone in the West our freedom of expression of religion is absolute, said Hussein, reached by cellular phone at an undisclosed location. "Have I breached the Kuwaiti constitution?"

"My wife has been raped. My home has been abolished. But there is no official statement from the Kuwait government saying this man is protected by Kuwaiti laws, and he has been harmed."

Hussein was offered some police protec-

tion until last December when he publicly announced to the court he was a Christian.

In June, Judge Jafar Al-Quzweeni ruled Islamic law calls for Muslim leaders to execute Hussein for apostasy. But there is no mention of apostasy in the nation's constitution.

In his ruling, the judge stated: "People like the defendant must be killed. In addition, his wife should be divorced from him and all his possessions should be distributed to his heirs."

Hussein first learned he was on trial through a newspaper article. At a hearing in December he asked the court to judge his case by article 35 of the constitution which guarantees freedom of religion. The judge, however, said his was a case for Muslim law. With the help of U.S.-based Rutherford Institute, Hussein filed an appeal set to be heard Sept. 15. ■

TBC resource directory planned

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Communication Services Group, the first group to be implemented in the ServanTeam 21 remodeling plan of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is preparing a resource directory for Baptist churches and associations in the state.

Scheduled to be produced and mailed by early September, the directory will be a helpful, easy to understand resource for Tennessee Baptists. A special feature of the publication will be the ServanTeam 21 remodeling of the Executive Board ministry staff.

The directory will include

staff photos, and a listing of telephone and address information on the resources, personnel, and services available through the Executive Board offices.

"By pulling together this up-to-date information in one handy reference guide, the directory will assist Tennessee Baptists throughout the state in utilizing the services and resources we have to offer," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"We encourage every church to take advantage of the outstanding resources and state missionary personnel available to them. We exist to serve and we want every Tennessee Baptist to know that," he added. **B&R**

Barefoot named outstanding educator

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Hyran E. Barefoot, chancellor of Union University, recently received the Charles D. Johnson Out-

standing Educator Award at the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. The award was established by the SBC Education Commission. **B&R**

Lightning strikes Bartlett church

By Bob Sanders
Special to Baptist and Reflector

BARTLETT — Several church members who had stayed after services for singing and fellowship at Fellowship Church were jolted when a bolt of lightning struck the steeple of the church on July 7.

The ensuing fire burned the center section of the church and caused in excess of \$200,000 in damages, according to Gary Graves, fire marshal of the Bartlett Fire Department.

Pastor Jack Peeler said the evening services had concluded by the time lightning hit the church. He said the church would continue meeting while the building is being repaired. Sunday services will be held at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home while Wednesday services will be held at the church's parsonage.

The fire marshal noted a teenage member of the church went outside, smelled smoke, and then saw flames coming out of the church steeple. The fire department responded to the scene within two minutes.

Graves said some firemen were inside the building when the room began to buckle. They were told to evacuate but the ceiling caved in while some were still in the church. No one was injured in the incident.

Graves said most of the fire damage was confined to the center of the building. He said some items, including the church organ and piano which were in the sanctuary on the east side of the building, were untouched by the fire. **B&R** — Reprinted with permission of *The Bartlett Express*



Partnership Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' three partnerships —
Canada, Poland, Michigan

Partnership Missions Department, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
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From the director

I am excited about the great things God is doing in Poland this summer. We are off to a fantastic start and believe we have broken through the barriers of the unknown and have effectively demonstrated what a partnership can do in Poland.

Let me share with you three exciting things which have already taken place this summer. Belmont University returned to Poland in May and traveled to various cities where they had a chance to speak in high schools, conduct basketball clinics, and play exhibition games to crowds numbering in the thousands. The Belmont team even played the Poland national basketball team and had the opportunity to share testimonies at half time to the crowded gymnasium and to thousands via television.

FBC Concord sent a large youth team to do street evangelism. The youth group sang in public high schools, in the public squares, and in a large open air meeting with over one thousand in attendance. One result was over 100 professions of faith, which is like Pentecost in Poland.

My wife just returned with a group of ladies from our church (FBC, Smyrna) that did street evangelism using clowning, puppets, and crafts. The first day they were nearly crushed by over 1,000 children, the following days they had to be protected by a roped area to perform and give out tracts.

These are just a few of the success stories and ways our people have been used to share Jesus in Poland this summer. There are still many stories to tell and stories still to be made in the days ahead.

I know many of you take associational trips every year so let me extend an invitation to consider Poland, Canada, Costa Rica, or Michigan for next year. If you will tell me what type of project you would like, the dates you prefer, and the size of your team, we will share this desire with the fields, so they can see the type of things our teams are eager to do. Continue to watch for needs we list regularly. God Bless. — Terry Sharp



SHARP

Two associations share common goal in Michigan

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CADILLAC, Mich. — Cumberland Plateau Association and Sequatchie Valley Association do more than jointly own a tool trailer used for mission projects.

Members of the two associations share a common desire to use their construction skills to help other churches.

For the fourth consecutive year, the two associations joined forces to either construct or repair a church.

In mid-July approximately 36 workers from the two associations spent a week here helping build a new sanctuary for Evergreen Church.

On the job with the group was the association's tool trailer. How did two associations, one based in Crossville (Cumberland Plateau) and one in Whitwell (Sequatchie Valley) come to own a tool trailer?

The idea developed from Jerry Hearndon, former Brotherhood director for Cumberland Plateau and Carlton Webster of Sequatchie Valley Association, said Roy Davis, director of missions for Cumberland Plateau. Hearndon has since moved to Florida.

Churches from both associations responded with tools and money to help stock the trailer which is used by churches in either association when they are doing construction work.

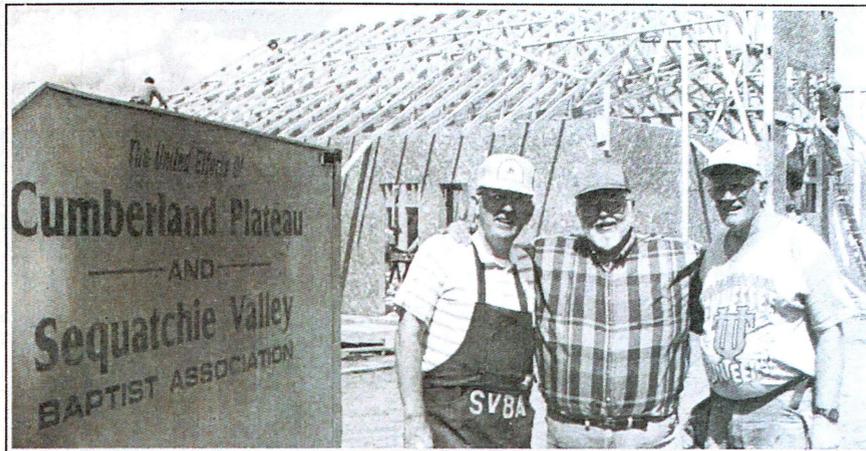
"I'd recommend that other associations consider purchasing a tool trailer," said Buddy Strickland, director of missions for Sequatchie Valley. "The churches will respond to fill it," he said.

Their goal is to completely stock the trailer so individuals don't have to bring their own tools," Davis noted.

All this came about because of a dream, Strickland said, adding that "if people will get a vision and lead in it, churches will respond."

In Cadillac the trailer came in handy as volunteers frequently went for various tools as they put up trusses and sheeting.

In addition to cooperating to finish a single task, the joint mission trip provides ample opportunity for fellowship, the two DOMs agreed.



PASTOR DAVID CUMMINGS, center, of Evergreen Church, welcomes directors of missions Buddy Strickland, left, Sequatchie Valley Association, and Roy Davis, Cumberland Plateau Association, to Cadillac, Mich.

"It's a blessing to team up with Cumberland Plateau Association," Strickland said.

For Cumberland Plateau volunteers, the mission trip provided an opportunity to be involved in the Tennessee/Michigan partnership, Davis said. "It also allows us to be missionaries away from home and to help with the work here."

For Sequatchie Valley, the trip provided something for the churches "to get behind." In addition to the five churches (First churches, Jasper, Dunlap, and Whitwell, and Cartwright and Daus) other churches responded with funds for the trailer, Strickland said.

Volunteers were excited about working in Michigan.

Pastor Ronnie Grooms of FBC, Cartwright, was on his first trip. "I love to teach missions," he said. "And it excites me to put it into action."

Pastor Ray Chism of Daus Church was on his sixth trip. "I go back to charge my battery. I get more out of it than they get out of me," he laughed.

For Joye Gowan of Memorial Church, Crossville, the trip provided an opportunity to participate in missions. She wanted to be a foreign missionary when she was younger, but health problems kept her from her desire.

Now a college professor, she is able to use some of her summer break for mission work.

The fact she is a woman who "didn't know the difference be-

tween a 2x4 and a 2x6" failed to stop her.

"I enjoy doing the labor and the guys are nice to explain and show me things," she said.

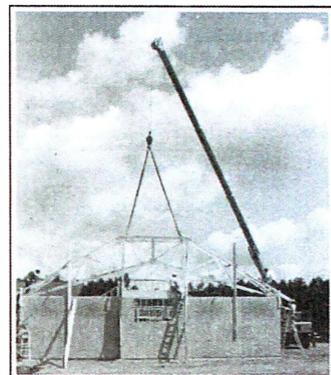
She said she is living proof that if you "want to do it (missions), have a willingness to do it, you can do it."

Gowan had an opportunity to witness her pastor, Bill Roberts, put into practice something that he preaches — missions.

"I have never believed in asking my people to do something I wouldn't do, whether it be missions, giving, or visiting," Roberts said.

Near the end of the first day of work, Evergreen Pastor David Cummings was excited about the dream his church has had for the past year-and-a-half. "We have tried to envision what it would look like. Now to see it come together is such a blessing," he said.

In addition to the Cumberland and Sequatchie teams, other Tennessee groups have worked at Evergreen or will work before the summer is over. Among them are Mt. Olive



WORKERS from Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations put trusses on Evergreen Church.

Church, Knoxville, a Lawrence County Association team, Georgetown Church, Georgetown, Grace Church, Knoxville, and Brainerd Church, Chattanooga.

Cummings estimated volunteers will save the church approximately \$65,000 in labor costs.

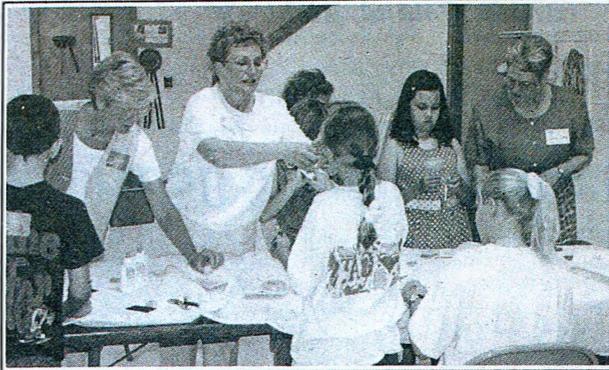
"There's no way this could have been accomplished without the help of Tennessee churches," the Michigan pastor said. B&R

Roofers needed at Evergreen Church

Rain kept the Cumberland Plateau/Sequatchie Valley team from putting the shingles on Evergreen Church. A team is needed for a long weekend to complete the task. If you can go in August, contact Terry Sharp in the TBC Partnership Missions Department at (615) 371-2021. B&R

Tennessee Baptist volunteers — at work in Michigan

GRAINGER COUNTY ASSOCIATION volunteers, from left, Brenda Acuff, Oakland Church, Rutledge; Delores Wilder, Bernards Grove Church, Bean Station; and Patsy Long, First Church, Bean Station, work with children in VBS at Madison Heights Fellowship Church near Detroit.



For Baptist and Reflector

PONTIAC, Mich. — In addition to the team from Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations, the *Baptist and Reflector* met up with other Tennesseans at work in Michigan while Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey was there July 13-17. Among them were:

First Church, Millington: Forty-eight youth and adults performed a variety of tasks with several different churches in the Pontiac area.

An adult construction team, with some assistance from the youth, did painting, drywall, drop ceiling work, laid carpet, and did landscaping at Commerce Pines Church, a mission of Oakland Woods Church in Clarkston.

Millington youth choir members and counselors also did surveys, Vacation Bible School, and Backyard Bible Clubs with four churches in the area.

Cindy Edgerly, one of the VBS counselors at First Church, noted it was a "busy but great" week.

"It was a good learning experience for our youth. It's not a different country, but it is a different culture," she observed.

The youth also sang at Columbia

Avenue and Oakland Woods churches and a children's village in Pontiac.

Grainger County Association: Pastor Raymond Long of First Church, Bean Station, led a team of 13 members from five churches of this East Tennessee association to Madison Heights Fellowship Church, near Detroit. The team led VBS, did surveys, and taught a music school in the evening.

Pastor Ollie Troutt of the Michigan church praised the team for an excellent job. "They came well prepared and really performed a service."

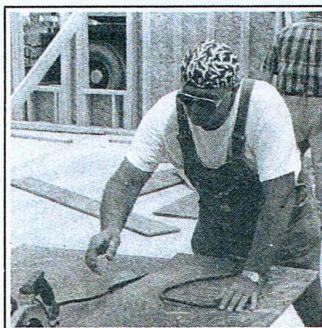
Long said a recent World Missions Conference sparked interest in the mission trip. Some of the team are members of the association's missions development committee. "We're putting into practice what we will be encouraging others to do," he said.

"It's been a good experience," Long added. "We want to come back," he said.

Georgetown Church, Georgetown: Fifteen members of the church, led by Pastor Dan Dockery, conducted VBS in Big Rapids while a six-member team of electricians came to Cadillac to work with Evergreen Church. *B&R*



WORKING WITH children at Columbia Avenue Church, Pontiac, are First Church, Millington, youth Kathryn Lovelace, left; Silas Hollingsworth, center; and Skip Amhart, minister of children at FBC, Millington.



CARLTON WEBSTER of First Church, Whitwell, saws a board at Evergreen Church, Cadillac.



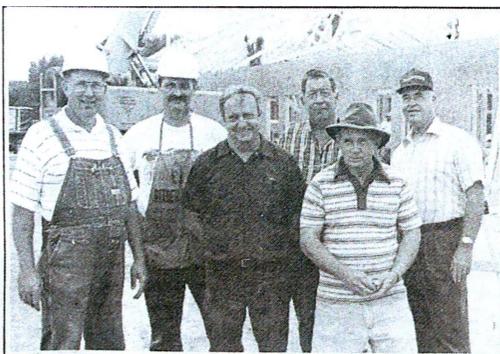
LAYING CARPET at Commerce Pines Church, Pontiac, is an adult group from First Church, Millington. From left, are Rex Waits, Jeff Waits, Ernie Owens, and Ed Jent, minister of education. Jeff Waits is a member of Shelby Forest Church, Millington.



ON THE ROOF at Evergreen Church are Earl Sevier, left, Emmanuel Church, Crossville, and Barry Frizzell, First Church, Cartwright.



CUMBERLAND PLATEAU pastors Bill Roberts, left, Memorial Church, and Bob Hallatt, right, Lantana Road Church, team up to work with layman Bob Dyer of First Church, Crossville.



ELECTRICIANS from Georgetown Church, Georgetown, came to Evergreen Church, Cadillac, while others from their church conducted Vacation Bible School in Big Rapids. From left, are Jerry Stinnett, Mike Whittlatch, Roy Cross, Jack Caldwell, Bud Cameron, and Jerry Freeman.



RUSTY EASON, seated, minister of music at First Church, Millington, entertains children during Vacation Bible School at Columbia Avenue Church, Pontiac, with the help of Millington youth Steven Childress.



Tennessee/Michigan Partnership — alive and well

— Continued from page 1
cooperating in such a venture. "They are modeling what our state conventions are asking other churches to do," he said.

One thing the Smyrna church has done the past two years has been to send a summer missionary to Oakland Woods.

This year Scott Elledge, a student at Union University, Jackson, has been serving at Oakland Woods, working primarily with the youth.

"I've enjoyed working in

Michigan. There are a lot of unchurched people. It's always a challenge," he said.

Whitt noted the sister church idea "is beginning to pick up momentum in Michigan. I'd like to see every church in Michigan get a sister church in Tennessee," he said.

While Tennessee has traditionally been the state sending volunteers, Michigan churches are beginning to go out to other states, including the Volunteer State. And Whitt and Ga-

ley credit Tennesseans for demonstrating the volunteer spirit to Michiganders.

"We have had the example of missions teams coming from Tennessee and our people began to ask why don't we do something like that," Galey said. So they did.

In early July Galey led 19 members of his church (approximately one-fourth of his Sunday School) to Murfreesboro to work with Concord Association. It was his church's first mission trip.

"We wanted to go to Tennessee to say thanks for all the years you have traveled north," Galey said.

The team led Backyard Bible Clubs at two low income housing projects in Concord Association, Galey said.

Tennessee and Michigan Baptists have agreed to continue their partnership through at least the year 2000, and it very well may continue.

Michigan is continuing to start new churches, Whitt said. Furthermore, the churches Tennesseans built over the past 15 years are beginning to need some repairs, Whitt said, noting there is still plenty to do in the state.

"We praise the Lord for the partnership and pray that it will continue for years to come," Whitt said. B&R



MEMBERS OF AN ADULT team from First Church, Millington, that did work in Pontiac, Mich., recently were, from left, Terry Waits, Ernie Owens, Rex Waits, Sue Waits, Ed Jett, Ron Webber, Patti Braswell, Bruce Lindley, Terry Higby, Louise Sloan, Leon Sloan, and Jeff Waits. The team painted, laid carpet, and performed various other tasks at Commerce Pines Church in Pontiac.

Have you been to Michigan?

The TBC Partnership Missions Department is interested in knowing how many churches and volunteers have been to Michigan this year.

If you or a group from your church has served in Michigan already or will serve in 1996, send a list of

volunteers along with the name of their churches to Terry Sharp, Partnership Missions Department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

If you are interested in learning more about ways to serve in Michigan, call Sharp at (615) 371-2021. B&R



WALTER NAYLOR, Cumberland View Church, Joye Gowan, Memorial Church, and Pastor Willard Dale of Cumberland View Church, all in Cumberland Plateau Association take advantage of a lull in the action while working at Evergreen Church in Cadillac, Mich., in mid-July.

Online through CompuServe

Attention all TBC Prayer Partners! The TBC Partnership Missions Department is now online with SBCNet through CompuServe. Access the SBCNet State Convention Forum and in Library Browse Tennessee. Find Partnership Missions and look for the updated Macedonian Call.

Not only will the latest Volunteer Projects be

filed, but also the most recent Prayer Requests from the TBC Prayer Partners.

Send Prayer Requests online to: CompuServe, E-Mail, Marcia Knox, 104520,3323. ■



Audiovisuals needed

TBC Partnership Missions is making a promotional video. Missions volunteers are asked to send slides and video tapes from previous efforts for possible inclusion in the video.

Keep in mind that slides or video footage will not be returned to owners. Send slides and videos to: TBC Partnership Missions Department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

New Beginnings: Tennesseans and Michiganders work together

Five Southern Baptist churches from Madison-Chester Association of Baptists in Jackson are currently working with Michigan Baptists in Chelsea, Michigan, to help start a new church through the New Beginnings project.

The New Beginnings project was exclusively designed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions Department and the Michigan Baptist Convention. Launched in January 1996, New Beginnings sought to recruit Tennessee associations and churches to help start churches in Michigan.

A town of around 8,000 people, Chelsea, is located in southern Michigan between Jackson and Ann Arbor where there has never been a Baptist church, according to reports.

Madison-Chester Association teams from Hillcrest, Parkview, Beech Bluff, Poplar Heights, and First Church, Jackson, are spending five weeks in Chelsea doing introductory work, telemarketing, surveying, children's ministry, evangelism, and follow up work to assist in getting the new church work off the ground.

A partnership between Madison-Chester Association and Jackson's Union University student min-

istries has enabled the groups to jointly sponsor two summer missionaries to do preliminary work and coordinate the work of the five Tennessee teams coming to Michigan. Union University students Andrea McDaniel of First Church, Lexington, and Susan Jett of Englewood Church, Jackson, are serving as the summer missionaries in the Chelsea area.

Prior to the summer missionaries, a Bible study group has been meeting since Spring of 1996. The new work is being sponsored by Immanuel Church in Pickney where Robert Wilson serves as pastor. Ray Babb is director of missions in the Huron Baptist Association in Michigan where the new work is located.

According to Gary Williams, Madison-Chester Association director of missions, the group of churches has worked very closely to prepare for this ministry including meeting weekly on Thursday mornings to pray for this new Michigan work.

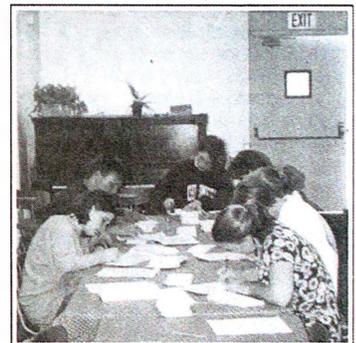
"The folks in Michigan have bent over backwards to be ready for us and to help us make the work more productive for them," Williams said. "A pre-trip visit, arranged in May, helped church representatives see Chelsea first hand, assisted them in getting acquaint-

ed with Michigan leadership, and helped them to get a feel for the work."

Williams added that the New Beginnings project has been very fulfilling.

"We hope that the new work gets off to a strong start as a result of our partnership."

Madison-Chester Association is only one of three Tennessee associations where the New Beginnings project is operating. Other New Beginnings reports from associations will be reported in future issues. ■



A VOLUNTEER MISSIONS team from Hillcrest Church, Jackson, plan and do work in Michigan.



Poland

Date: Sept. 7-21
Project #: 11996400aa
The Baptist Church in Narewka Village is looking for a medical team, a Dentist and Ophthalmologist, to provide free healthcare in a Medical clinic and participate in Evangelism meetings in the evening.



Date: Sept. 7-21
Project #: 11996400ab
The Baptist Church in Narewka Village is looking for a team of volunteers to install insulation in the Camp Building in Narewka and participate in Evangelism meetings in the evenings. The team will need to be able to help purchase the insulation materials. The approximate cost would be \$1,600.00 dollars.

Date: Oct. 1-10
Project #: 11996423
The Baptist Church in Tarnow is looking for a team of medical volunteers to come and provide free healthcare services in a local clinic.

Date: Open
Project #: 11996483
The Baptist Theological Seminary in Warsaw, Poland, has requested a team of volunteers to paint and install wall covering in the halls of the administration and classroom building. The team will need to bring tools for painting, spreading glue, and sealing vinyl. The seminary needs \$800.00 for purchase of paint and wall covering.

Date: Open
Project #: 11996494
The Baptist Theological Seminary in Warsaw, Poland, has requested a team of two experienced electricians to install electrical fixtures in classrooms. The team needs to bring electrical supplies and hand tools. The seminary needs \$2,800 for materials.

Date: Open
Project #: 11996480
The Baptist Theological Seminary in Warsaw, Poland, has requested a team of volunteers to purchase, assemble, and install student desks with study lamps in the seminary. The team will need to bring ordinary hand tools and minor electrical supplies. They need 25 desks and each desk costs \$125. The total costs for the desks will be \$3,125.

Date: Open through early fall
Project #: 11996493
The Baptist Theological Seminary in Warsaw, Poland, has requested teams of volunteers to come and help with the completion of the Seminary Chapel. The money for construction materials has been supplied. The Seminary needs as many able and willing hands for this construction as possible.

Date: Open
Project #: 11996426
Project: The church in Tarnow needs a team to donate Music Recording equipment that is either used or new, and train a person or persons in the church to use the equipment.

Place: Tarnow, Poland
Team: 1-2

Date: Open
Project #: 11996427
Project: The Baptist Church in Tarnow needs a team to provide Evangelism through musical concerts.
Place: Tarnow, Poland
Team: Number to be determined by the team

Michigan

Date: Open
Project #: SC-5
Level Park Church in Battle Creek, is requesting a team of 6-12 volunteers to re-roof their existing building. The project will include tearing off the old roof, making some minor repairs to the roof decking and putting on the new shingles.

Date: Open
Project #: G-5
Torrey Road Church in Fenton requests a team of volunteers to remodel their current sanctuary and build an addition to the building.

Date: Aug. 19-30
Project #: 0-11
Northpoint Church, a new church in the Oakland Baptist Association in Livonia, has requested 10-20 Tennessee volunteers to help with a phone campaign. Workers will help take a survey and announce the church's first worship service. The campaign can be done from Michigan or Tennessee. Orientation on how to conduct this survey will be provided.

1997 Projects



Date: Summer 1997
Project #: SC-1
Victory Baptist Church in Portage is requesting a team of approximately 20 volunteers to help them with a variety of activities during the summer of 1997, Vacation Bible School, Back Yard Bible Clubs, Evangelism, Remodeling, Puppets, Drama, etc. The church is open to this being a youth mission project.

Canada

Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship

Project Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996627
Calgary Deaf Fellowship in Cochrane, Alberta, is requesting a volunteer from Tennessee to lead a *Search for Significance* workshop. They need someone who can lead this workshop in American Sign Language.

Project Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996626
Calgary Deaf Fellowship in Cochrane, Alberta, is requesting a volunteer from Tennessee to lead an *Experiencing God* Workshop. They need someone who can lead this workshop in American Sign Language.

Project Dates: Oct. 18-20
Project #: PM11996607
Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship in Cochrane, Alberta, requests a team of 1-2 Tennessee volunteers to lead revival services October 18-20, 1996. They need someone who is an experienced pastor or evangelist who is proficient in American Sign Language and can preach in sign language.

Church Planting

Project Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996636
The Capilano Association in Surrey, British Columbia, requests a team to help plant a church. The team would help support the church plant through prayer.

Prayer Partner Church

Project Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996635
Crossroad Church in Edmonton, Alberta, requests a Prayer Partner church. Crossroads Church is a mission church with eight members and an attendance of 12 in Sunday School. The church would like to form a relationship with the pastor of a church in Tennessee who is willing to share

prayer requests on a regular basis. It would be beneficial if the pastor were to come and see the work in Canada and share prayer requests with his congregation.

ESL Teacher

Project Dates: Open
Project #: PM11996629
Gladstone Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, requests a Tennessee volunteer to teach English as a Second Language to Chinese in the Ministry Center at the church.

Mobile Chapel

Date: Open
Project #: PM11996646
Northern Lights Baptist Association is looking for a team of volunteers who can help them purchase and renovate a bus for use as a mobile chapel.

1997 Projects

Date: Open
Project #: 11996618
Keystone Baptist Association in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is requesting a team of Tennessee volunteers to sing in three malls, three churches, and hand out flyers door to door. The dates of the project are negotiable. They are looking for a team in the spring/summer of 1997.

Date: Open
Project #: FPIVS6601
A group of volunteers will be needed to complete a survey over two areas in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The group will be surveying the communities for the Vietnamese or Chinese congregation opportunities. The goal is to plant a new Baptist Church for the Vietnamese/Chinese community.



Partnership Prayer Requests

July - August

31 — Pray for the crafts project requested by Costa Rican Baptists to be held in October. Pray that the Lord will bring together a group of 6-8 volunteers willing to lead it.

1 — Pray for the growth of the beginning churches or missions of the Michigan Baptist Convention so they can be stronger witnesses in their communities.

2 — Praise God for Lori Mills and the VBS team which she is leading from First Church, Smyrna. They are working July 27-Aug. 4 at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

3 — Pray for the second orphan's camp being held in Wisla, Poland, July 30 - Aug. 10, and the Tennessee volunteers who are helping with the camp.

4 — Pray for Scott Elledge, Alicia Evans, Natalie Corp, who are Tennessee summer missionaries serving in Michigan.

5 — Praise God for the Sevier County Association's VBS team working Aug. 3-10 at the Muskoday Reserve in Saskatchewan, Canada.

6 — Pray for Tennessee's four member evangelism youth team led by Mike Lee of Hendersonville to Poland. They are holding evangelistic services in Poznan July 31 - Aug. 7.

Costa Rica

The relationship of Tennessee Baptists with Costa Rican Baptists is to assist in projects there until 1997, when the relationship becomes a three-year partnership.

Dates: Oct. 3-14
Project #: 96-16

Volunteers are needed to provide handcraft classes to local women in various areas of the Central Valley area. Weekday workshops will be held in various homes or churches and a crafts fair will be held on Saturdays where various crafts will be taught. Participants will be able to choose and rotate from one craft project to another.

leaders

■ Donelson View Church, Nashville, has called **Charles Livingstone** as pastor, effective Aug. 1. Livingstone is retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board and recently served as pastor of First Church, Pinewood. Gary Rickman of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, served the Nashville church as interim pastor.

■ **Mack Bingham**, minister of adult education, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, will celebrate his 25th anniversary of service there Aug. 11. A dinner will be held in his honor that evening. Bingham, a native of Chattanooga, has served as a staff member of churches in Oak Ridge and Memphis. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **John David Laida** has been called as interim pastor of First Church, Bowling Green, Ky. He has just completed service as interim pastor of Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, Ky.

■ First Church, Greenbrier, has called **Kevin Bragg** as minister of music, effective June 2. Bragg, formerly organist/music associate at Third Church, Murfreesboro, is organist for the Tennessee Baptist Chorale. He will teach at Davidson Academy in Madison.

■ **Mark Caruth**, minister of student music/activities, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, will celebrate his first anniversary of service there Aug. 1.

■ **Ricky Shankle** has been called as music director of Thint Pleasant Church, Buchanan.

churches

■ **Union Hill Church, Goodlettsville**, will hold Vacation Bible School Aug. 4-8. It will be for ages 4 through adult. The church also will hold homecoming activities Aug. 11. After a luncheon a musical program will be held at 1 p.m. featuring W. Elmo and Marcia Mercer.

■ **First Church, Jacksboro**, will hold revival services during August. They will feature Earl Wilson, retired director, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Aug. 5; Terry Moore, youth evangelist, Claxton, Aug. 12; Dillard Mynatt, retired pastor of Oak Ridge, Aug. 19; and Jerry Mantooh, pastor, Monte Vista Church, Maryville, Aug. 26.

■ **Clear Creek Church, Crossville**, will hold its annual homecoming activities Aug. 4 which will launch a revival. Billy Edmonds, an evangelist, will speak.

■ **Bethel Church, Harri-man**, held a Vacation Bible School which included an introduction to music session. The church has continued the training in weekly sessions.

■ **First Church, Middleton**, will hold its annual homecoming activities July 28. James Byington, a former pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon and afternoon musical program also will be held.

■ **North Red Bank Church, Red Bank**, will hold a Back-to-School Explosion Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will feature crafts, Bible stories, and free pizza for lunch. Children from preschoolers to junior high school students are invited.

■ **Stones River Church,**

Smyrna, just completed Vacation Bible School, which had an Olympic theme. A competition held on commencement night included a dunking tank which allowed participants to dunk the pastor, G. Ross Maroney Sr. Ninety-four dollars was raised for the Arson Fund for Tennessee. The VBS drew 194 children and four made professions of faith.

state events

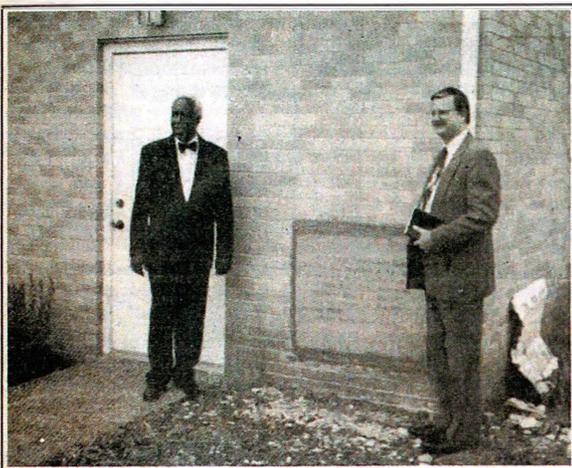
■ **Second Church, Memphis**, will hold a Conversational English Workshop Aug. 10-11 and 17-18. All sessions are required for certification. For more information contact Jean Thompson at (901) 682-4298; Ruth Harrod, 682-8074; or Nina Clark at 751-3808.

associations

■ The executive committee of **Lawrence County Associ-**

ation of Baptists adopted a resolution protesting and denouncing the burning of black churches and pledging to work with black Christians who have suffered losses as a result.

■ **Cumberland Gap Association** has called Frank D. Hickman as director of missions, effective July 1. He is a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, where he served 1983-96. Hickman is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The native of Knoxville succeeds Bill Hazlewood who retired July 1995 after serving 24 years.



PASTOR ELZA BRADEN, left, celebrates with members of Greater Tabernacle Church, Lawrenceburg, and members of Lawrence County Association represented by Tommy Stevens, moderator, the laying of the cornerstone of the church's completed building. Stevens, pastor, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg, spoke during a recent morning worship service. The association and Faith Church, Loretto, helped sponsor the church.



LEADING A noteburning ceremony at Parkers Creek Church, Bon Aqua, July 7 are, from left, Jerry Duke, Ross Hooberry, Hulan Patrick, Joe Estes, pastor, John Mangrum, Gary Donagen, and Benny Mangrum. A 10-year debt was paid in three years to gain a debt-free status for the church.

First Church, Obion, observes centennial July 13-14



PARTICIPATING in the celebration were former pastors, from left, Bill Wolfe and Robert Ivy, and present pastor, David Worley.

By Linda George
For Baptist and Reflector

OBION — First Church, Obion, launched its 100th anniversary July 13-14 with a Gospel singing and watermelon/ice cream social on Saturday evening.

The morning worship service was led by former music director, Dan Mueller (1973-75) and former pastor, Robert Ivy (1957-64). Following the morning service, lunch was served in the fellowship area of the church.

In the afternoon, a special anniversary service was held with presentations from the Tennessee Baptist Convention by Bill George of the

missions department and from Union University, Jackson, by Polk Glover, a trustee who is a member of the church. Greetings were brought from former pastors including Bill Wolfe (1987-91), who was present, Gayle Alexander (1968-72), and Otis Hinton (1976-83).

A time of reminiscing was held. Memories written prior to the service were read by the pastor, David Worley.

A history book written by Polly Glover, a member of the church, was given to each family. On display was a Bible given to the church by the Women's Union in 1899 and used as an altar Bible. Some members wore dress from the 1896 period. **B&R**

HMB honors

TBC's Gilder

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Six associational missionaries were honored for outstanding service during the annual Home Missions Week July 6-12 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Among the honorees was Ray Gilder of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department and bivocational pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville. He was cited as outstanding Project Assistance for Churches in Transition (PACT) consultant in the east. Hillcrest Church of Clarksville was the east's outstanding PACT congregation. ■



GILDER

Elliff calls for spiritual awakening convocations

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — "I believe this call has touched a chord down deep in the heart of every concerned Southern Baptist," said Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The call — to pastors and other Southern Baptist leaders — is to join in any of several one-day convocations emphasizing the crucified life and prayer for spiritual awakening at Baptist seminary campuses slated from Aug. 29 through Sept. 12.

Elliff issued the call in a July 15 mailing of more than 40,000 letters. He assessed initial reaction to his call as "overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging." Elliff, elected SBC president at the convention's June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans, is pastor of First Southern

Church, Del City, in suburban Oklahoma City.

Requests have come to add convocations at Baptist seminary branch campuses and for staff of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Elliff said, declaring, "If there's a way to work it out, we'll do it."

The one-day convocations will not boast a list of speakers, Elliff said, explaining, "We will be gathered to meet with God, not to be drawn to some noted personalities announced in advance." Prayer — for Southern Baptists to turn to the crucified life with Jesus and for spiritual awakening — will be emphasized, not just preaching or singing, Elliff said.

Elliff's July 15 mailing, a cooperative effort with the Baptist Sunday School Board, was directed to Southern Baptist pastors; state convention executive directors; state Woman's Missionary Union, Brother-

hood and division directors; associational directors of missions; and other leaders.

Labeled an "urgent invitation," Elliff said the 20th century "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."

Elliff 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."

Each convocation begins at

10 a.m., local time.

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, the SBC president announced. ■

Classified

ORGANIST: Tulip Grove Baptist Church is seeking a church organist. If interested, call Jerry Rankin at (615) 333-5050 (day) or 833-2839 (night).

CHURCH SECRETARY: Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a full-time church secretary with desktop publishing experience. Call (615) 373-8074 for application.

EDUCATION/YOUTH: First Baptist Church, White Pine, is seeking a minister of education and youth. If interested, send resume to Search Committee, FBC, P.O. Box J, White Pine, TN 37890.

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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.

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Executive Director

The Pembroke Foundation, in Winter Park, is seeking a Spirit-led person, experienced in charitable foundation development and fund-raising to direct all activities of the Pembroke Foundation. This Foundation's mission is to assist in the starting of new churches across the state of Florida. Contact the Foundation office at (407) 673-3374.

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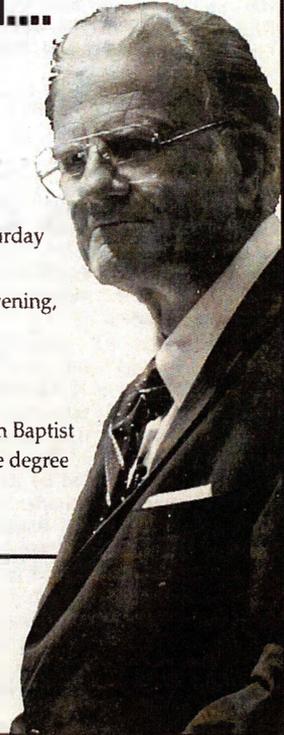
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Wisdom for work, finances

By L. Joseph Rosas III

**Focal Passage — Proverbs 20:23;
21:6; 23:10-11; 6:6-8; 11:15; 21:5;
24:27; 22:1; 23:4-5**

Our daughter came running into the house obviously all excited. "We've won a million dollars!" She held in her hand the envelope from one of those mail order contests. Not familiar with this kind of advertising she did not notice the phrase in small print, "if you return the winning entry." The truth is most of us aren't going to get rich, quick or any other way. If we don't master our finances and work, they will quickly master us! We need the wisdom of God in these vital concerns of everyday life.

Honesty (20:23; 21:6, 23:10-11) is the one characteristic most prized in everyday life. We all want everyone else to be honest. The Bible reminds us that the Lord "detests" dishonest measuring. What you see should be what you get. What you say you will do should be followed through on. Some people want to live daily life by one standard and their Christian life by another. There is but one standard. Integrity in business is so important that this admonition is found four times in Proverbs as well as in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. The Old Testament constantly links ethical business practices and religious ethics. A fortune gained dishonestly will have no lasting or eternal value.

Industry (6:6-8) or self-motivated hard work is another virtue prized in the market place. Nothing is more challenging than the mundane routine of daily labor. The ant is an example of industry and hard work. The lazy person or "sluggard" (cf. v. 9-11) is only concerned with the moment and wastes time sleeping instead of working. By contrast, the ant prepares for lean times in the future and works without supervision. Failure to provide for one's family is considered worse than heresy.

Judgment (11:15; 21:5; 24:27) or discernment is an essential quality in work and life. Diligence in money management means we don't fall for "sure deals" and "easy money" schemes. We are to be keen, characterized by forethought and purpose in all our planning. We must avoid sacrificing the future on the altar of immediate gratification. "Finish your outdoor work ... after that, build your house" (24:27) has been interpreted by some as referring to financial preparation before getting married. The larger meaning is count the cost before starting any project. Proceed with a sense of priority, putting "first things first."

Priorities (22:1, 23:4-5) are the guideposts that remind us of what is really most important in life. An ancient rabbi said, "there are three crowns, ... the Torah, the priesthood and kingship, but the crown of a good name exceeds them all." A good name or reputation has eternal consequences while material wealth is of fleeting value. One commentary translates 23:4, "He who troubles himself to be rich, places before himself a false, deceitful aim."

Jesus exhorts us, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.



ROSAS

Trust in God

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — Psalm 40:1-5; 9-11; 16-17

I spoke recently with a woman who is walking in the realm of trust in God. She and her husband have taken bold steps in service to God. Now they are suffering through the attack of satan on their lives and family. Their response: To continue to trust God, even though their world may crumble. Psalm 40 provides them, and us, powerful insight that sees us through, from trials to trust.

The first step of trust (40:1-5). Notice the list of things God had done for David. God had lifted him up from the lowliness of defeat and despair, and given him a place of security and safety (v. 2). He filled the psalmist's mouth with words of life and glory. He was speaking words of powerful testimony to those who would hear. As he trusted God, he was given a testimony of deliverance from this world. That testimony would impact the lives of others and have the potential of making believers out of those who doubted the Lord (v. 3b).

Convention Uniform Lesson

The psalmist now addresses his remarks to God (v. 5). He acknowledges the numerous works God performs in the life of one who trusts. Often, in the heat of conflict, we are not able to recognize his presence. We become overwhelmed by circumstances, and close the doors of our spirit to his activity around us. On this occasion, however, the psalmist is quick to note that God's activity is great. The word "numerous" indicates the regularity of God's intervention in our daily affairs.

How does one take this first step of trust? Verse 1 gives the answer: We must wait on God and be patient

in the process. "Wait" and "patient" are two words that do not normally work together. If you are waiting, you normally aren't patient. And, if you are patient, it is often because you are not waiting. Patient waiting on God is based solely on trust in God and his faithfulness to act.

The response of trust (40:9-11). Trust evokes a response. David's response was in making God known to the world around him. If God can be trusted, if God does act in the affairs of men, then that information needs to be communicated. The writer made a commitment to speak of God's righteousness, faithfulness, love, truth, mercy, and protection.

He proclaimed these things before the congregation, the gathering of the people for worship. The proclamation of God's attributes is the primary act of worship.

The plea of trust (40:16-17). The last two verses of our text call us to trust. We can trust God, not only because of his works, but because he is worthy of exaltation. When we trust God, we lift him up in praise for all to see.

It is significant to note that, following these wonderful words of trust, the writer characterizes himself as "poor and needy." What a perfect characterization of the proper attitude of the heart that enables anyone to really trust God. When we recognize our need for help outside of ourselves, when our pride crumbles, we can receive God's gracious help. ■ — Kevin Goza is pastor of First Church, Lebanon.



Bible study
for Aug. 4



GOZA

Six trumpets announce judgment

By Tom Moncrief

Bible Book Lesson

**Focal Passage — Revelation 8:1-3, 13:9-4, 11,
20-21**

God offers every opportunity for people to trust him, but he never forces himself on anyone. This lesson includes the tragic truth that people can harden themselves to the point they no longer see the need to repent nor feel the impulse to accept God's offer of forgiveness.

Silence and prayers before the trumpets are blown (ch. 8:1-3). Opening the seventh seal brought brief silence in heaven. Views differ, but the delay and silence gave time for the saints' prayers to be heard. God's people are assured that God will hear their prayers. Along with the message of assurance to the faithful was a warning to the ungodly and unfaithful.

Seven angels standing before God each received a trumpet. Trumpets were used to indicate awakening signals of divine visitation. Incense given to another angel represented prayer offered to God. These prayers for vindication of the justice of God and from the afflicted saints shall be heard and answered.

The eagles' three-woe warning (v. 13). The judgment warnings are intended to bring about repentance and redemption. When that does not

happen the warnings are intensified. An eagle symbolized swiftness and judgment descending from on high. "Woe, woe, woe" indicates the three remaining trumpet judgments are especially terrifying and tormenting. They are spiritual rather than material in kind and are directed to the world ("to those who dwell on the earth") who reject God's grace and make this world their home rather than heaven.

Fifth trumpet: locusts arrayed for battle (ch. 9:1-4, 11). A fallen star, the symbol of Satan, was seen on the earth when the fifth trumpet sounded. The key (authority) to open the door of the shaft to the bottomless pit was given this fallen star. The pit represents hell before the final judgment. Dense smoke symbolizing a demonic force of evil from the underworld comes forth from the pit to cloud men's minds and darken understanding. This vision indicates the origin of the plague which follows.

Locusts from the smoke, transformed into supernatural creatures

depict demonic creatures symbolizing an immoral type of force. God uses evil which he did not engineer for his own purpose as plagues of a mental and spiritual nature producing internal decay are brought upon Godless men. Still, God is in control. He limits the locusts and the process of retribution. The saints have been marked with the divine seal and are safe from these demonic powers. These locusts are fearful as instruments of divine judgment for oppressors of God's people.

Humanity's refusal to repent (vv. 20-21). Such destruction and judgment were intended to bring the ungodly to repentance. In spite of all they witnessed, they still refused to turn to God. It seems to be easier to hold onto sin than to acknowledge God and trust him. Idolatry seems to be the way to go and ungodly unbelievers rush on to certain destruction.

Can we who believe learn a truth to guide us from this lesson? Surely we need to see the urgency of showing Christ's love in our lives and sharing the message of his life-changing power. Repentance and faith lead to forgiveness, cleansing, life, and peace. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," (Romans 10:13). ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of FBC, Cleveland.



MONCRIEF



Former agency head Lynn May dies in Nashville

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Lynn E. May, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, died July 24 from complications due to Parkinson's disease and congestive heart failure.

May, 66, served the commission for almost 40 years, 23 as executive director.

"Southern Baptists and all



MAY

Baptists have lost a loyal and faithful servant," noted fellow Baptist historian Slayden Yarbrough, interim executive director of the Historical Commission. "In the years to come scholars, researchers, individuals, and churches interested in the history and heritage of Baptists will continue to benefit enormously from his work, probably unaware of his commitment and ministry."

May also was author of some association and church histories and was managing editor of Vol. 4 of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*.

May is survived by his wife, Alta, and two daughters. ■

W.O. Taylor dies at age 105

Baptist Press

MELBOURNE, Ark. — William Oscar Taylor, age 105, who was thought to be the oldest preacher in the Southern Baptist Convention, died July 7 of congestive heart failure at his home.

The Arkansas native preached his first sermon in

1912 and was ordained a year later.

Taylor was co-founder of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, Ark., and was one of its first faculty members. ■

BSSB offers free books to churches damaged by arson

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As an expression of concern and support, the Baptist Sunday School Board is contacting churches damaged or destroyed by arson in the last 18 months with an offer of up to 13 free books.

"As a publisher of resources for churches and church leaders, we are making available at no cost some books which we hope can be useful in replacing those which may have been lost or for your use in planning for the future," BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. wrote in a letter being sent to the churches.

The BSSB is compiling a list of burned churches from a variety of sources, including state Baptist conventions, the SBC Christian Life Commission, and the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

"We certainly understand that our action does not begin to address the overall needs of these churches as they rebuild and look to the future," Draper said. "However, we wanted to do something tangible to communicate our concern and support. We believe these resources can be valuable tools for leaders and members," he said. ■

Georgia paper offers new witness journal

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — An additional avenue of media witness has been launched by *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The first issue of *The E Street Journal* is making its debut in conjunction with the

1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The E Street Journal, to be published quarterly in a magazine format, will have a different thrust than *The Christian Index*, which is a weekly newspaper, Managing Editor Johnny Pierce said.

The Christian Index will continue to provide news and features of interest to Georgia Baptists while the new publication, according to its mission statement, "is an eclectic, faith-affirming feature magazine which utilizes Christian writers and artists to educate, entertain, and enrich a diverse readership and provide a positive image of the Christian faith and lifestyle."

The new journal will reflect elements from various popular magazines, like *Southern Living's* travel features and *Guideposts's* personality profiles, all with a family-friendly approach, Pierce said. ■

BSSB editor dies in Cuba

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Fernando Garcia, editor of children's materials in Spanish in the Baptist Sunday School Board's multicultural leadership department, died July 18 of an apparent heart attack as he boarded a plane in Havana, Cuba.

Garcia, 59, had been visiting family in his native land and was returning to Nashville when he collapsed and died.

He is survived by his wife, Marta, and four children. ■

Shepherd named director of B&H Bible publishing

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — David R. Shepherd, senior marketing manager for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers, has been named director of the newly-created B&H Bible publishing department, according to Ken Stephens, B&H publisher.

Shepherd, a three-year B&H employee, will head the largest of four B&H product lines. Others are gifts and church supplies, trade books, and videos.

"In the last two years, Bibles has grown to be our largest revenue producer. Creation of this department will enable us to free a team of people to give their undivided attention to Bible publishing," Stephens said. "David brings both leadership and creativity to this important new role." ■



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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