

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

August 21, 1996

this week's news

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UNION EVENT

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

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Memphis church opens doors to World Changers

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — The sound of hundreds of weary feet plodding to the fellowship hall of Eudora Church could be heard all summer.

The Memphis church served as home base for more than 1,400 youth during the summer.

The church's fellowship hall was turned into two separate locker rooms for youth and their leaders who served as World Changers in the Memphis area.

Sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, World Changers is a missions project that stresses "hands-on" participation.

Eudora Church, currently without a pastor, provided a

home for more than 600 World Changers participants June 15-29. They also extended hospitality to more than 800 World Tour participants for two weeks in July. World Tour is a new facet of World Changers that incorporates inner city ministry with hands-on construction.

Throughout the four weeks of projects, 120 homes were roofed, repaired, and repainted in Memphis. Decisions for Christ and rededications were made in addition to lifetime commitments to service and ministry.

The cumulative effect was a thriving ministry that positively impacted a well-established church, ailing in membership, which became a strong tower for 1,400 excited junior and se-

nior high students.

"World Changers has definitely made our people aware of missions opportunities in the city," said Mark Branson, minister of youth at Eudora. "They need to become involved however they can. There are people who desperately need our help.

"World Changers has made us aware of what it would be like to have 500 people in here again," Branson continued. "It has made this church alive. The facility is being used as intended."

"Eudora Church was a lifesaver for World Changers in Memphis after access to city schools wasn't possible," said Andy Morris, director of World Changers.

"Their congregation has

been more than generous in helping us. It became a ministry of the church to provide lodging, meals, and showers to the students ministering in Memphis this summer."

World Changers and Eudora look forward to a working relationship in the future as the church's own youth prepare for a World Changers project next summer in a city outside of Memphis.

"World Changers is the most innovative missions program that we have for youth today that supersedes any other organization," Branson said. "I'm very proud it's a part of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist life, and educating kids about missions."

— Whitney Leigh Springer

Gambling erodes economy, contends Louisiana governor

Baptist Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — To Louisiana's number one businessman overseeing the state's largest enterprise, gambling costs the enterprise too much, and it needs to go.

"The truth is, in the long haul, I don't think the state is going to be helped either financially or morally by gambling," Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster told the *Baptist Message*, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "You can always show some temporary things that happen that you can say are positive — create a few jobs and this kind of thing."

But Foster said he still believes the

mushrooming presence of legalized gambling in the state already is taking its toll, and that toll will grow.

"The worst effect, really, is the mentality that we're beginning to depend upon gambling for revenues in the state," Foster said, "and look at it as a voluntary tax and nothing else, with no other consequences." But, he added, legalized gambling does have other consequences — strongly negative consequences. He cited several examples, including the costs of compulsive gamblers, as well as the false sense that gambling contributes positively to the state's economy.

According to a report from Louisiana's

Department of Hospitals and Health that talked about the compulsive gambling, the study revealed there are already enough Louisiana residents who are pathological gamblers "to fill up Tiger Stadium" — 57,000, Foster said.

Looking at pro-gambling claims that it increases state revenue, Foster countered. "The only area that you can make a long-term case for any kind (of gambling) is where you have people coming from out of the state. Even that, I think, is lost, in that the businesses they're coming in (the state) to gamble in are owned by out-of-staters, and the money goes out of the state every night." ■

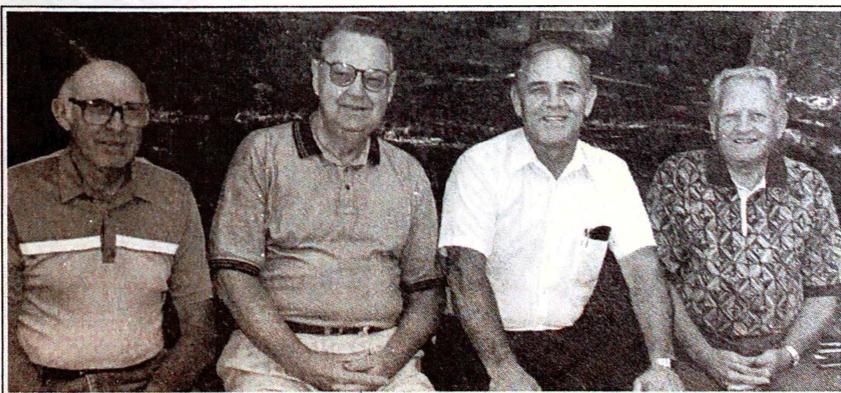
Annual school emphasis set for Sept. 18

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — On Sept. 18 students all across Tennessee will gather at their local high school for the annual See You At The Pole emphasis.

The student initiated and led event will take place around the flagpole at schools, beginning at 7 a.m., local time.

"See You At The Pole is a time students can come together and encourage and support each other in their Christian walk at school," said Jay Austin of the TBC Evangelism Department. ■



Relaxing at Camp Carson

Fellowship is important at the annual Pastors' Retreat. Last week these 'campers' shared views before a morning session. From left, R.C. Tennyson, pastor, Carrs Chapel Church, Speedwell; Jim Ely, First Church, Harrogate; Frank Hickman, Cumberland Gap Association director of missions since July 1; and Casper 'Tip' Moore, Indian Creek Church, Harrogate. See more photos on page 7.

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Barna reports religion changes in new book

Baptist Press

DALLAS — A new book, *The Index of Leading Spiritual Indicators*, according to its author, evangelical pollster George Barna, provides statistical evidence that: "... religion at the end of the millennium is experiencing upheavals of gargantuan proportions."

"Yet, in the midst of the information explosion and a media that meddles in every arena of endeavor known to humankind," Barna writes, "surprisingly little is known about the true nature of the shifts that are redirecting the religious frontier in America."

Among the statistics in Barna's new book, released in August by Word:

(1) Two out of every three adults (67 percent) say they have made a "personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today." This level of commitment has shown a slight increase in the past decade, rising from the 60 percent level in the early and mid-'80s.

(2) Most Americans believe that spiritual salvation is an outcome to be earned through

their good character or behavior, compared to evangelical Christianity's traditional view of salvation by grace. Six of 10 people (57 percent) believe "if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in heaven."

(3) The proportion of adults who read the Bible during the course of a week, other than when they are in church services, has declined dramatically since the early '90s. In 1992, nearly half of all adults (47 percent) read from the Bible during the week. That figure has plummeted to just 31 percent by 1995.

(4) Even so, 73 percent of Americans believe the miracles described in the Bible really happened, while 74 percent believe that "forgiveness of sins is possible only through faith in Jesus Christ."

(5) Two-thirds of the population (63 percent) has no idea what "John 3:16" refers to, much less has the ability to quote that verse. One-fifth of adults (24 percent) knew it is a verse from the Bible addressing salvation. Among born-again Christians, 50 percent

were aware of this. Ten percent of adults believe that the name of Noah's wife was Joan of Arc. Four out of five people (82 percent) incorrectly believe that the Bible includes the statement that "God helps those who help themselves."

(6) Attendance at evangelical churches has slowed after a period of growth in the '70s and '80s. In church membership, 60 percent of adults belong to a local religious institution, compared to 80 percent during the 1950s. Weekly church attendance, however, remains at 42 percent. Adult Sunday School attendance, meanwhile, is on the decline. One out of four adults (23 percent) attended such classes in 1991. The proportion has dipped to one out of six (17 percent) in 1995.

(7) Women are twice as likely as men to attend a church service during any given week.

(8) Most Americans do not believe in Satan (or the devil). Six out of 10 adults (58 percent) believe that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil."

Like it or not, Barna writes: "The religious climate in

America these days reflects the true soul of the population: one which thirsts for experience rather than knowledge, for exposure rather than understanding, for choices rather than the simplicity and security of a limited set of alternatives."

Barna also writes: "Americans want their religious freedom and they cherish their religious life, in all of its unique forms. Religion in this country may not be what it used to be, but indisputably it remains a vital dimension of the American experience."

Americans are "questioning everything" about religion, Barna writes. "Adults and youth alike reflect astounding ignorance of basic adjectives and phrases which describe what people believe, how they behave, and why they respond to religious opportunities. What is not lost in this spiritual upheaval is the new perception of religion: a personalized, customized form of faith views which meet personal needs, minimize rules and absolutes, and which bear little resemblance to the 'pure' form of any of the world's major religions." ■

See You at the Pole participants asked to send report

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — This year's See You at the Pole participants can report results of their gatherings on-line.

See You at the Pole is the annual meeting at school flagpoles for students to pray before class, said Dean Finley, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board youth evangelism specialist. See You at the Pole is the third Wednesday each September, making this year's date Sept. 18 (See story on page 1).

This year participants can report re-

sults of their meeting on the youth evangelism Internet home page. The address is <http://www.ozarksol.com/youthsbc>. Results also can be sent to the CompuServe address of 103441,2742.

In previous years, reports have indicated as many as 60,000 students participated in See You at the Pole, Finley said. With the ease of electronic reporting, he hopes to have quicker, more accurate information. People who report their participation will be asked the name of their school and the number of participants. They also can leave short comments.

People without computer access can phone or fax results to (417) 862-1111 or write Youth Evangelism Office, 906 S. National, Springfield, Mo., 65804.

Other information on the youth evangelism Internet home page includes:

- (1) A list of more than 5,000 secondary schools with Christian clubs.
- (2) Guidance on how to start a Christian club on campus.
- (3) Ideas on promoting "True Love Waits," the youth campaign that encourages sexual abstinence outside of marriage. ■



Surrounded by shoes

Tennessee Girls in Action brought over 600 new pairs of shoes with them to GA Camp this summer to be distributed to children this fall through Hale Community Ministries, Johnson City; Woodcock Baptist Center, Nashville; and New Song Baptist Center, Memphis. Above, summer missionaries Michelle Johnson and Ben Rainey, receive donated shoes at Woodcock.

TBC Brotherhood offers TALL

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Want to know more about how the Southern Baptist Convention's restructuring of the Brotherhood Commission will affect Tennessee's Brotherhood program?

Then, attend the Tennessee Adult Leadership Lab (TALL) Sept. 19-22 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Questions concerning the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Tennessee's Brotherhood program will be addressed during Track 3, General Brotherhood Program.

Other issues to be addressed in Track 3 are how to do exclusive Brotherhood programs such as Classic Royal Ambassadors, EZRA, and MissionKids line up against popular programs such as Boy Scouts, AWANA, and TeamKid.

TALL is more than a training opportunity for Brotherhood leaders and workers. It is also designed to help ministers of youth, recreation, education, and others who work in these areas of their churches.

In addition to church-related work areas, other opportunities for missions involvement will be presented by the TBC Partnership Missions Department.

A total of five tracks will be offered. Check-in times and dates and costs vary, so for more information, call the TBC Brotherhood office at (615) 371-2025. ■

Chile WMU team welcomed in churches throughout state

By Clara Brincefield Huff
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During Tennessee's three-year partnership with Chile, numerous Tennessee Baptists made the trek to Chile.

In late July, 11 Chilean Women on Mission leaders came to visit friends and brothers and sisters in Christ in Tennessee. WMU leaders, pastors, missionaries, and volunteers, along with Acteens from Nashville and Concord associations, welcomed them officially to the United States with flowers, welcome banner, flags, and other gifts.

One more positive response to partnership evangelism was experienced when the 11 WMU leaders from Chile lived out a lifetime dream of flying to the U.S. for the first time and sharing for 21 days as guests of Baptist churches in Tennessee and North Carolina.

The ladies from Chile sang and gave their testimonies in churches in Nashville, Brentwood, and Murfreesboro before going on to Goodlettsville, Woodbury, Smithville, Lenoir City,



THE WMU team from Chile visited several places in Tennessee, including the Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City. They dressed in typical Chilean costumes. From left are Mery Cisternas, Marta Rebolledo, Celinda Martinez, Elsa Kent, Evangelist Herrera, Teresa Herrera, Yolanda Soto, Georgiana Rebolledo, Elizabeth Reyes, Betty Castro, and Rebecca Correa.

Cleveland, Knoxville, and Morristown. They displayed handmade crafts and souvenirs which they sold to help with their expenses for the trip.

One of their highlights was serving lunch to the homeless at Woodcock Mission Center in Nashville and presenting a program of hymns in Spanish

and Chilean folk music and dances.

While in the Nashville area, the Chilean leaders were housed in homes of members of Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro. They presented their music for Concord Association's senior adult group at Mt. Hermon Church, Murfreesboro; First Church, Walter Hill; Brentwood Church, Brentwood; Judson Hispanic Church; and First Church, Goodlettsville.

The group enjoyed a tour of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Franklin. TBC Partnership Missions Director Terry Sharp arranged a tour at the TBC offices in Brentwood where they were welcomed by Executive Director James Porch and Tennessee WMU Executive Director Katharine Bryan. Bryan was a guest in their homes in Chile at the beginning of the partnership which concluded about two years ago.

Brentwood Church WMU members took the visitors to WMU headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., where they had lunch and toured the building.

While in the Knoxville area, WMU leaders there took the group to visit a Spanish work in Morristown, to a pic-

nic at Norris Dam, and a visit to the Appalachian Museum.

The purpose of the visit was in response to many volunteers from Tennessee who worked with Baptist churches in Chile during the partnership. Tennessee volunteers enjoyed the hospitality and attention of the Chileans and always invited them to visit the U.S. This is the first team of Chileans to visit churches in Tennessee as a result of the partnership. As they traveled across the state other missionaries from South America joined them to help with the language.

During their personal testimonies, each one pointed out how their lives had been influenced through Baptist mission work in Chile.

Marta Rebolledo, national WMU director of the Chile WMU Convention and the wife of a pastor, led the group. She visited with Bill and Kate Carter, emeritus missionaries to Chile, who now live in Johnson City.

The Chilean group enjoyed many "firsts" while here such as eating in fast food restaurants and the popular covered dish lunches and suppers at Baptist churches.

The Chilean ladies traveled to North Carolina Aug. 5 to complete their tour before returning to Chile Aug. 12.

All along the way hearts were touched from church to church as the Chilean ladies sang and gave testimonies. At each church the ladies led the congregations or WMU groups in singing "How Great Thou Art" in Spanish and English. It was a blending of voices, hearts, and lives joining to praise the Lord. It also was a time of bonding and binding together — two worlds touching briefly — sisters in Christ. Tears were shed each time the Chilean ladies had to say goodbye. The language of love was spoken. ■ — Huff, the former Clara Brincefield, is missionary emerita to Chile. She now lives in Murfreesboro.



CHILEAN WMU leaders, from left, Marta Rebolledo, Betty Castro, and Mery Cisternas, visit with a resident of the Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City.



EMERITUS MISSIONARY Clara Brincefield Huff, left, translates for Evangelist Herrera. Huff accompanied the Chilean ladies while they were in the U.S.

Cherokee Nation turns back casino gambling

Baptist Press

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The Cherokee Nation is considering getting into the gambling business, but an Oklahoma director of missions is trying to keep them out.

On July 15, the Cherokee Tribal Council narrowly defeated a proposal (7-6) to enter a 20-year gambling partnership for a bingo parlor and casino with the Loyal Shawnee in Kansas.

The proposal would have created a bingo hall, smoke shop, and service station in the Kansas City, Kan., area.

It also included the possible introduction of casino gambling at the site later. Profits would have been divided among the two tribes, a management company, and the family on whose land the project would have been built.

The Loyal Shawnee is not a federally recognized tribe, thus they must get approval from the Cherokee Nation.

Before the Cherokee council meeting, Councilor Bill Baker of Tahlequah thought he had enough votes to get the issue passed, until Bridge Chuckluck Jr., director of missions for Cherokee Association, spoke against the proposal at the meeting.

"We are a proud tribe, a very proud tribe, and we want to be recognized as a sovereign nation," Chuckluck said. "Folks, we represent someone who is more sovereign."

He said Cherokees would have to hide in shame if they made what he called one of the biggest mistakes in the history of the Cherokee Nation.

After the vote, Loyal Shawnee business council chairman Don Greenfeather

said the Shawnees would "leave the Cherokee Nation."

Since the first vote the Cherokee council decided to reconsider the issue Aug. 12, but then postponed that vote indefinitely.

"They are going to redo their proposal, but the bottom line will still be the same," Chuckluck said. "If it went through, we would be in the gambling business. We do need some revenue, but not from that source," he said.

Chuckluck said he believes gambling would destroy the Cherokee Nation.

"It would be an embarrassing situation around the world," he said. "If this passes the whole world would know tomorrow how low we have gotten," he said.

"We are a proud people with a proud history. We don't need this." ■

Texas music minister announces plan to run for SBC president

Baptist Press

HEARNE, Texas — A Texas bivocational minister of music has announced his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets next year in Dallas.

Dan Bates, minister of music at First Church, Hearne, wrote in a letter to the editor in the July 31 issue of the *Texas Baptist Standard* that he will "run against Tom Elliff's re-election as president of the SBC in Dallas in 1997."

Elliff, pastor of First Church, Del City, Okla., was elected SBC president this year in New Orleans. SBC presidents traditionally have been accorded a second one-

year term following their first year, often without opposition.

Bates will be nominated by his pastor, Larry Blackmon.

Bates said he wanted to create a "Southern Baptist Bureau of Reclamation" which he said would restore some of the Baptist distinctives lost during the past 16 years of the conservative resurgence at the national level of the denomination.

He said he was a "1920s fundamentalist," identified as a person professing complete confidence in the Bible and preoccupied with the message of God's salvation of sinners through the death of Jesus Christ. Most 1996 Southern Baptists would be included in that definition," he added. ■



about letters to the editor

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



Partnership Prayer Requests

August

- 21 — Pray for Belmont University retiree Albert Wardin and his wife who will teach in September at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw.
- 22 — Pray for Michigan Baptist churches currently without pastors.
- 23 — Praise God for the combined efforts of Keystone Association in Canada and Western District Association in Tennessee who recently began a new work — Pioneer Church.
- 24 — Pray for the TBC Partnership Missions staff and Polish Baptist Union leaders as they make plans and develop strategy for 1997 projects.
- 25 — Pray for First Spanish American Baptist Church in Oakland Association in Michigan.
- 26 — Praise God for the full recovery of Gerald Mounce, director of missions of Keystone Association in Canada, following his recent emergency surgery.
- 27 — Pray for the Baptist Seminary in Poland as they teach God's Word.

Thanks for help

Recently New Song Church mailed a letter to our sister churches in Tennessee sharing the God-sized vision that God has given us in Maury County. We asked that each church pray and see if God would have them become involved in helping us to spread the Gospel in Maury County through this vision.

On behalf of the building committee and our church members, let me express our thanksgiving and praise to God for the churches that have responded to this invitation to become involved in God's work in this area. These churches have been such an encouragement and inspiration to us.

We thank the Lord for our sister churches and ask his blessing upon their service for his glory.

*Daniel D. Carlen, pastor
New Song Church
Mt. Pleasant 38474*

Disappointed

In some Bible book stores we have a product that hurts Christian witness across America.

I am a minister who has a full-time job as a waiter in Pigeon Forge. As a waiter I work with more than 130 other employees. We work hard in a tourist town to help people to have fun and a good time.

Our problem is we work for less than minimum wage, hoping to make enough tips to pay our bills. Some Christian hands us a fake \$5 or \$10 bill that reads on the back: "Disappointed? This is not real. You won't be disappointed if you accept Jesus as your Savior."

A comment from an unsaved waiter has caused me much distress. He said, "This is one reason I hate these old Christians." When a Bible tract causes people to take God's name in vain, I am disturbed. He tore it up and threw it in the trash.

Deception does not win people to Jesus Christ. God does not deal in deception.

There are many tourist towns across America. Waiters and waitresses are lost, and if you want to win them to Jesus, be honest. Tell them you are a Christian. Remember their situation, be polite, leave a tip

B&R redesigning moves along

The redesigning project for the *Baptist and Reflector*, which began with the June 5 issue, is progressing.

It would not be correct to say that we are almost finished, because we realize the paper must be in a constant mode of steady improvement. This includes the quality of our news and feature stories, having a good relationship with current and potential readers, and paying attention to the paper's "readability." We want it to be a user-friendly paper in every way.

We are moving toward completion of current redesigning. B&R

Before writing that letter to editor, read this

If you plan to write a letter to the editor soon or later, read this! Letters are among the best-read items in the *Baptist and Reflector*. Ideas and feelings expressed by others are a vital part of open discussion.

Letters give vent to thoughts, ideas, opinions on a variety of issues that face Baptists and other Christians. Letters give readers opportunity to challenge other views, and to explain those challenges to other readers.

Sometimes the rhetoric gets too heated.

Tennessee Baptists do not seem reticent about free expression. We have a lively letters page, and this is good — when it is used properly.

Here are some guidelines that will enhance the letters page — not by governing what readers write, but perhaps how they say it.

(1) We print regularly a list of standard guidelines.

Read them before you write. These basic guidelines are the standard rules for letter writers.

(2) For some writers it is difficult to make the point in 250 words. This generous amount allows more letters to be used at an earlier printing. Stick to that total — 250 words. *If you say it in fewer words, you have a better chance for publication without editing for length.*

(3) The *Baptist and Reflector* is not obligated to use letters, but the staff feels this forum is helpful to readers who might not have other ways of expression short of paid advertising. The privilege is precious and should be protected by observance of established guidelines.

(4) Read your letter thoroughly before submitting it. Think it through. Are your "facts" really factual? Do you know they are true, accurate? Is this the way to say

it? Would Christ approve of my words? Would he use them?

(5) Be careful with language. Don't use cruel, cutting, accusatory, sarcastic, un-Christian words. Find the decent way to say it. We will not use letters that attack other people with worldly terms.

(6) Remember that letters may be edited for length, abusive language, or insensitive remarks. No matter how "hot" the issue or how bitter the debate may seem among us or in other quarters — letters on these pages must be in a Christlike context.

(7) One more bit of advice. Stay within the guidelines. Don't ask the editor to bend the rules.

Be sure to read the standard printed guidelines on letters. This list is intended to augment the standing rules and to remind us of Christian courtesy. — Editor B&R

and a Bible tract, or verbal witness, and remember that a \$1 tip for a group of eight is not a good tip.

More than 90 percent of these people are lost and we cannot win them through deception.

*James A. Wood
Dandridge 37725*

The priority

Findings of the recent George Barna poll on church participation (reported in the Aug. 7 *Baptist and Reflector*) are indeed disturbing. The "downward spiral" of attendance, giving, and involvement in U.S. church life is cause for great concern. But conventional wisdom that the church's problems can be blamed on a failure to be relevant and failure "to address the needs and satisfactions of adults" is surely questionable.

More important than efforts to be relevant or user-friendly is our adherence to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. How often does the quest for relevance water down the Gospel? Is the user-friendly church compatible with the offense of the cross? Were our forefathers

drawn to the church by its ability to meet their needs and satisfactions?

The modern church has chosen to know more than Christ and him crucified. We know all kinds of need-meeting — counseling, psychology, entertainment, recreation, politics, and prosperity — but we diminish the glory of the Cross where the Lamb of God was slain. The Cross convicts sinners and calls them to repentance, and the Cross lays claim on the believer's heart and makes him a disciple.

The pollster concluded that a return to teaching the basics of the faith should be among the priorities of the church. Among the priorities? Bible teaching and preaching that lifts up Christ as our atoning sacrifice, as the one who calls us to a faith that leads us to repentance and discipleship, is the priority.

*Brad Isbell
Oliver Springs 37840*

Appreciates gift

We are writing to Tennessee Baptists. We have received our gift from you for new missionaries. We really appreciate the remembrance and will be able to put the extra money to good use as we are still setting up house and starting over.

We have just finished our first semester of language school and are looking forward to traveling to our future place of service for Mission Meeting and a visit.

We will not move there un-

til next January when we have finished our year of language study.

Remembering new missionaries is such an encouragement to us and we wanted to thank you.

We continue to remember you in our prayers as you minister in our home country. Pray for the work here in Brazil.

*Jeff and Kathy Deasy
Rua Barbosa da Cunha, 138
Jd. Guanabara
13073-320 Campinas, SP
Brazil*

Thanks for paper

I am eternally grateful for the *Baptist and Reflector* which I have received here. The paper has kept me informed on happenings in Baptist work.

After December, I will be at 648 Boone Lane in Jackson.

When I think of Tennessee Baptists it is with deep gratitude. The state WMU helped finance my seminary studies at Southwestern and also remembered me each Christmas with a letter, prayers, and monetary gift.

My home church, Madison, and Malesus Church have faithfully prayed and supported our ministry.

Woodmont church sent volunteers and audio tapes of their services. A couple from Camden helped build seven buildings in rural communities. Numerous others have made a difference.

*Clara Lynn Williams
North Brazil Mission*

What's needed? Prayer-driven renewal

It was a simple and short prayer, prayed by one of Tennessee Baptists' stout-hearted, warm-spirited leaders.

The prayer's eloquence lay in its sincerity and brevity. Probably it was not a call to renewal, but it could be interpreted that way.

It was not a prayer of "fluff," meant for human ears, and it was not made before a crowd great in numbers or influence.

Just before one of the evening meals at the recent Pastors' Retreat at Camp Carson, Vern Powers was called on to offer a prayer of thanksgiving. We call it, "saying the blessing."

Powers, former pastor later devoted denominational worker, and now a "trouble-shooter" with Nashville's Baptist Hospital, rendered a thought-provoking prayer.

He thanked the Lord appropriately for the forthcoming meal and for other blessings, and closed his petition this way: "And thank you, Lord, for the fellowship of friends we love and trust."

Later that evening, Frank Houston, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Morristown, talked about the significance of prayer in the lives of individuals and churches.

He had the courage to remind the audience of pastors that, "We don't need more committee meetings, more deacons' meetings, more missions meetings. We need more prayer meetings. The churches need more prayer meetings."

He said, in effect, prayer is necessary if Christians of this sick and weary world are to accomplish anything that will bring change. To paraphrase lines of a song, what the world needs now is love, sweet love — but to give power to that love, the world needs prayer. Prayer can nurture the love and trust.

Christians, well-meaning in plans and projects, are getting the reputation of talking much and giving little effort to prayer and action.

Yes, we can look around Tennessee and see many great things being accomplished for the Lord. However, even with all the gold stars on our report cards, the number of people in Tennessee that do not know Christ as Lord and Savior is increasing.

Our best efforts will never be sufficient to cure the ills of those around us if we continue to depend on our own power and wisdom to get the job done.

Prayer! The patriarchs of the Old Testament prayed. The prophets prayed. Kings and national leaders prayed. Remember Solomon and David? Elijah and Abraham, Isaiah and Daniel?

And the early church leaders prayed, how they prayed! The buildings shook when they prayed. People were loosed from prison when they prayed. People were healed when they prayed.

Oh yes, Jesus Christ prayed. He prayed for himself and he prayed for others. He prayed for steadfastness, and he prayed for God's will to be done.

Now we come to a current call for prayer and spiritual awakening.

Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has called for a series of convocations to be held on seminary campuses.

The emphasis will be on "the crucified life and prayer for spiritual renewal." He is inviting pastors and Southern Baptist leaders to participate in the convocations.

This is a serious matter. There is no reason to think otherwise, but let's underscore this: these convocations must be sincere, without pretense, clearly humble and seeking in their nature, and without wasted minutes. The time must be spent in prayer.

There must not be any speech-making or meaningless activity.

At first thought, it seemed haughty to overlook the laity in the invitations. But in reality, pastors and leaders must "get their acts together" first if the laity is expected to follow.

Much of the spiritual drought afflicting the SBC begins with leaders of churches and conventions. But we all need renewal.

Without being judgmental, many Southern Baptist lay persons have expressed concern that a shallowness is enveloping us. Though there are pockets of renewal and revival, too much effort is wasted.

Frank Houston was right. We do not need more committee meetings and pastors' meetings. We do need, we must have, more soul-searching, God-seeking prayer meetings. Hearts must be broken and poured out before the Savior Jesus. Lives must be open to change! Lifestyles must be turned around.

Vern Powers thanked God for the fellowship of friends we love and trust. That is to be sought after, yearned for, believed in. It is precious.

If we are to have that genuine love and trust, it should start at the top. Everything not all right can be made all right — with forgiveness and love that heals. That calls for renewal, beginning again.

We applaud Elliff's call for renewal and awakening. Let it begin at the top, individually and corporately. No posturing, only contrite, forgiving hearts. Then we can offer the world salt and light. **B&R**



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Personnel director to prospective employee: "One of the nice benefits of this job is that after working with us for a year, you will receive a two-week paid vacation."

Prospective employee, looking up with wide eyes: "That sounds great. Does that mean I can go to any place I want to?"

Take this truth

Have you ever noticed how most people hear what they want to hear? To say it another way, "We interpret the facts so as to apply to our own cause favorably."

People who can think objectively are rare. Those who can be completely objective are almost non-existent. When you find such people, claim them for your friends. They will help you!

Memorize this Scripture

Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to see that other people have a viewpoint also, and they may be right. ■

Office isn't in Nashville, don't work for 'Board'

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

The people who work here at the Baptist Center are dedicated Baptists 24 hours a day, around the clock, year after year.

Now that's not surprising, but it does surprise some people that we bleed when we are cut.

We have families, whether they are near or far away. We are members of Baptist churches, involved locally in church life and activities.

This means that we are Baptists around the clock, even though the haloes sometimes fall off or slip to one side.

Sometimes we laugh — and many times we cry, or feel like it.

Here are some of the things that tend to amuse most of us:

Contrary to popular belief, we work in Brentwood, not Nashville.

Another misconception that is easily corrected — none of us work at the "Board" (common name for the Sunday School Board.)

The proper employer-employee rela-

tionship is also easy to explain. Most of the folks who are "officed" at the Baptist Center are classified as employees of the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention. We don't have the employee relationship with the TBC; it comes through the Executive Board.

We all choose bigtime megachurches as our church homes. Not true. Probably 25 or 30 churches have been chosen by the staff. And, after listening to prayer requests and praises in Wednesday chapel for nine years, I can testify that we are involved in our churches, working and supporting in every way.

Does the staff tire of church-related programs and events? A big, fat NO. Not only do we have chapel each Wednesday morning, the staff has regular prayer time in

small groups.

Don't you have plush offices and summers off with pay? Hey, that's the most ridiculous idea yet. Who would want carpeting a foot thick and color television in the corporate family room? Not us, and we haven't been offered the summer hiatus either. But — we do have comfortable space and an atmosphere different from the secular world.

How about those swanky cars? That's a laugh. The only time we drive the big ones is the rare occasion when the rental car company had to upgrade from standard to luxury!

Seriously, I was taught at a young working age that your personal work ethic is a key to the pursuit of career happiness.

We are ordinary people, ready to sacrifice. I can't speak for everyone, but I do believe the staff is committed to a purpose much more enriching than just to earn a living. It is called servanthood.



ALLEN

Doing our best for all the children

think about it

— by Roger Freeman, pastor, First Church, Clarksville

Our Welcome Back to School Sunday was an opportunity to pray for our children, parents, and teachers as schools begin.

"Teaching kindergarten is like trying to keep 25 corks under water all at the same time," said one teacher.

Daily training in righteousness is the parent's highest privilege and responsibility. Parents, pray with your child every day without fail.

Talk daily with them about Jesus. Memorize verses with them like John 3:16, Psalm 23, and Psalm 100. Make spiritual education of your child the number one priority of your life.

Lou Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive

major league baseball games before being stopped by a crippling disease.

After retirement, X-rays of his glove hand showed evidence of 17 fractures, but he didn't stop playing. Sportswriters called him "Gentleman Lou" because he never argued with an umpire.

Once he was called out on strikes and spoke to the umpire. Sportswriters hastily asked the umpire what Gehrig said. He told them to ask Lou.

Gehrig's classic response was, "I told him I wish I had that one over again."

Parents, raise your child diligently and daily to love and serve Jesus Christ.

You do not want ever to say, "I wish I had that one over again."

You only get one childhood to instill in your child the devotion to God. Do it daily. You won't have an opportunity ever to do it again.

As we begin a new Sunday School year, be faithful in your attendance. Teachers, always lead the way for your class members and be very diligent in your attendance and preparation.

We serve a great Savior, and I am looking forward to serving this new school year. ■

Lowe recognized for long ministry



PAUL BROYLES, director for bivocational ministers in Holston Association, left, congratulates Haven Lowe for 60 years as a pastor, along with Tal Thompson, right, director of missions.



HAVEN LOWE, left, looks at a plaque given to him by Holston bivocational pastors. Paul Broyles, was master of ceremonies for the banquet honoring Lowe.

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Tennessee Baptists have several pastors, still at work or recently retired, who have long tenures.

Haven C. Lowe is one of them. Lowe, who has been a Baptist pastor since he was 19, has rung up 60 years on the job.

He was recognized Aug. 12 by friends, at the regular meeting of the Holston Association's bivocational pastors.

Led by Paul Broyles, the group's director, about 20 pastors, plus spouses and a few guests, had their banquet at Mountain View Church, Johnson City.

After the banquet, Broyles recognized Lowe and presented him with a plaque from the group, for long and faithful service. Several gave testimonies of Lowe's friendship and cooperative attitude through the years.

Lowe is a native of Bristol, and is a graduate of Carson-

Newman College, and South-eastern Seminary.

His pastorates include churches in Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. He has been busy serving as interim pastor since 1983, and has been with a dozen churches in that capacity.

His first pastorate was with

Second Church (now Towering Oaks) in Greeneville. He served as pastor of Grace Church, Johnson City, 1980-83. It was the second time he had served Grace.

Lowe served twice as Holston Association's moderator. He has been on several boards and committees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention — and held similar duties with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Lowe is well known among Tennessee Baptists, and especially in the east where most of his pastorates were located.

Banquet speaker was Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. **B&R**



Tennessee features

FMB trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties

Adapted from Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Three couples with strong Tennessee ties were among 61 people appointed Aug. 14 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to carry the Gospel to 29 countries.

Coming from churches large and small and from across the country, the group included a man whose physician discovered a malignant thyroid growth during physicals required for appointment. **Robert Rice**, then minister to students at **Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland**, was successfully treated for the illness, slowing his appointment process by only months. He

and his wife, Emily, will live in Southern Asia.

The appointment service, at First Church, Woodstock, Ga., brought the total number of Foreign Mission Board missionaries under appointment to 4,150. Some 2,800 people attended the service, which highlighted the Aug. 13-15 FMB trustee meeting in Atlanta.

The new missionaries included **Frank Drinkard**, who became a Christian and committed his life to full-time ministry at First Church, Woodstock. Drinkard, 42, grew up in Woodstock and Decatur, Ga. Since 1977, he has been minister of recreation at **German-town Church**. Drinkard has been a short-term volunteer in



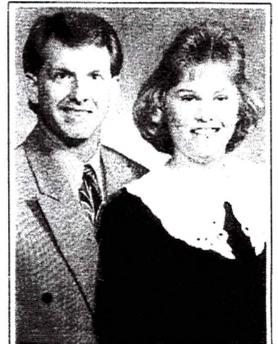
THE DRINKARDS

sports ministry in Asia, Africa, and South America. He and his wife, Chita, will work in sports evangelism in the Do-



THE HALES

minican Republic. Also appointed were **Robert W. and Ellen Morse Hale**. Hale, a native of Knoxville,



THE RICES

considers **Parkway Church** there his home church. First Church, Knoxville, also was influential in his church growth. ■

Mount Horeb Church, Ethridge, celebrates 100 years of ministry



MOUNT HOREB CHURCH, ETHRIDGE, observed its centennial on Aug. 4. Photo far left, Pastor Cecil Gilliland receives a plaque from J. C. Carpenter, director of missions, Lawrence County Association. Photo immediate left, former pastor James Mayes, now at Pleasant Hill, Cottonport, preached. Others, Pastor Gilliland, Susie Taylor, Centennial Committee Chairman; and Carpenter. The church had dinner on the grounds, and began a revival on Aug. 5.

Pastors' Retreat has serious and light moments

Camp Carson scene of Bible study, preaching

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Well, Newport's not the actual site of the Pastors' Retreat, but it is the nearest post office address.

Camp Carson, nestled on a nearby mountainside at the end of a long, beautiful road through mountain greenery, is the home of the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention's retreat for pastors.

The quiet and calm place is a retreat from hustle and bustle which pastors have to face daily.

Approximately 100 Tennessee Baptist pastors attended the Pastors' Retreat '96 on Aug. 12-15.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Department, the retreat program included several local pastors.

Also on the program, which allowed afternoons free for recreation and relaxation, were featured speakers and Bible teachers.

Jerry King, Evangelism Department director, evaluated the retreat as "one of the best we have had."

King said that the atmosphere was wholesome "and the weather cooperated."

He said, and associate Jay Austin agreed, that there was excellent cooperation and involvement on the part of those who attended.

King was particularly pleased with a new item on the program's agenda.

Wednesday night was dedicated to a talent show. "Here is where the men really had the opportunity to just have a lot of good fun and enjoyment," King said. He noted that most

of the fun was directed toward him. "We will probably keep that item on the program for next year's retreat," King added.

Jim Mil-saps, pastor of Royce Church in Oak Ridge, was talent show coordinator. He was busy the first two days, getting "talent" for the show.

Raymond White, First Church, Clarkrange, was chosen as the "surprise" preacher.

Names of the participants are put in a container, and one name is drawn to be the "surprise" preacher.

Some of the men volunteered that this makes "all of us bring along one good sermon with us."

Kathy Biggers, Gospel singer from Nashville was camp musician and music director.

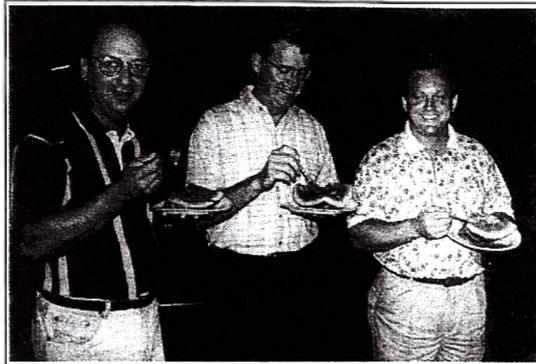
The Bible study from Ephesians was taught by Jim Fitch, retiree from Church Growth, BSSB. Fitch had an hour in each of the five sessions.

Camp co-pastors were David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, McMinnville; Verlon Moore, Hilldale Church, Clarksville; and David Thompson, Alta Loma Church, Nashville. All three men preached during the retreat.

Messages were brought also

by Frank Houston, Bethel Baptist Church, Morristown; Don Ledbetter, vocational evangelist, Brooks, Ga.; and

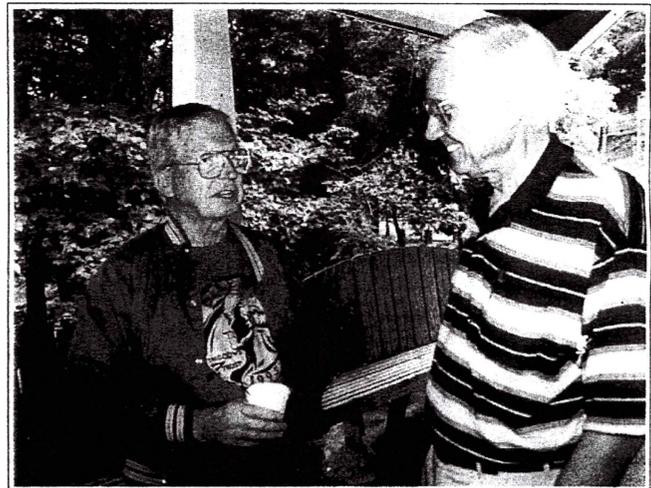
Reed Wright, former Tennessee pastor who is now vocational evangelist from Cleveland. **B&R**



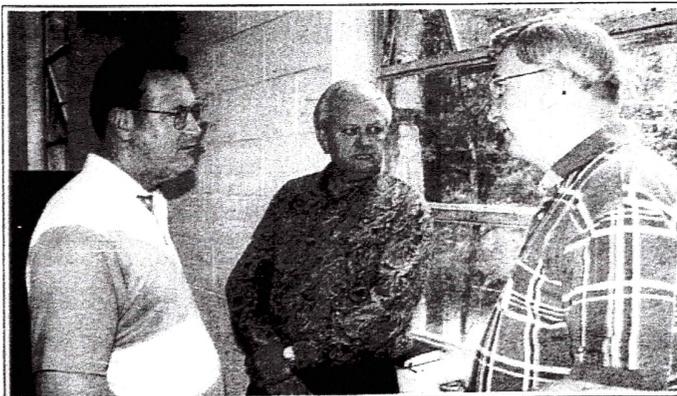
AFTERNOONS were free during the Pastors' Retreat. Many participated in a golf tournament, some played horseshoes, table tennis, or basketball. Some enjoyed the scenery. Recreation was directed by Archie Fendley, minister of activities, Central Church Bearden, Knoxville. Tuesday evening's watermelon feast provided recreation also. From left, Kevin Goza, First Church, Lebanon; Mark Stinnett, New Middleton Church, Gordonville; and Wayne Stinnett, Barnard's Grove Church, Bean Station.



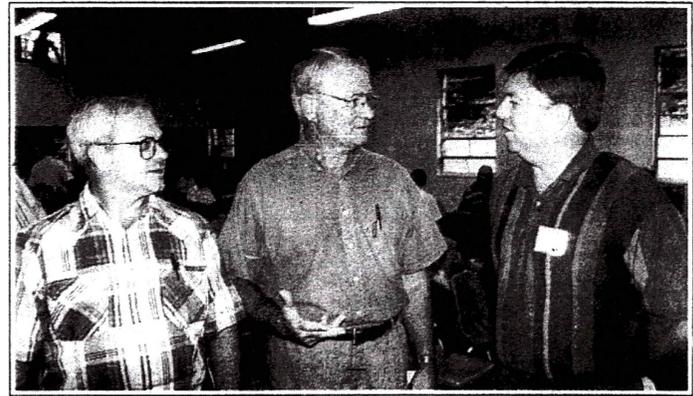
KATHY BIGGERS, camp music director and soloist, performs.



DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS enjoy relaxation and renewal at the Pastors' Retreat also. Michael Prowse, Stone Association, left; and Omer Painter, Tennessee Valley Association, talk over the options of the afternoons and discuss preaching and Bible studies.



FRED DAVIS, pastor of Victory Church, Dunlap, left, meets two of the featured speakers, Don Ledbetter, Brooks, Ga., vocational evangelist; and Verlon Moore, pastor of Hilldale Church, Clarksville.



JUST EXCHANGING friendly conversation, from left, Allen Payne, War Creek Church, Sneedville; Jim Fitch, Camp Bible study teacher; and David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, and current president of the TBC Pastors' Conference. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen



Tennessee features

Union adds senior adults to summer agenda

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The old and the new came together this summer at Union University.

The old does not refer to the senior adults who gathered on campus. Rather, the old in this case was the West Tennessee Summer Preachers School which has been going on longer than anyone can remember.

The new was Union's first senior adult conference.

Both events were held the week of Aug. 5.

The senior adult conference evolved from Union's long-time "Lunch and Learn," a quarterly program for senior adults held on the Union campus, said Paul Williams, director of in-service guidance at Union.

Some of those meetings designed to meet the needs and interests of senior adults attracted between 300-350 people, Williams said.

Based on those meetings and feeling a conference "was a good way to minister to senior adults," Union began planning the meeting about a year-and-a-half ago, Williams said.

Working in conjunction with Don Mauldin, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's family ministries specialist, Union developed a program which also included training for leaders of senior adults.

Providing training for the leaders was Elwood Doss of First Church, Martin. "There will be a good long-time benefit

from that," Williams predicted.

The senior adult conference exceeded expectations. Noting they had anticipated about 150 for the first conference, 371 people attended the opening banquet with guest speaker Bob Norman, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin.

Williams said others registered later for a total attendance of approximately 400 people.

"This is the first of what we hope will be an annual event for many years," Williams said.

John Adams, Union's vice president for campus ministries and church services, agreed. "We feel the senior adult meeting will become a tradition and will grow," he said.

The theme for the conference was "Improving With Age."

"We don't get too old to improve," Williams stressed.

The senior adults were exposed to Bible study, worship, and numerous conferences focusing on topics of special interest to them.

Doing double duty were a trio of talented and popular speakers — Warren Wiersbe, noted author from Lincoln, Neb.; Henry Blackaby, Southern Baptist prayer leader and author of *Experiencing God*; and evangelist Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala.

They spoke to both groups separately and together.

Having the senior adults meeting at the same time of



SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE participants helped welcome Henry Blackaby to the Union conference. From left are, Dan and Barbara Jett of Paducah, Ky.; his brother Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood Church, Jackson, and mother, Thelma Barksdale of Paducah; and Paul Williams, director of in-service guidance at Union. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

the Preachers School seemed to work out fine, Adams said.

"I have not heard anything negative about having the two together," he said.

"It has been a blessing in a sense because the two could share speakers," Adams added.

In addition to the main speakers, the pastors and their spouses were involved in a seminar on "Growing Toward Oneness," led by Harold and



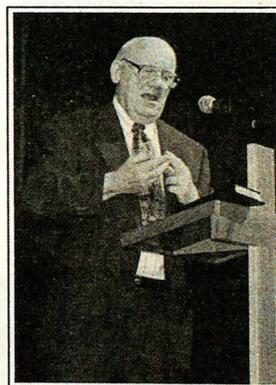
EVANGELIST Junior Hill, left, visits with summer preachers school participants Thomas Pirtle, center, interim pastor, Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, and Larry Dukes of Mississippi.

Bette Gillogly of FTO Family Ministries of Nashville.

Gary Rickman of the TBC Church Annuity Programs led a session on assisting the ministers with their "Golden Years." *B&R*



UNION UNIVERSITY hosted its annual summer preachers school in early August. From left are, John Adams, Union vice president for campus ministries and church services; Neil Moore, retired DOM and pastor, Jackson; Ricky Ray, pastor, Skyview Church, Memphis; and Noel Edwards, retired pastor, Martin.



WARREN WIERSBE makes a point during Bible study.



Franklin PK group adds missions to trip

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — For this Promise Keepers group, it also was a missions trip.

Fourteen men and teenagers from First Church, Franklin, attended the July 26-27 Promise Keepers rally in the Indianapolis RCA Dome, then led small-group sessions during Sunday School at Raceway Church in Indianapolis on July 28.

Joe Estes, pastor of Raceway Church, said the Tennesseans' trip was triggered from a mission trip to the church last summer when a group from First Church, Franklin, helped renovate the building and do community outreach.

"They did a little bit of everything," Estes said. "They were always working."

During their three days in Indianapolis this year, the Tennessee group slept in the church on air mattresses and sleeping bags.

On Sunday, the Franklin group led sessions covering topics on marriage enrichment, addictive behaviors, goal-setting, growing church leaders, and concepts from the "True Love Waits" program.

Estes said he would like the group to return to his city during next year's Promise Keepers rally.

Jonathan Barnes, a 14-year-old member of the Franklin group, said the Promise Keepers trip kept them focused on accomplishing the Lord's work. ■

Hunter First Baptist Church

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Hunter FBC and Pastor Dennis Deese invite you to join them for revival services with guest evangelist Bailey Smith of Atlanta. Revival services begin Sunday, Sept. 1, and go through Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Sunday revival services are as scheduled: 8:45 a.m., 10:55 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. Week night services will begin at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. There will be special music each service and a nursery is provided for infants to 3 years of age. Contact the church office for further information or directions.



Bailey Smith



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Henry Linginfelter

leaders

■ **Steve Smartt** has been called as interim minister to students, Westwood Church, Cleveland.

■ **David E. Hampton**, minister of music, Central Church, Johnson City, for the past 24 years, will retire Aug. 31. Hampton and his wife, Mary, will be honored by the church Aug. 25.



HAMPTON

Activities include a reception from 4-6 p.m.

■ **Bill Johnson** has been called as pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, effective July 21.

■ **Highland Heights Church,**

Memphis, has called **Brooks A. Ford**, a student at the University of Memphis, as interim minister to youth. Ford was youth minister at a church in Montana and in Washington.

■ **Edgar Pierce** has been called as pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport. The native of Carter County has served as pastor of First Church, Waukauga; Midway Church, Johnson City; and Cedar Grove Church, Johnson City.

deaths

■ **Frances P. Price**, wife of Wendell Price, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School director, died Aug. 10. Price, 71, was a member of Third Church, Murfreesboro, where the funeral was

held. Memorials to her memory may be made to the church's Building Fund or Hospice of Murfreesboro.

churches

■ **Gallatin Road Church, Madison**, will host a Mom's Club of Madison. The club's first meeting will be Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. at 1407 Oakland Acres Drive, Madison. For more information, call Regenia Wheeler at (615) 868-5742.

■ **Rosedale Church, Nashville**, will hold revival Aug. 25-29. Ron Chandler, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission in Nashville, will speak.

■ **First Church, Camden**, will hold its centennial celebration Sept. 8. Richard F. Adkinson and Paul Hall of Brentwood, former pastors, will speak. Activities include a luncheon and afternoon program.

■ The Gerald Hale Chapter of Royal Ambassadors, **First Church, Pinewood, Nunnely**, helped three youngsters entering kindergarten who needed school supplies. They collected money and bought the children gym shoes, crayons, glue, scissors, and activity boxes.

■ **Ewtonville Church, Dunlap**, will hold its sixth annual Ladies Bible Conference Sept. 13-14. The theme is "A Woman of Faith." Featured guests are Gloria Sears of Somerset, Ky., and Lois Jane Huddleston of Gallatin. For more information, contact the church at (423) 949-3141. Huddleston also

will participate in the church's Sept. 15 morning worship service.

■ **Cedar Fork Church, Philadelphia**, will hold an old fashioned tent revival Sept. 1-14, meeting at 7 p.m. Robert D. Moore and Gerald Atkins will speak.

■ A support group for expectant parents will be offered by **Second Church, Memphis**. "The Blessing of Birth" is a four-week seminar that will meet on Wednesdays, Sept. 18 - Oct. 9, from 6-7:15 p.m. For more information, call the church at (901) 682-3395.

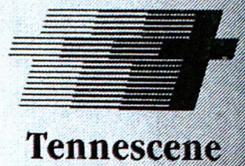
the schools

■ **Union University, Jackson**, was recognized by *Christianity Today* in its July issue as one of the nation's top 22 campus-based Christian art galleries. The gallery regularly exhibits the works of well-known Christian artists from across the nation, reported school officials.

associations

■ **Holston Valley Association** has raised \$5,275 of the \$25,000 needed for a church building volunteers from the association will construct in San Cristobal, Venezuela, next February.

■ **Jefferson County Association** will hold English as a Second Language classes Sept. 12-14. Caroline Kirschner will lead the course, which will cost \$25. Registration deadline is Aug. 27. For more information, call Karen Roman of Los Ami-



Tennescene



ANDY JORDAN, director of Camp Agape for Polk County Association, receives a 'Touch a Life' coin from Eileen Riffe, volunteer from Carlinville, Ill. Riffe and her husband, Ray, are Home Mission Board MOST (Missions on Short Term) volunteers who have done maintenance work at the camp for several years. The coin was an expression of appreciation to Jordan for his work.

gos de Cristo at (800) 704-9348 or (423) 587-4924.

■ **Shelby Association** seeks applications for executive director. John B. McBride, current executive director, will retire Jan. 5 (see story below). Resumes may be submitted to Gregory Frizzell, search committee chairman, 3759 N. Watkins, Memphis, 38127.

John McBride
retires from
Shelby Association
For Baptist and Reflector

John B. McBride, executive director of Shelby Association, has announced his retirement, effective Jan. 5.

McBride, who has served for nine years, formerly was director of the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; missionary in Jackson County (Miss.) Association; executive director, Commission on Religion in Appalachia, Knoxville; and associate director of the associational missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He also has served as director of missions of associations in Mississippi and has served on the staff of churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. He plans to retire in Lenoir City. *B&R*



MEMBERS OF Parkview Church, East Union Church, and Liberty Grove Church, Jackson, complete construction on a church building in Sericita, Brazil, this summer. An eight-member team built the church. Parkview Church also recently sent out Acteen Activators, who worked in Texas, and a team to Michigan, which supported the Michigan/Tennessee Baptist Partnership. Members of Parkview also participated in a local World Changers project.

Forest Hills Church, Nashville, breaks ground for family life center

The Rogers family, photo to left, of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, joins members participating in the Aug. 11 groundbreaking for a family life center. Lisa Rogers helps Cole while Rob, who holds Luke, helps Nick. Jerry Winfield, photo below, pastor, moved some dirt on a bulldozer. The \$4.5 million center will include educational space, a fellowship hall, and kitchen in 55,000 square feet of space.



Promise Keepers stretch Indianapolis dome capacity

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — For the third straight year, more than 60,000 Promise Keepers made their way to the Indianapolis RCA Dome.

On Friday evening of the July 26-27 rally, observers said every seat was occupied just prior to the evangelistic invitation extended by Michael Silva, an evangelist from the Chicago area.

More than 3,000 men responded to the invitation. The 1,763 decision cards indicated the majority of the decisions were first-time professions of faith.

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Many Southern Baptist churches from across the Midwest participated in Indianapolis simultaneously with the New Orleans Promise Keepers conference. A satellite hook-up was used to show the joint meeting, with a combined attendance of more than 100,000. The same technology was used to connect with the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. About 600 inmates participated and several professions of faith were registered.

The theme, "Break Down the Walls," reflected the ministry's major emphasis. Reconciliation concepts were a part of every speaker's message — reconciliation to God, reconciliation to wife and family, reconciliation with fellow Christians, and racial reconciliation. Promise Keepers leaders' hope is to break down the walls that inhibit balanced relationships in each of the areas.

"Reconciliation isn't unique

to Promise Keepers," said Steve Chevis of the Denver-based organization. "We're just putting it on the front burner."

To further emphasize the outreach to men of color, more than 3,000 scholarships were made available. When the conference began, about 800 remained available.

An offering also was received for the churches burned by racially motivated arsonists. Promise Keepers hopes to work with several church

groups, including Southern Baptists.

"When a church is burned the whole community is scarred," Chevis said. "There is fear and blame, and mistrust, and the church can be a factor for healing the situation."

"I'm talking about churches crossing racial lines ... I'm talking about Saturday work days where everybody brings their belts, their tools, their nails, and they put up dry wall." ■

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Praise God for a wonderful first year in evangelism! God has blessed this new ministry with opportunities to be in forty one (41) revivals/conferences in 1996. Almost one half of the invitations came from Tennessee pastors/churches. The following are brief testimonies from some of the Tennessee pastors I have had the joy of being with...
"Our church has been strengthened and is better equipped for Kingdom service because of your time with us. I am eagerly looking forward to having you back with us in the Spring of 1998"
Todd Wilson, Pastor, Munford Baptist Church, Munford
"This week has been one of the greatest of my entire ministry. I look forward to working with you again next year (1997) and will gladly recommend you to my friends everywhere I go."
Greg Bowers, Pastor, FBC, Portland
"So effective was his ministry in our church that our people have already requested for him to return."
Dr. Larry Gilmore, Pastor, College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin
"It was a great week for First Baptist Church, Halls. The revival did not end on Friday night, but continued on through the following Sunday with six professions of faith and two by letter in the morning service. Praise the Lord!"
Rodney Alexander, Pastor, FBC, Halls
Thank you to the other Tennessee pastors/churches for their confidence, prayers, and encouragement and the opportunity to be with them or schedule a meeting with them during our first year in evangelism.
• Colonial Baptist, Memphis
Dr. Herb Hester, Pastor
• Shelby Forest Baptist, Millington
Chuck Fowler, Pastor
• First Baptist, Millington
Dr. Ray Newcomb, Pastor
• First Baptist, Oyersburg
Dr. Buddy Boston, Pastor
• Third Baptist, Murfreesboro
Murray Mathis, Pastor
• Forest Hills Baptist, Nashville
Dr. Jerry Windfield, Pastor
• First Baptist, Union City
Billy Skinner, Pastor
• East Union Baptist, Jackson
Dr. Calvin Moore, Pastor
• Poplar Corner Baptist, Brownsville
Eddie Mallonee, Pastor
• First Baptist, Smyrna
Dr. Ken Hubbard, Pastor
• Central Baptist, Hixson
Dr. Ron Phillips, Pastor
• Peterson Lake Baptist, Collierville
Jack Moore, Pastor
• First Baptist, Greeneville
Dr. Jim Best, Pastor
• First Baptist, White House
Dr. Leslie Bruce, Pastor
• Hermitage Hills Baptist, Nashville
Dr. Dean Haun, Pastor
• Hilldale Baptist, Clarksville
Dr. Verlon Moore, Pastor
• TBC Pastors' Conf., Two Rivers Baptist, Nashville
David Daugherty, President
• First Baptist, Middleton
Robert Tyson, Pastor
• First Baptist, Sparta
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Alcohol, drugs

By L. Joseph Rosas III

Focal Passage — Daniel 1:8-16; II Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Ephesians 5:15-18

Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a virtue of the Christian life. Yet ours is a culture that glorifies in immediate self gratification. One of the sad realities is that such indulgence is manifest in the chronic abuse of drugs and alcohol. In the pressures of day to day life, some have sought solace in prescription drugs or the escape of the bottle. The Bible has both admonition and exhortation regarding Christian conduct in this area of life. Every believer must make personal decisions regarding our behavior. The Bible offers valuable insights into the basis for these decisions.

A decision based on personal resolve (Daniel 1:8-16). King Nebuchadnezzar was seeking to institute political correctness in the potential leadership core of his nation. Daniel and his friends were among those in this leadership training school. They were to become acquainted with the literature and culture of Babylon, as well as adopt the dietary and social customs of their sponsors. However, they were devout Hebrews who chose not to follow the path of least resistance. They stood up for their moral and spiritual convictions. This is a wonderful example for Christians who struggle with cultural pressures that challenge personal convictions in the area of alcohol and drugs.

A decision based on relationship with God (II Corinthians 6:16-18). We have been called to holy living. Holiness is more than the avoidance of certain sins, it involves the total commitment of the believer's life to God. We have been called and claimed by God for a specific purpose. We are to display his love and grace. We are in the world but not of the world. We should be insulated but we cannot be isolated. We are to be "salt" and "light" to our world. Our relationship with God reflected in every area of our lives should be the basis for lovingly and redemptively relating to those around us who do not know Christ.

A decision based on God's promises (ch. 7:1). "I will be a father ..." God's personal relationship with his children is the basis for his manifold promises to us. We have been given God's very great and precious promises" according to II Peter 1:4. We have all that we need to participate in the divine nature. Some Christians argue that where there are few specific commands regarding Christian behavior we are "free" to do what we want. Our decisions regarding alcohol and drugs should reflect basic principles regarding "doubtful things" outlined by Paul. Does this habit or behavior build up the body of Christ? Does this habit or behavior have the potential to become addictive? Does this habit or behavior bring glory to God? In the light of God's promises we have all that we need to fully live as his children.

A decision based on wisdom (Ephesians 5:15-18). We are to be careful how we live. Paul urges us to seize every moment for God's purpose. Instead of being controlled by wine which leads to debauchery, Christians are to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Christian life is more than a list of "dos and don'ts" it is a positive expression of the power and presence of God in everyday life. The fruit of the Spirit, which includes self-control, is the clearest evidence we are indeed filled by the Spirit. ■ — L. Joseph Rosas III is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis.

Worship and witness

By Kevin Goza

Focal Passage — Psalm 96

If today's churches are not careful, worship will become known as a lost art. So much of our attention goes into our programming, that we soon lose sight of the fact that worship is to be God-centered and God-directed.

Much of what we call the "worship service" is actually the promotion of our events and activities. We tell what we plan to do for God, rather than proclaim what God has done for us. Psalm 96 directs our attention to God, and compels us to proclaim his worthiness to all the world.

The glory belongs to God — vv. 1-6

Can we doubt the importance of singing in the worship experience?

Music and song are special to God. We are to sing a "new song" (v. 1). An outcome of worship is renewal for the worshiper. We may sing the same songs, with the same words, but to our hearts the song is made new because it tells of the freshness of our experience with God.

Convention Uniform Lesson

Lamentations 3:22-23 says that God's mercies are new every day, and so is our expression of worship.

Worship will always carry a word of witness (vv. 2-3). To worship God with an uncertain message is not true worship. The Great Command ("worship the Lord thy God ...") and the Great Commission ("Go ye into all the world ...") cannot be separated. What do we proclaim in worship? First, the fear of the Lord (v. 4). Many claim to believe in God, but never respond to God biblically.

Salvation and judgment proclaimed

By Tom Moncrief

Bible Book Lesson

Focal Passage — Revelation 14:1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, 13-15

Although Satan activates all forces at his disposal in conflict with Christ and the church, our Lord has the final word. He brings judgment upon his enemies for their evil and blessedness upon all who are faithful to him. The lamb and the 144,000 (vv. 1, 3-4) symbolize Christ and the Church. All faithful Christians stand in Christ's presence with God's name inscribed. His name is security for all who trust in him. They sing a "new song" which only they can learn because only they have had the experience of redemption. These redeemed ones are pure and faithful in their relations with God and are proving themselves faithful to God and separating themselves from worship of world power.

An angel announces judgment has come (v. 6) and proclaims the eternal Gospel "in the midst of heaven." In this way he was to be seen and heard by all. He also declares that the hour of judgment has come (v. 7). The Gospel message demands a choice of salvation or judgment. The way a person responds is proof of what he is. There is no way to escape making a choice and no way to

escape responsibility for that choice.

A second angel announces fall of Babylon (v. 8). This fall is because the "eternal Gospel" had undermined world power. John has shown at the beginning of chapter 14 the blessedness of people who worship the Lamb. Now, he shows the terrible punishment of those who worship the beast. Babylon stands for human society organized against God. She is destroyed for evil influence on other people and nations. People may be seduced to sin by evil people and things used by the devil but each is still responsible for his actions.

The third angel announces doom on worshippers of the beast (vv. 9-10). This message is to warn all people not to identify with world power and describes punishment for those who do. God, in mercy, applies measured judgment to call people to himself. Many refuse to repent even in face of God's final judgment. They will experience the fullness of God's wrath in eternal torment. This punishment is inflicted in "the presence of the holy angels and ... the Lamb." God's worshippers receive God's identification

in contrast to the mark received by worshippers of the beast. A result of true worship is to reflect God's character in Christlikeness as a believer grows in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Finally, blessings are declared for the faithful (v. 13). Refusal to worship the beast may even result in death. Even when this happens the faithful are secure with God. All who die in the Lord know "rest from their labors." Rest here denotes more than a lack of toil or labors. It also indicates refreshing and reviving. Their deeds will remain before God when all godless works are destroyed.

The Lord comes for the harvest of the earth (vv. 14-15). Seated upon a white cloud, he is a judge with authority. His golden crown shows victory has been won. The Father has committed all judgment unto the Son and calls upon him to exercise it. The harvest is going on during all the end time. Every time one trusts Christ as Savior he is added to the church. When Christ returns that will be finalized.

The whole picture shows God's control of history. All events of history move to fulfill his purposes. He is Lord over all. The call to trust and follow him needs to be heeded by all. ■ — Tom Moncrief is a member of



Bible study
for August 25



HMB radio announcements target families
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — "Save the Family," a set of 12 radio public service announcements sent to 7,500 stations nationwide, is receiving favorable responses from secular and Christian stations. Selected radio stations received a compact disc with the six 30-second and six 60-second spots in June. The 366 stations which returned the en-

closed response card indicated plans to run the public service announcements a total of 3,602 times each week.

Produced by the Home Mission Board, the ads encourage commitment to families and integrity. The package asks radio stations to "Help us conserve the nation's most precious natural resource ... the American family."

Rather than presenting a direct Gospel message, the spots attempt to "create a positive view of Southern Baptists," said Ron Lawson, director of the HMB media department. A voice at the end of each spot tells listeners the message is from Southern Baptists.

Churches can purchase the set of radio announcements without the reference to Southern Baptists and put their local church information in its place, Lawson said.

To order the radio spots, call (800) 634-2462 and request product 211-119P. The set of ads costs \$19.95. ■

Conference aids northeast Baptists

Baptist Press

ST. DAVIDS, Penn. — When Tony Kebreau returned to inner-city Boston from the first-ever Northeast Baptist Leadership Development Conference, he was intent on helping the 400-member Haitian congregation he leads grow again.

Kebreau was among 250 pastors, Sunday School teachers, deacons, discipleship trainers, missions programmers, and other leaders from the Baptist conventions of New England, New York, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, and Maryland/Delaware and the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists who participated in a leadership development conference Aug. 5-9.

The conferences provided attendees with a wide variety of practical information and

Tennessee Baptist returns home

Baptist Press

PETAH TIQVA, Israel — Delores F. Kelley, a member of Pleasant Grove Church, Hixson, returned to Tennessee in July after serving a two-year term in Israel through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps.

Kelley, a retired school teacher, served at the Baptist Village in Petah Tiqva. It is a conference center which plays a key role in training, education, and retreats for Christians in Israel. The Baptist Village is one of the few places in the world where Jews and Arabs worship to-

gether in Christ.

Kelley worked in the kitchen and with housekeeping at the camp. Though she said her contribution there was "insignificant," the camp staff was quick to disagree. They had nothing but praise for her work and her cheerful attitude.



KELLEY

What did she think of her time in Israel?

"The need for evangelism here is great," she said. ■

fellowship in a setting within a manageable distance from home. Without the conference, Southern Baptists across the region would have had to travel hundreds of additional miles to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

The training session was made possible through the conventions involved, the Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina state Baptist conventions, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and others. A seed money gift from the Cecil B. Day Foundation of Georgia made the first northeast conference a reality and will provide a financial base for next year's gathering slated for the first week of August. ■

ing on the 11,800 independent Assemblies of God congregations, a spokesperson said.

A Disney spokesman declined to comment on the boycott. ■

Former FMB leader dies

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Frank K. Means, a leader in Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board overseas efforts for 23 years, died Aug. 14 after a long illness. He was 84.

Means was one of the few people elected as a director of Southern Baptist missionary overseas work who had not served as a missionary himself. From 1954 until his retirement in 1977 he was an area secretary, first in Latin America, then the Caribbean and South America as Baptist work in the region expanded. ■

Assemblies of God boycott Disney

Associated Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The 2.5 million member Assemblies of God, the nation's 15th largest denomination, has voted to boycott the Walt Disney Co.

The boycott, adopted by the Pentecostal group's 250-member governing body and announced Aug. 14, followed by two months a Southern Baptist Convention resolution calling for church members to boycott Disney products and theme parks unless the company becomes more family oriented.

"In recent years we have watched with dismay the productions of the Disney Corporation abandoning the commitment to strong moral values, and have noted this moral shift in a number of Disney-sponsored films and events," according to the group's General Presbytery.

The resolution is not bind-

Miss America gives testimony to Oklahoma teens

Baptist Press

DAVIS, Okla. — Shawntel Smith, Miss America and former Miss Oklahoma, told nearly 5,000 youth at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly how God "has been instrumental in my life."

Serving as Miss America has given her an opportunity to be a testimony for Christ as she travels across the country, she said.

"I see being Miss America as a blessing that my Lord and Savior gave me. Just knowing that I have touched peoples' lives, and they know where I stand, has made this year worth it," she said. ■

IT'S BUDGET PLANNING TIME IN TENNESSEE!



Has your church begun planning its budget for the next church year?

If not, don't faint when you see how costs for paper, printing, and postage have increased. And, according to Dan Ferrell of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Production Services Department, postage for church mailings probably will

increase again later this year.

But there is a way to "beat the system." Let the *Baptist and Reflector* print your newsletter. By using the back page (or more) you can publish your newsletter for only \$65 per week (plus subscriptions). For one convenient price, your newsletter is typeset, printed, and mailed. This saves you money and releases your office staff for other responsibilities.

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