

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 3

Statewide Edition

January 15, 1997

## this week's news

- ▶ State evangelists to meet prior to State Evangelism Conference next week. — Page 2
- ▶ Convention observes Sanctity of Life Day on Jan. 19. — Page 2
- ▶ New welfare reform means churches may have to help carry load. — Page 3
- ▶ Cookeville organist retires after 50 years at FBC. — Page 4



FRANCES DIAL DAY

- ▶ Union City music minister honored. — Page 4
- ▶ Evidence indicates God is moving in Kenya. — Page 6

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

REGUL 370  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

## Baptists rally to aid flood victims

By Karen Willoughby  
For Baptist Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Some of the worst flooding in decades in the western United States washed away part of the foundation of home missionary Bruce Pearson's modular home in southern Oregon, but he hasn't had time to deal with it.

Like about 500 other Southern Baptists in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California, Pearson has been involved in immediate-response disaster relief efforts for the more than 150,000 people affected by a mix of heavy rain and unexpected snowmelt.

In disaster relief parlance, immediate response is providing hot meals and loving concern for those who otherwise would not have them. Mucking out flood-ravaged homes will come next, followed by repairs and renovations.

Don Hargis of California knows the drill. This is his 18th West Coast disaster in the last five years by Southern Baptists.

So does Larry Horine. It's his third disaster in Oregon in 11 months.

Disaster relief in the western United States has become an established method of expressing Southern Baptists' evangelistic heart and social concern.

"Part of the dilemma for us in the Northwest is we are just now building the relationships so they know they can call on us," said Gary Floyd, who wears the disaster relief director's hat along with many others as the Northwest Baptist Convention's missions ministry strategist.

"If they've been in disaster relief, they may know from their publications about Southern Baptists but don't know Southern Baptists are in the

Northwest," Floyd continued. "When they hear we've been here 50 years they're surprised.

"Disaster relief gives us an avenue into the community that we have not historically had," Floyd said. "It is a very overt display of unconditional love. We intentionally network with local churches so, when the unit leaves, the community knows someone still knows about them."

Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts began in Texas in 1969 and spread to other states including, five years ago, to California, said Mickey Caison, the Brotherhood Commission's national disaster relief director.

Caison left a meeting in Washington to assist in the California effort, which saw as many as 125,000 people evacuated from their homes in the wake of 40 inches of rain that fell New Year's week. ■

## Lynn Porch has surgery at Baptist

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Lynn Porch, wife of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Executive Director James Porch, had surgery Jan. 13 at Baptist Hospital here.

The surgery was performed to remove a tumorous mass from her neck. She has been in increasing pain in recent months.

She has been hospitalized since Jan. 9. An earlier procedure to open a blocked vein in one of her arms was successful.

The family thanks Tennessee Baptists and others for concern and prayer during this time. *B&R*

## Pastor's home burns Jan. 12

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The home of Kevin Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Church, Nashville, was destroyed in a fire Jan. 12.

Shrum, his wife, and three children escaped without injury from their East Nashville home.

A smoke alarm woke the family at about midnight. They spent the rest of the night in the home of a deacon of the church who lives across from the Shrum home. A few keepsakes were retrieved and a few pieces of furniture may be salvaged, Shrum reported. The house was insured.

Shrum said he is thankful that his daughter didn't sleep that night in her bedroom. The fire seemed to be centered under it.

Nashville Baptists already have delivered clothes and other gifts to the family. "We're not asking people to give us anything; we're just asking people to pray for us," said Shrum. *B&R*

## Wanted: Lottie Moon success stories

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Last year the *Baptist and Reflector* staff requested "success stories" from churches regarding their giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The response was tremendous, so the staff is making the same request once again.

What is a success story?

Here are some determining factors:

Was it a record offering? Was it a large per-

centage or amount over the previous year's giving? Did your church do something unusual to draw attention to the offering or to raise money, as compared to traditional ways such as post offices, lights on a map, etc.?

These are just a few suggestions. Send us your success story along with pertinent details and why you think it was a success. We need your stories by Jan. 29. Mail to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Attn: Lottie Moon Success Stories. *B&R*

## New TBC staffers to assist in CML, preschool work

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two new staff members have begun work in the Church Development Growth (CDG) Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Sue Raley is the new preschool ministry specialist.

She has served in various areas of ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board since 1978.

Raley holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

"Sue is one of the foremost preschool workers in the United States," said Tim Holcomb, leader of the CDG group.



MOYE



RALEY

In addition to her expertise in preschool, she also brings a wealth of information in the areas of Vacation Bible School and weekend education, Holcomb added.

"She will be a powerful addition to the Christian Growth Development Group," he said.

Jan Roberts Moyer joins the staff as a contract worker in Church Media Library.

Moyer has served as a spe-

cial worker and conference leader at the Sunday School Board since 1990. She has led conferences in all areas of Church Media Library administration, technical processes, and promotion in various churches and associations across the southeast.

Moyer is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee.

She began duties Jan. 1 as president of the Tennessee Baptist Church Media Library Organization.

"Jan has been actively involved in helping churches start media libraries throughout Tennessee and other states," Holcomb said, noting she comes with high recommendations. *B&R*

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- ▶ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 50 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$8.00, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address below.
- ▶ **To contribute a news item, call or write Editor** Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- ▶ **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- ▶ **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- ▶ **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- ▶ **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Ambers Wilson, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Eugene Cotey, Elmer Crosby, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Ray Newcomb, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Gary Watkins
- ▶ **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

**Prior to State Evangelism Conference**

# Evangelists hold annual meeting

For *Baptist and Reflector*

The annual meeting of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists will convene prior to the State Evangelism Conference Jan. 20 in the Chapel of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, announced Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, president and secretary/treasurer of the fellowship.

The meeting is open to anyone, especially Tennessee Baptists, said Lam-



GLISSON



LAMMERSFELD



LINGINFELTER



REED



WILKERSON



WUESTERS

mersfeld. The theme of the meeting is "Revival Time Celebration," and will follow one-day revivals led by many state evangelists in area churches on Jan. 19. The meeting also will follow a banquet held for evangelists on Jan. 18.

Speakers for the meeting,

which will be held from 9:50 a.m. to noon, include members of the organization. Members are evangelists who serve in the areas of preaching, music, stewardship, and special ministries such as puppetry.

Lammie Lammersfeld of Gleason, and Terry Wilkerson

lead the program are Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa, Carolyn Reed of Nashville, Phil Glisson of Memphis, and Tim and Amy Wuester of Galatin.

For more information about the program, one may contact Lammersfeld at (901) 648-5247. ■

of Lebanon, who is vice president, will speak. Other members who will

## HMB offers resources for crisis pregnancy ministry

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A crisis pregnancy is an emotionally significant event and creates a radical change of status in a person's life. Many women who experience crisis pregnan-

cies are in churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, which observes Sanctity of Human Life Day on Jan. 19.

In addition to being aware of crisis pregnancies, churches need to be equipped to minister to women, men, and families affected by abortion decisions, says Sylvia Boothe, director of Alternatives to Abortion for the SBC Home Mission Board. "Women considering abortion and those who have experienced it are in need of God's love and a demonstration of nonjudgmental love through his church," she said.

While some argue that a woman has the right to choose, "a woman has the right to be educated and counseled on the

physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual aspects of all her choices," Boothe added. "She is the only one who can make the decision. She will live with that decision the rest of her life."

The objective of Alternatives to Abortion Ministries is to assist churches, associations, and state conventions in providing ministries to women facing crisis pregnancies or who have experienced abortion.

Women in crisis pregnancies come from all backgrounds and socioeconomic standings, Boothe said. "She could be your sister, daughter, niece, cousin, neighbor, friend, church member, or even you."

And, Boothe added, women aren't the only ones affected. Men also need help when their child has been aborted, she said.

Boothe listed ways churches and members can become involved in alternatives to abortion:

- (1) Pray.
- (2) Become educated on issues surrounding abortion and

alternatives to it.

(3) Expose school administrators to sex education material teaching chastity.

(4) Keep up to date on family issues and inform your church.

(5) Ask your pastor to preach on the sanctity of human life.

(6) Become involved in or start a crisis pregnancy center. Needs range from volunteer counselors to medical supplies.

— Key facts are:

(1) Women can legally abort their unborn child at any time throughout their entire nine months of pregnancy, for any reason.

(2) Every third baby conceived in the U.S. dies from abortion. That's one baby every 20 seconds; 1.5 million annually.

(3) The average abortion procedure takes five to 10 minutes while the average wait for adoption takes two to 10 years.

For more information, contact the Alternatives to Abortion Ministries office at 1 (800) 962-0851. ■



## Abortion rate drops to lowest total in 20 years

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The nation's abortion rate in 1994 dropped to its lowest level in nearly 20 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Jan. 3.

About 1.2 million abortions were performed in 1994, down nearly 5 percent from 1993 and the fourth straight annual decline.

The nation's abortion rate — the ratio of abortions to the number of women of child-bearing age — also dropped for the third straight year. The ratio — 21 abortions for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 — is the lowest level since 1976.

The Atlanta-based CDC speculated that possible causes for the decline could

be reduced access to abortion clinics, changes in attitude about abortion, and the possibility that the number of unintended pregnancies had decreased.

Abortion-rights proponents agreed that one reason abortions have declined may be that they are becoming less available.

But Laura Echevarria, a spokeswoman for the National Right to Life Committee, said the abortion rate is probably dropping because of education by pro-life groups. "We point them in the direction of a church or pregnancy crisis center, and tell them there are other alternatives besides abortion," she told Associated Baptist Press.

"You have to make sure women know

where they can turn."

Another possible factor suggested in the CDC study is that large numbers of women are aging beyond normal child-bearing years. While the number of women of reproductive age has increase by 12 percent since 1980, the age distribution has shifted toward the later, less-fertile years, the study reported.

In 1980, 58 percent of women in their child-bearing years were under 30. In 1994, that percentage dropped to 46 percent, according to the Census Bureau.

About 88 percent of abortions were performed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, the CDC reported. Eighty percent of women receiving abortions were unmarried. ■

# Welfare reform to challenge states and churches to action

By Victor Lee  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Various facets of the Welfare Reform Act began to take effect with the new year, leaving the poor less and less certain of where they will get help and heightening the call for states to put their new welfare plans in place.

When President Bill Clinton signed the welfare reform bill last August — pleasing most Republicans and angering many of his own party — he cleared the social services chess board and sent state governments, social agencies, faith-based organizations, and the poor scrambling to see who will give what to whom, and when.

The welfare system has been relatively unchanged for 30 years, but it will be replaced by "50 experiments," according to Marvin Olasky, an evangelical who has written extensively on welfare's effectiveness in empowering the poor.

Upon signing the Congress' welfare reform, Clinton said he wanted to make "welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life."

Abolished was Aid to Families With Dependent Children, the welfare system workhorse that pays out cash benefits to almost 13 million people monthly, more than half of whom are children.

The welfare law took effect

Oct. 1, but its major provisions will be implemented in increments, with many not in effect until July. July 1 is the deadline for states to submit to the federal government their plans for welfare. At a conference of state welfare officials in mid-December, it was determined that at least 38 states have submitted their plans.

The old system will be replaced by a system of block grants and new authority for the states. Meanwhile, the poor wait to see how the systems will work, and churches and other faith-based organizations wait to see what role they may play.

Advocates of social reform say the old system put America in a give-and-grab cycle that took the "in" out of independent. Said Clinton, "A long time ago I concluded that the current welfare system undermines the basic values of work, responsibility, and family, trapping generation after generation in dependency and hurting the very people it was designed to help."

Stanley Carlton-Thies of the Center for Public Justice agreed. "The way general help was given to everyone actually encouraged some people to make bad choices," he said. For instance, a single mother might choose not to marry but to live with a man because she got more benefits while single.

"What welfare reform can

do now, in the best sense, is turn that around. What welfare should do is help a person get to the point of not needing it. The system has to be more relational, more personal, and there ought to be an explicitly moral aspect to the help."

The new systems will, theoretically, personalize welfare, empowering local entities such as churches and parachurch organizations to offer a more practical helping hand to, as Clinton put it, "give people on welfare a chance to draw a paycheck, not a welfare check." A key element of the reform is that private agencies and religious groups can contract with government to provide services.

It is an effort to have less of a "big brother" mentality and more of a "helping hand" approach to welfare. Said Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana: "This legislation is a step in the right direction and I strongly support it. But it is not the final word on welfare reform. Many of the problems of welfare reform are problems of the heart and home. The government cannot solve these problems and it should not be in the position — as it has been for 30 years and \$5 trillion — of exacerbating them."

Coats has been behind a move to "shift resources and ef-

fort out of Washington and back to local communities where those resources and efforts should be rooted."

Will that help? That is hotly debated in some quarters. Representatives of charities cried foul on behalf of the poor when Clinton signed the bill. A statement from Bread for the



World, the self-proclaimed nation's largest Christian anti-hunger organization, said, "While some members of Congress say churches and charities can

make up for cuts to welfare programs, leaders of these organizations say that is not realistic. To cover the \$53 billion in proposed cuts over six years, each of the 350,000 churches in America would have to add more than \$150,000 to their budgets."

Many reform-minded people think the charities are voicing alarm too soon.

Private groups, including churches and faith-based organizations, will unquestionably be asked to shoulder much of the welfare burden, Carlton-Thies stated.

"My guess is that every single state will be turning to the non-government community, and in many cases explicitly the faith community," he said. "This is partly a monster of the conservative religious community's making; we've had the

sense that government welfare is all bad, and now they say, "We give it up," and the churches have to do it."

Churches won't have to do it all, and they won't have to do it alone, said Gerald Hutchinson, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church and community ministries department. He urged churches not to be intimidated.

"I do see this as an opportunity, and the churches must take some initiative," he said. "I'd encourage churches not to be scared, not to be overwhelmed. I think they'll find government welcomes the partnership. They (government) may not always know what we can do, but I think with dialogue we can find partnership. There's an opportunity for a win-win for everybody. Be open. Don't be scared. Share information."

Carlton-Thies said he is struck by the biblical story of the sending out of the 70. "The fields are white for harvest," he said. "There's a lot of opening here for new kinds of ministry." Yet he admitted being "kind of skeptical" as to whether the Christian community has what it takes to respond. "I think we're not real ready," he said. "I think some hearts are in the right place, but we also have some other agendas." ■ — Lee is a freelance writer in Wake Forest, N.C.

## Churches urged to begin plans for ministries to the poor

By Victor Lee  
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Pastors and church members have more questions than answers as the United States enters the early stages of welfare reform. They keep hearing about the church doing more to help the poor, and about state-church partnership. The bottom-line question is: What does all of this mean to your church?

Pastor Charles Roesel of First Church, Leesburg, Fla., has a frank answer: "The churches are going to have to pick up and do what they should have been doing all along."

Saying welfare reform "doesn't intimidate me in the least," Roesel insisted the church is called, and has the resources, to make an eternal impact on the needy.

"I'm convinced that the welfare system should have never been established," he said. "If churches would do what we ought to do, we wouldn't have an inefficient system."

Roesel said he believes ministry-based evangelism, or servant evangelism, is going to sweep the country. "And the SBC will pick it up," he said of Southern Baptists. "Ministry evangelism is a bullet that will fit any gun, no matter how large or small. We'll see a new day. We'll become known as a church that cares instead of wastes. The world is not impressed with baptisms, budgets or buildings, but it is impressed when it sees us helping hurting people."

Roesel isn't spouting mindless philosophy.

He took a mid-sized church 20 years ago and developed servant ministries that have touched countless numbers of lives. A \$2 million Ministry Village is near completion. It will cover a city block and consolidate the church's rescue mission, women's care center, pregnancy care center, children's shelter, and home for abused girls.

First Church of Leesburg started off slowly and grew, as all servant ministries must.

But the key is to get going.

"This (welfare reform) opens up enormous opportunities that have been there all along," said Marvin Olasky, an evangelical author who has written extensively on the subject. "The incentive and urgency is all the greater now for people to be involved with the needs of poor folks in the community, materially and spiritually."

"Churches generally, and deacons and staff, need to look into our neighborhoods and see what the needs are and respond. The church has got to be thinking through what it can do."

"It has taken us 70 years to get into this present welfare mess, and it's not going to be fixed on any given day. But we can start the ball rolling in a different direction. If churches are not prepared now, it's not surprising. The question is, How can we get the ball rolling so that we take more and more responsibility, so that we look less to government and more to ourselves?"

There are plenty of servant ministry-minded people to help answer that question, including Deanna Carlson, community outreach coordinator for the Family Research Council. Her job focuses on welfare replacement — how the church can reach out to the needy.

"Churches should not panic, but they should begin to form a philosophy of how they are going to deal with the needy in their area," she noted.

Carlson reminds churches the full effect of welfare reform will come in increments, with total loss of benefits to the poor not coming, in some cases, for five years. She said churches have a two-to-five-year window in which to have a firm, workable plan in place.

"The first thing I would encourage a church to do is revisit their mission statement," Carlson said.

"Every church has a commitment, whether they're doing it or not. My clarion call is to pastors; they really need to take leadership in forming outreach programs." ■

## CLC requests more CP funds

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission made a public pitch for greater funding to the SBC Executive Committee Jan. 6 — although members of the Executive Committee were not in town at the time.

Calling for a larger piece of the convention's financial pie, CLC trustee officers released a resolution during an afternoon press conference in Nashville, pertaining to the SBC's Cooperative Program funding percentages. The resolution called on Executive Committee members to loose the CLC from its "current fiscal restraints."

In the current budget, the CLC receives .99 percent or \$1,437,455. The resolution asked for a "a level of no less than 3 percent," which would add nearly \$3 million to the CLC's budget. The resolution also called for a maximum of 4.2 percent by the year 2000. ■

## Retiring after 50 years as church organist

# Cookeville FBC honors Frances Dial

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — Frances Dial is a good example of what commitment to God, dedication, and plain, old hard work can accomplish.

Her 50-plus years of music ministry culminated Jan. 5 as friends and family gathered at First Church to honor her upon her retirement as organist.

The city of Cookeville took note as well. Mayor Jean Davis presented Dial a key to the city and a framed proclamation proclaiming Jan. 5 as Frances Dial Day in Cookeville.

Not bad for someone who had never played an organ when she first began attending the church as a college student at Tennessee Tech in the early 1940s. In fact, the church didn't even have an organ when she first attended.

Because of her music background in band and orchestra, the Lenoir City native soon became the backup pianist, fill-



FRANCES DIAL has been a fixture at First Church, Cookeville, for 50 years. With her is Minister of Music Jonathan Nelms.

ing in as needed. She laughs now that "I wasn't that great a pianist. I learned as I went and they had to sing what I could play."

In 1946 First Church bought its first organ and Dial became the organist with her only instruction coming from the man who installed the Hammond organ with draw bars. That original organ now

sits in Dial's home. The church gave it to her when they bought a new organ. "It still plays," she says.

Her current expertise on the organ truly was on-the-job training and a lot of practice. Noting she could only play three flats at first, church members soon became familiar with the song, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee." "We sang that song about every Sunday," she laughed.

In 1948 Dial left Cookeville and moved to Memphis to attend nursing school. Three years later she returned and the next week became the organist again at First Church, a position she would hold until she decided to retire this year.

Her ministry at FBC has spanned six pastors, eight ministers of music, and numerous interims. The 75-year-old Dial has had good relationships with all.

Dial admits, however, with a grin that there was one former minister of music who tried her patience at times. "I would go home after choir practice and write out a letter

of resignation in my head, but I never put it on paper," she laughed.

She also has had good relationships with the church's pianists including Kaye Ryon with whom she has played duets with for the past 18 years. Ryon acknowledges Dial "has been the boss," during that time. Dial just grins and notes "age has its good side."

Current Minister of Music Jonathan Nelms did some research and estimated Dial has accompanied more than 2,600 worship services and played 10,000 plus hymns, not including countless weddings and funerals she has done over the years.

"Frances is an institution here," Nelms said. "To me she is an inspiration for faithful dedication and service," he said.

"She served week in, week out for 50 years. What we are honoring today is her commitment to music ministry," he added.

Dial has seen many changes in music ministry over the years. When she first began at Cookeville First the church didn't have a paid minister of music. Anthems were rarely played and it was hard to find piano duet books. Now all three are commonplace in churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dial's philosophy about what she has accomplished throughout the years is simple. "The Lord helped me develop my talent and I've just considered what I do a contribution to the worship service.

"I'm not a performer, I'm a contributor."

Dial retired in 1984 as a nurse. During her second "retirement" she plans to continue something else she loves to



Tennessee  
features

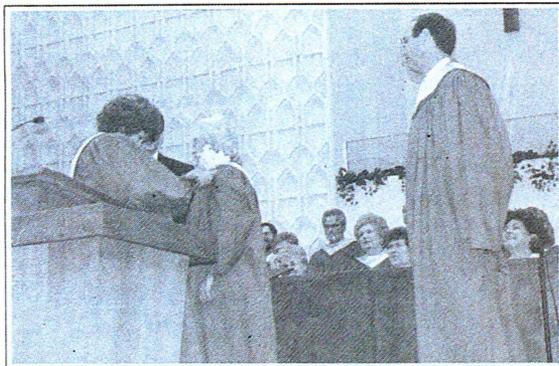


COOKEVILLE MAYOR Jean Davis, left, presents a key to the city to Frances Dial.

do — travel. She has traveled to every continent in the world except Antarctica. "I don't like cold weather and there's not much to see there except penguins," she rationalizes. Missions is another love of Dial, who is president of the church's Baptist Women group, and a missions trip to Chile is included among her travel.

And, she hasn't played her last song at First Church. Nelms said Dial will continue to fill in occasionally and will join him "on the circuit" in area funeral homes.

Dial's attitude as the organist has been to "do my best" and not "fret if it doesn't come out quite right." Her favorite hymn perhaps sums up that attitude as well as her 50-plus years of ministry — "It Is Well With My Soul." ■



KAYE RYON, who has played the piano for 18 years at First Church, pins a corsage on Frances Dial on her retirement as organist after 50 years. Looking on is Robert Fuller, president of the sanctuary choir.

## Union City church honors music minister with 'thank you' day

For Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — For the past 22 years Barry Keathley has served the Lord as minister of music at Second Church here, beginning when he was a student at Union City High School.

In December the church recognized Keathley with a surprise "thank you" service.

A formal proclamation was read during the church's morning worship service proclaiming Dec. 1 as "Barry Keathley Day" in Union City. There were also letters and congratulations offered from across the city, county, state, and country.

The church's evening service was transformed into a "This Is Your Life"

program for Keathley. His brother, Bryan, sang one of Keathley's favorite hymns, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

A host of people shared with the congregation some of their experiences with Keathley. Among them were former Second Church pastors George Horton, Noel Edwards, Jerrell White, Ben Wilkes, and Paul Veazy.

Keathley was presented a plaque by state representative Phillip Pinion, was given an inspirational print by deacon Larry Essary, and near the conclusion of the program, interim-pastor John Adams, a Union University vice president, announced a \$10,000 scholarship created at the school in honor of Keathley. Keathley's wife, Janet, also was honored. ■



NOEL EDWARDS, former pastor of Second Church, Union City, and his wife congratulate Barry Keathley as Barry's wife, Janet, looks on. Keathley was surprised by the congregation with a special 'thank you' day.



INTERIM PASTOR and Union University vice president John Adams, left, announces a \$10,000 scholarship that has been created at the university in honor of Barry Keathley, minister of music at Second Church, Union City.

# When Christians don't merit label

**L**abeling people as Christians can be a tricky undertaking.

You see, we don't always live up to the designation.

Let's just forget for a moment that some people believe that nationality, place of birth, or having Christian parents, automatically qualifies a person as Christian.

In the first chapel of the new year, James Porch reminded the Executive Board staff that individuals and churches often lack a sense of immediacy in evangelism. Later we sang four or five hymns, all bearing the message of evangelism.

The point was effective — especially as we sang "I Love to Tell the Story." Do we explore our hearts as we voice the words? Do we challenge our churches to be evangelistic churches? Are we really eager to "tell the story," or do we just enjoy singing about it?

Bill Webb, editor of the Missouri *Word and Way*, once related an astounding truth that fits here.

"An associate editor for the Foreign Mission Board's *The Commission*," he said, "once quoted a Baptist leader who lived out his faith under a totalitarian eastern European regime.

"The writer had asked about the difficulty of expressing faith in a land with such harsh limitations on freedom, particularly on religious freedom.

"The subject of her interview thought just a moment before responding, 'We have more freedom than we use.'"

Americans have more freedom than we use! Yes, that is true. And it is also true that people and church

often lose the sense of the immediacy of evangelism.

No doubt, most Christians are sincere about setting a good example, doing the right thing, using good manners, taking care not to offend our neighbors and friends, living a witness by our actions.

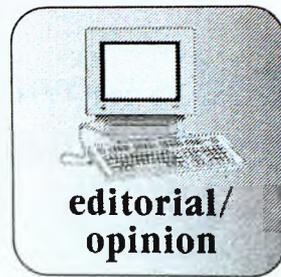
But Jesus the Christ was not content to just set a good example, or to simply concentrate on doing the right thing.

The boldness of his life did not allow timidity or wasting time. He did not attend a Baptist church, because there is no record of his singing hymns!

More importantly, he lived on the cutting edge of society, he constantly exposed himself to the dangers of insulting the political and religious leaders.

He set his course and enunciated his motto as a youth, "Didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?"

**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**



## Stay tuned to legislature; there's much work to do

It is time for Tennessee Baptists to gear up for the 1997 legislative watch.

But we mean to do more than "watch." This current legislative period may be one of the most crucial times in recent Tennessee political activity.

At the forefront of the legislative session, there stands an infamous first approval of a bill to allow voting on a state-sponsored lottery. It slipped through last spring. It requires two more successful votes before becoming law.

But Tennessee Baptists can help to stymie this bad

He didn't waste time on excuses, he did not waver when the opportunities came. In fact, he made opportunities. It was a church leader, Nicodemus, who was told simply that he must be born again. He went to Jesus with questions, and Jesus gave it to him — quickly and without diluting it.

We live in a world of "now." We cannot stretch the reality of that. Now is now. And the urgency, the immediacy of evangelism is now.

Christians who care will be active. Individually and as churches, we indeed have more freedom than we use. If we truly love to tell the story of Christ, we will tell it now, and now and now. **B&R**

idea. There are some new legislators on Capital Hill this session. We need to let new and re-elected legislative people know that a lottery seriously hurts the people who can least afford to be hurt. Let them know that Tennessee does not need to award a few lottery "prizes" which come from money wagered by needy or greedy people. Let's put a stop to this now.

A lottery (gambling) will always be a danger because it promises instant wealth, but only to a few. Contact your General Assembly representatives and let them know how you feel about gambling. **B&R**

### Just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Start with a smile

Captain: "This storm is getting worse by the minute. Does anyone here know how to pray?"

Charlie, stepping forward: "I do, sir."

Captain: "Good. You pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets. We are one jacket short."

#### Take this truth

When do you pray?



WOOD

new task."

#### Memorize this Scripture

"I will fast ... and go in unto the king ... and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16). Esther was willing to risk her life in order to save her people.

#### Pray this prayer

Lord, please teach me not only to pray, but *how* and *when* to pray. ■

## Fair and warmer weather forecast not always accurate

Winter time in Tennessee can offer up surprises. Practically the only certain thing about winter is the calendar specification — half of December, all of January, February, sometimes March.

The day-to-day climate is uncertain. But once you get used to that, it's clear sailing. I had rather live with weather than to try to live without it.

I realize that winters in Tennessee can blitz through the state with brutal frenzy, and it's part of life.

But occasionally the uncertainty of it makes us sort of peevish. We want to know what each day will bring — long before the day arrives.

Back on the farm, we relied on those terse one liners from the "weather bureau." The morning paper would report a simplistic forecast such as, fair and warmer, cloudy and cool, unseasonably cold today, or afternoon thunder-showers.

The radio station reported the same way, but we would usually get out of it a

### one word more

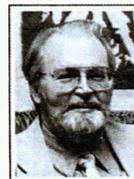
— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

vague idea of the possibilities, such as thirty percent chance of morning showers, cold front from the midwest could cause mixed precipitation.

Now granted that the forecasts did not offer anything definite, but they were something. And, when the forecast is that simple, it can be more accurate. I don't remember the reports missing the mark very often. How could they?

Forecasting weather in Tennessee is often like a guessing game. There are so many "ifs" involved. The state's geography makes it difficult.

Living in Maryland was different. When the forecaster (sometimes called meteorologist) rattled on about a snowstorm roaring eastward from Texas and across the southland, we knew it would



ALLEN

swing north along the coast and dump a heap of snow on us Marylanders.

And on the farm my Dad long ago would look to the horizon and spot some clouds gathering in a certain area, he would say, "We'll probably have a gully-washer from that one, it's coming from the muddy corner."

I can sympathize with the weather forecasters. They can take the computer summaries, match them with historical patterns, and do whatever it is that they do — but they won't always be right.

It can leave us feeling nervous, probably because we can't control the weather.

Sometimes it's best to just "cool it," and remember that the blizzards, heat waves, dry times, and even the storms from the muddy corner, won't last forever. God is God of nature, and I'm satisfied with that. ■

## Faithfulness should be goal for fathers

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

In the parable of the talents, Jesus said one response from God when we get to heaven is, "Well done, good and faithful servant." What does it mean to a family whose father can expect to gain that response?

Faithfulness means reliability, steadfastness, integrity, etc. It has an implication regarding time that is lasting.

There are four areas of life to be considered in the faithfulness concept: family relationships, financial responsibility, faith responsiveness, and friendship reliability.

A man must be faithful to his family in time and touch. There is no substitute for a father's time with his family. Someone else might take the children fishing, to a ball game, or a movie — but they

still have only one father. He needs to be there, and to be involved. Although societal expectations are changing gradually, men still have difficulty understanding the importance of hugs, kisses, and pats.

None of us can long survive without physical touch from other human beings.

Men also must be faithful to their financial responsibilities in tithes and treasure. Men may not realize what blessings can be lost by the family when they do not tithe. Unfaithfulness in treasures may lead to placing toys before family.

Men must be faithful to their faith

through their testimony and their time. Even with programs like Promise Keepers, it is true that there are more women than men in churches. It is imperative that men be faithful in the time they give to the Lord's service.

Men need to have fellowship with other men. A man needs to be faithful in his friendship reliability. I suggest trust and teamwork. When people fail to live up to our trust, we feel injured.

We must prove our trustworthiness to friends, instead of adopting the world's attitude of withdrawal. We also must emerge from the "what's in it for me" attitude. To be faithful in friendship, men will adopt an attitude of teamwork that assumes the right share of responsibility.

Build good family relationships. ■

# God is moving in Kenya — 130 baptisms every week for 40 years

By Mark Kelly  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — God is moving in Kenya, thanks in part to Southern Baptists, a Kenyan Baptist leader said during a recent visit to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board headquarters here.

"God has done great things in our country since 1956, when the first Southern Baptist missionaries came," said Samson Kisia, moderator of the Kenya Baptist Convention. Kisia was in the United States to celebrate the fulfillment of a three-year partnership with black and white Baptist conventions in South Carolina which resulted in 40 new churches and 16,561 decisions for Christ.

Baptists in Kenya have seen an average of one church started and 130 people baptized every week for the past 40 years, Kisia said. Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers have played a critical role in those results.

"I myself am a product of a Southern Baptist missionary preaching in a marketplace," said Kisia. "If you hadn't sent him, I think I wouldn't be saved even now."

Southern Baptist mission work in Kenya began in a difficult time when the country was fighting its war of independence, and progress has not

come easy, Kisia said.

"The work has been costly to us all. Two missionaries and two missionary children are buried in Kenya. Many nationals have sacrificed their work, health, and lives to serve Jesus," he said.

"We had a very hard start and we have planted for many years, but now it is harvest time in Kenya. Many people are coming to Jesus, and Kenya Baptists are working shoulder-to-shoulder with Southern Baptists to carry the Gospel to every person in Kenya before the year 2000."

Kisia told about a 75-year-old missions volunteer who joined a witnessing effort in an area that had no churches. One 85-year-old Kenyan broke into tears upon hearing the Gospel,

and the volunteer led him to Christ. After they prayed together, the old man grasped the volunteer's hand and said,

"The Lord sent you, old like me, from far to save me." The old man was one of 36 people in that village baptized into a brand new church, Kisia said.

"Kenya Baptists are pushing to the Last Frontier to reach the unchurched and the refugees," he said. "We are responding to responsive people throughout Kenya. The Lord is doing great things in our country now."

"I want to thank Southern Baptists for coming to Kenya, but I also want to say that we still need you. ..."

The harvest in Kenya has

come as missionaries and volunteers have been able to work with dedicated leaders in Kenya, said Sam Turner, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed in Nairobi.

"Pray with us that God will help us push back the envelope of darkness and sin so we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all Kenyans," Turner said. ■



**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**  
Manufacturers Baptistries Signs  
Lights Steeples  
TOLL FREE 1-800-446-7400  
FAX: 804-622-2210 Steeples  
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Call for Free  
**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

## Classified

**WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA**  
Luxury river cruise, Moscow to St. Petersburg (9 stops). All inclusive: meals, sightseeing and outside cabin. \$2978 from Atlanta, June 14-28. If you could take only one more trip in your life,

Harold & Opal Anderson  
3420 Richmond Rd., Montgomery, AL 36111  
Phone (334) 281-5700

**NEEDED:** Receptionist/printer; 30 hours per week; send resume to Randy Bennett, Colonial Baptist Church, 1503 Colonial Road, Memphis, TN 38117

**A & O CHURCH FURNITURE**  
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282  
— PEW —  
UPHOLSTERING  
1 (800) 523-9058  
NC 1 (800) 222-7895  
REFINISHING

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

**VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY**  
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688  
We've built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.  
**Church Interiors of Nashville**  
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERING  
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions  
Lighting and Complete Renovations  
Free Estimates and Interior Design Consultation

## Divinity Dean

Gardner-Webb University is seeking to fill the position of Dean for the School of Divinity. Applicants must hold the Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) and be published in a scholarly field. Candidates must demonstrate proven administrative, academic, and communication skills, with a deep commitment to theological education, the local church, and historic Baptist principles. Letters of interest or recommendation should be postmarked by Jan. 31, and sent to: Dr. Gil Blackburn, VP and Dean of Academic Affairs, P.O. Box 997, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017

The School of Divinity was founded in 1992, offers the Master of Divinity degree and holds associate membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. It is an academic unit of Gardner-Webb University — a coeducational, church-related institution with an enrollment of 2,760, located on a beautiful campus in Boiling Springs, N.C., 45 miles west of Charlotte. Gardner-Webb does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, gender, handicap, or national origin.

## Kenya partnership deemed a success

NAIROBI, Kenya — A history-making partnership with a predominantly white Baptist convention and a black convention, along with FMB missionaries and Kenya Baptists resulted in 40 new churches and 16,561 decisions in three years.

B. Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the partnership "helped our people see we're not just a historical, traditional group of Baptists. We're doing something new and challenging. We're opening ourselves to God."

The convention's partnership with the Education and Missionary Convention of S.C. produced 720 volunteers. ■



20' to 33' Buses By **CHAMPION** MOTOR COACH INC.

## Church Buses

- 12 to 38 adult capacity
- Over 20 used buses for sale
- Rental buses available
- Guaranteed Buy Back Program
- We Buy Used Buses

## Carpenter Bus Sales

P.O. Box 2126  
Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-2126

Call Henry Headden today:  
1 (800) 370-6180  
1 (615) 371-6180

"Ask about our Rental Bus Program."



**Crusader: 15-Passenger (No CDL Required)**  
(13 with Rear Storage Compartment)

## Partnership Prayer Requests January

- 15 — Pray for regional "Here's Hope — Christ" training to be held Feb. 22 in six regions of Poland.
- 16 — Pray for Charles Dill, associational missionary for Oakland County Association, and his wife, Shirley.
- 17 — Pray for Prum Tye, a Cambodian pastor to Cambodians in London, Ontario, Canada.
- 18 — Pray for the Baptist churches in Poland that need financial support for renovation and expansion of their buildings.
- 19 — Pray for the deaf ministry in the San Jose area of Costa Rica.
- 20 — Pray for Armstrong Avenue Church, Coquitlam, British Columbia, and its members as they seek a pastor.
- 21 — Pray for James Kennedy, who was recently elected first vice president at the Baptist State Convention of Michigan annual meeting.

# Lord of life

By Donna Wright

## Focal Passage — Matthew 9:18-31, 36-38

Jesus raised three people from the dead. One was merely dead, one was truly dead, and Lazarus, well, he was real dead. In this week's lesson, the "merely" dead person is the "ruler's" only daughter.

She had just died, and her father went to Jesus and begged him to come and "lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live" (Matthew 9:19).

The ruler knew he had no power over life. But, he knew who did.

In Luke 7, Jesus passes by a funeral and raises the only son of a widow.

Then, there was Lazarus. He had been dead for four days. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were friends of Jesus. Both sisters held Jesus responsible for the death of their brother, because he hadn't come to them right away. Jesus went to where Lazarus was buried, and told him to "Come forth" (John 11:43). And, even though he had been dead for four days, Lazarus left his tomb, and rejoined his family.

All of these resurrections had things in common.

In each instance, Jesus took pity on those who were truly mourning.

When attending a funeral, doesn't your heart go out to the people who loved the deceased? Don't you feel inadequate saying all the "right" things? "I'm so sorry. If there is anything I can do..."

Jesus must take human life very seriously, or else, why would he have raised any of the three of these people from the dead?

There are many issues today which deal with human life, and the fact that we, humans, want to take control of it.

Abortion and euthanasia are at the top of the list of how we want to take control. Like Satan before us, we want to be God and decide who should live and who should die.

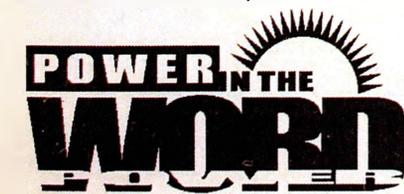
If the law continues to allow euthanasia at the current rate, I am afraid that we will start having elderly or invalid family members "put down," like lame horses. Is my son someday going to say, "Mom has lived her life, I have two kids in college and just cannot afford to help her anymore."

Jesus is the Lord of human life. We are not. I don't want that kind of responsibility and know I do not have the wisdom to accept it.

Jesus dealt with many people who were ill. Not once did he say, "Let us put this person out of his misery." Instead, the book of James says that we should send elders to anoint with oil and pray for the sick.

Jesus looks at us, seeing us as sheep without a shepherd, helpless and harassed. But, he commands us to go into our churches and communities to work "the harvest."

Are we? Better yet, are you? This week look for opportunities to provide necessities for those in need, and Christ for all who seek. ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Newport.



# Peter, the apostle

By Mike Shelton

## Focal Passage — Matthew 4:18-20; 16:13-23

This week's lesson examines the relationship between Jesus and Peter. The lesson looks at some of the major highs and lows in Peter's walk with Christ and at how Jesus responded to him. The responses of Jesus to Peter give us clues as to how the Lord responds to people today who exhibit the same types of spiritual ups and downs.

### Peter follows Jesus — ch. 4:18-20

This passage tells us about the initial call of Jesus upon two brothers' lives. One was named Simon and the other Andrew. Two things stand out about this passage. One is the commanding tone of Jesus' call. Jesus seems to be laying claim to the lives of Simon Peter and Andrew in a direct way in this passage. Jesus calls all people in the same way. The fact that the Lord has created us, sustained us, died for us, and risen again for us gives him the right to approach us with the direct command to follow him.

## Family Bible Lesson

The second thing that stands out in this passage is the quickness of the brothers' response. They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. That's the kind of response Jesus wants to see from all those he calls. While we are not told explicitly how Jesus felt when he saw their immediate and complete devotion to him, we can be sure that he was pleased. He is always pleased with those who follow him in this way.

### Peter confesses Jesus as Messiah — ch. 16:13-23

These verses tell us of the time when Jesus asked

the disciples a very important question. He asked for the disciples' own thoughts about who he was.

Peter gave another good response, just as he had done in Matthew 4.

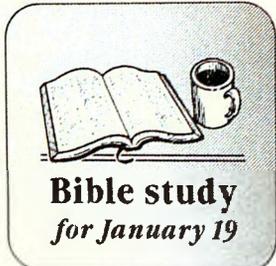
He chimed in before anyone else and said, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus responded to Peter's statement by pronouncing a blessing upon Simon Peter and then changing his name to reflect this new bedrock kind of faith and confession he had just demonstrated.

Christ is happy with those who express full belief in him as Christ and son of God. All of those who have committed their lives to him in this way have experienced the kind of change in life that was reflected in the change of names Jesus gave to Peter on that day.

### Peter rebukes Christ — vv. 20-21

Here we see a real low in Peter's walk with Christ. When Jesus told the disciples about his impending death, Peter rebuked him. Instead of acting like a disciple, Peter seems to take the place of teacher and tries to correct Jesus for his statement. Jesus responded by rebuking Peter and telling him that he had become a tool in the hand of Satan in the effort to thwart the will of God.

At times we all speak or act in ways that are outside of God's will for our lives. At times we all try to take back control of our lives from our master. At those times we can expect to experience the same kind of rebuke Peter did. Even in those moments, however, our Lord wants to continue to use us, just as he continued to use Peter even after this low point in Peter's spiritual walk. How gracious and forgiving our Lord is! ■ — Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.



# Sanctity of human life

By Howard Kitter

## Explore the Bible Lesson

### Focal Passage — Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

Seven years ago on Jan. 19, my wife and I held in our arms for the first time a bundle of joy and blessing from God. Our son was born that wonderful day. How unforgettable! To witness the wonder of childbirth underscores the high standard that God has for human life. God highly values and freely gives life. He is the author and perfecter of it.

Three times in Genesis 1:27 the word created is blasted forth. There is an holy awe involved here. Imagine, God bringing forth from nothing a man. God not only brought forth a perfect man, but in this glorious process created man in his likeness. God bestowed great honor on his creation.

The idea in the verb create carries with it the sense of being endowed with both life and soul. This, along with being created in God's image, is what makes a human's life immeasurably more valuable from that of other creation.

Whether in or out of the womb, bedridden or on the fast-track, that life is endowed by the creator and should likewise remain until in his sovereign wisdom it is ended.

Matthew 5:13-16. "Salt and light" are the two descriptive terms used by Jesus here. Who is he portraying but the precious soul that has been given eternal and abundant life through faith in himself. The first one, salt, would seem to deal more with the interactive and personal involvement in an individual life. Giving flavor, preserving, and healing are two of salt's attributes. These are all accomplished only by salt coming into personal contact with other things. Light is a bit less personal in its contact. Its most obvious role is to continually eliminate darkness by its very presence. Our lives should have a somewhat dual effect on those around us. A personal touch of preservation, healing, and savor, and to scatter darkness and fear. These are two ways that a believer can show respect and true concern for human life. First, by making personal and meaningful contact and then secondly, showing the way by being a light in darkness.

In verses 21 and 22 Jesus begins by stating the ultimate sin, which in this case is murder. He then traces it back to its origin, the heart of a man. The true beginning of this sin

is the attitude that one carries for others in his own heart. Anger and hatred are wrapped around the roots of murder. Giving haven to, and feeding these types of attitudes in one's heart is setting a sure course for disastrous results. It is practically a given that the dastardly act of abortion has grown strong by being nourished at the root by similar attitudes.

The sin of adultery is traced to the lust of the heart. Lust strips a person of their human value and de-generates them to an object for personal use and pleasure. At the heart level or the physical level of adultery, the true worth of life is completely disregarded. Too often the pregnancy that can occur from adultery is unwanted. Many abortions today are from unwanted pregnancies, and some are the fruit of an adulterous relationship.

Loving, blessing, and praying for our family and friends comes very easy. In verses 43-45 Jesus shows us how we are to respond to both friend and foe alike. There could not be a more marvelous way to show respect for life than to love, pray, and care for, and respect every life we come into contact with. Whether in or out of the womb, life is deserving of kingdom treatment. ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.



## Tennescene

### leaders

■ **Jimmy Burroughs** has been called as full-time pastor of Pine Grove Church, Lexington. He has been a bivocational pastor there.

■ **Richard Tate**, pastor, Piney Church, Hohenwald, has resigned.

■ **First Church, Pinewood**, has called **Gene Vincent** as interim pastor.

■ **Doe River Church, Elizabethton**, has called **Kelver Mullins** as interim pastor, effective Dec. 29.

■ **Kenneth Heath**, minister of education, Dalewood Church, Nashville, for about 10 years, has been called as minister of education, First Church, Locust Grove, Ga. Additionally, Joann Stevens, pianist for 18 years, has resigned to accept a position of organist of a church.

■ **Cory Schantz**, minister of music, Inglewood Church, Nashville, has resigned effective Jan. 26. Schantz will work with the music group, Vision.

■ **Indian Hills Church, Galatin**, has ordained **Jeff Downs** as a deacon.

### deaths

■ **Don C. Perry**, who served as minister of music and education at First Church, Erwin, for 25 years, died Dec. 29. He was 71. At the time of his death he was interim minister of music, Central Church, Johnson City. Perry was an



**PASTOR BILLY JOE STEWART** of Good Hope Church, Adamsville, held an old-fashioned baptism service recently in the Tennessee River. Being baptized is Mickey Deal.

original member of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale and was a former officer of the group. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and three daughters. A memorial "service of praise" was held for him Dec. 31 at First Church, Erwin.

### churches

■ The second performance of the interracial Rutherford Mass Praise Choir will be Jan. 25 at Murfreesboro's **New Vision Church** at 7 p.m. The choir's first performance raised about \$10,000 to aid five ill children in Rutherford County. The concert is free and is an effort to thank the community. More information is available from (615) 904-2165 after 4 p.m.

■ **The Vietnamese Mis-**



**CUTTING A RIBBON** to dedicate the new addition to the education building of Center Point Church, Springfield, is Steve Pendley, second from right, pastor. Other leaders of the dedication are, from left, Dennis Pulley, director of missions, Robertson County Association; Junior Edwards, Milton Robertson; Keith Sholar; James Anderson; and J. L. Bagwell. The dedication was held Dec. 8.

**sion of Immanuel Church, Nashville**, has a page on the Internet. It can be accessed with the following address — <http://saomai.org/~vnc/churches/ibc/index.html>. It includes information about the congregation in both English and Vietnamese. The page was developed by member Trien Vo.

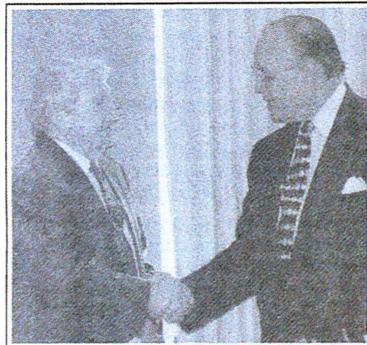
■ **The Cambodian Mission of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville**, hosted Cambodian groups from East Brainerd Church, Chattanooga; Buffalo Church, Morristown; and First Church, Bowling Green, Ky. The Nashville congregation, led by Pastor Khem Sam, led a Christmas program and fellowship and provided lunch for the guests. About 210 attended. Sam

works with the group in Kentucky twice a month.

■ **Sharon Church, Knoxville**, is collecting soup for the two Baptist centers in Knox County Association on Soup-er Bowl Sunday Jan. 26. Sunday School classes compete to collect the most cans. Last year 1,300 cans were collected.

■ **Fairfield Church, Centerville**, held a dedication service for its new building Jan. 12.

■ **Central Church, Mountain City**, sent 105 wrapped shoeboxes and 50 gift bags to Mexico as Christmas gifts for needy people. They worked with missionary Harold Ward. The gifts included Spanish Bibles, winter hats, socks, toys, and candy.



**RECEIVING thanks** for 37 years of service as a trustee of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, based in Memphis, is **J. Ralph McIntyre**, right, Tullahoma, from Cameron Dean, chairman of the board of trustees, on Dec. 10. McIntyre served as first vice chairman of the board. He also was president of the TBC.



## Tennessee samplers

### Lifetime from view of one day

By Don Bowery, pastor  
First Church, Mountain City

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, in his book, *Time for God*, has mathematically calculated a schedule which compares a lifetime of 70 years with the hours of a single day from seven in the morning to 11 at night.

If your age is

- 15, then the time is 10:25 a.m.
- 20, then the time is 11:34 a.m.
- 25, then the time is 12:42 p.m.
- 30, then the time is 1:51 p.m.
- 35, then the time is 3:00 p.m.
- 40, then the time is 4:08 p.m.
- 45, then the time is 5:16 p.m.

- 50, then the time is 6:25 p.m.
- 55, then the time is 7:34 p.m.
- 60, then the time is 8:42 p.m.
- 65, then the time is 9:51 p.m.
- 70, then the time is 11:00 p.m.

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To say just when the hands will stop:

At late, or early hour.  
Now is the only time we own  
To do His perfect will,  
Do not wait until tomorrow;  
For the clock may then be still.

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" Ephesians 5:16. ■

### Responding in worship

By Charles Justin, minister of music  
South Knoxville Church, Knoxville

What is the responsibility of the congregation in worship? Many participate as if they feel they have none. The ministers are paid to pray for them, sing to them, and preach at them. But don't forget one of the basic principles of the Reformation — the priesthood of all believers, with its insistence on the re-

sponsibility of each individual in spiritual matters.

Every person must make his own response to the call of God. No one else can take his place. True, the ministers and the choir do things in behalf of the congregation, but they cannot and should not do it all.

In worship, the congregation is not to be the audience, but involved participants. This participation should be fully, with heart, mind, and soul, and not slovenly and without enthusiasm. The person who arrives late, sits on the fringes, sings only occasionally, or listens half-heartedly will contribute little and receive even less in worship. ■

### 'Getters,' givers

By Calvin Metcalf, pastor  
Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville

There are two approaches most people take toward life. One is that of "getting" and the other is that of "giving." most of our problems come when either of these gets out of balance. The human personality is constructed so that it needs a healthy combination of both getting and giving. Sometimes an imbalance happens in church.

The "getters" attend only to receive. They tend to feed off the spiritual and emotional products of others. They are always wanting something to happen to them, unaware of their responsibility to help something happen for everyone. "Getters" are usually hungry people whose appetite is never satisfied because they neglect a most important item in their spiritual diet, which is "giving."

On the other hand, there are the "givers." The "givers" tend to keep giving out until the well runs dry. They are so busy giving they forget to receive. They forget to appropriate the blessings of God and human fellowship until their souls are depleted. They serve, but do not worship. They tell the "story," but fail to hear it for themselves. The "givers," like the "getters," are hungry people also, because they leave "getting" out of their diet.

To the "getters," Jesus would say, "If anyone wants to come with me then he must forget himself, take up his cross and follow me." To the "givers," Jesus would say, "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened." To both he would say, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." ■