

this week's news

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Tennessee churches believe in LMCO

Editor's Note: In the Jan. 15 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we asked for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering success stories. The response was excellent. We have tried to include every response either in this article or related articles on pages 4 and 10. We realize there are many more successes, but these are just a sampling provided by our Tennessee Baptist churches.

BRENTWOOD —The spirit of Lottie Moon, famed Southern Baptist missionary to China, is alive and well in Tennessee.

Tennessee Baptist churches, large and small, found ways to raise money for the offering named in honor of Moon, a missionary who created an awareness among Southern Baptists of the tremendous missions needs overseas.

One congregation, **First Church, Cleveland**, celebrated its 120th year of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, according to John Conner of the church's history committee.

In 1877 ladies of the church formed a missionary society for the purpose of sponsoring a student in Lottie Moon's school in China, according to Conner.

That year the church raised \$19.42. The 1996 offering exceeded \$75,000, Conner wrote.

Alpha Church, Morristown, set a 1996 offering goal



GAs FROM CENTRAL CHURCH, Martin, decided to "Save A Mile for Missions." They learned it took 84,480 pennies lined up to make a mile so they set that as a goal. They decorated coffee cans and made colorful signs and asked the congregation to give their pennies to the effort. When they completed their project they pulled more than 100,000 pennies down the church aisle in four decorated wagons. In all the church gave more than \$2,350 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Pictured are GA leader Debra Stringer and two of the church's GAs. — Monica Davidson and Jessica Breeden.

of \$22,926, which represents the cost of funding the entire Foreign Mission Board for one hour in 1996, according to Pastor Thomas R. James.

"Our goal was to be able to pay for the entire operations of the Foreign Mission Board for one hour by ourselves. We kept before the people what the goal was as well as its significance," he said.

The church observed the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, held its missions

study, and even had a guest missionary — William Burton from Venezuela and his wife, Maria.

The end result, James said, was a record offering of \$26,610.24. One new way they raised money was a penny collecting competition between our GAs/Acteens and RAs/Challengers. The GAs won and nearly \$600 in pennies was contributed.

"We praise the Lord as he allowed us to be blessed by be-

ing able to support his work around the world," James said.

For several years **First Church, Decatur**, has had an offering goal of \$2,000, said Pastor Jerry Plaster. "We always reached our goal just by a few dollars. For so long we felt that this was good coming from a congregation averaging about 140 in Sunday School.

"This year we challenged everyone in a special way to believe in a miracle offering. We asked that no money be given until the Sunday before Christmas.

"Each week we had our mission emphasis and special prayer time. Not only did we reach our goal but we received the largest Lottie Moon offering, as far as we know, in the history of our church — \$4,273.

"We more than doubled our goal. To God be the glory for what he did," Plaster said.

Bethlehem Church in Westpoint for many years followed the trend of small churches and gave very little to the special foreign missions offering, said Pastor Norman O. Baker.

In 1990 they accepted the challenge to give more than ever before and gave \$550. They also accepted a challenge to increase it by at least 10 percent each year. The church's efforts culminated this year with an offering of \$3,200, the — See Tennessee, page 4

January a record month for convention Cooperative Program

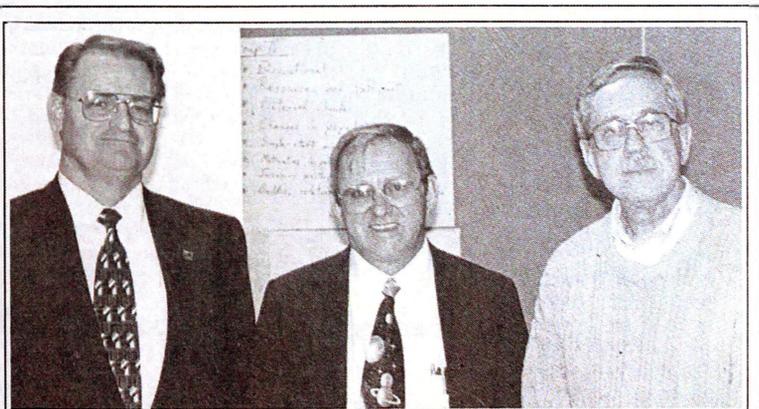
For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — During January Cooperative Program gifts through Tennessee Baptist Convention churches totaled \$3,351,377. This record amount for a single month's giving exceeds the previous record of \$3,151,598 given in January 1996.

At the end of the first quarter of the 1996-97 fiscal year, Cooperative Program gifts exceeded the budget by \$1,046,739.

"Tennessee Baptists through the Cooperative Program continue to maintain discipline and consistent giving and support of our world mission enterprise," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"May we continue to pray together and give together," he said. ■



Directors of missions elect new officers

The Tennessee Baptist Directors of Mission Association elected officers last week while they were attending a staff sharing conference at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. New officers are, from left, Jerry DeZearn, Jefferson County Association, secretary-treasurer; Al Patterson, Copper Basin Association, president; and Glenn Hester, Alpha Association, vice president.

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Lenoir City church co-hosts Lights for Life motorcade

For Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — Dixie Lee Church in Loudon County Association recently co-hosted the annual Lights for Life Motorcade by the Loudon County chapter of Remove Intoxicated Drivers. Bruce Yates is pastor of Dixie Lee.

Each year since 1986, RID has sponsored the motorcade in conjunction with other National Highway Safety Organizations in a combined effort to draw attention to the crime and resulting tragedy of impaired drivers.

In Loudon County, a strong focus is made on victims, survivors, and their family and friends, according to Caye Freels, president of the Loudon

County RID chapter.

The route of this year's motorcade passed by the scene of a tragic crash in November where a 21-year-old Loudon County resident was killed by a drunken driver. Friends of the young victim have placed his picture and other tributes at the crash site. The motorcade, with police escort, drove pass the site and on into town for several miles.

During the morning worship service at Dixie Lee, special recognition was given to victims and their families and a special time of prayer was observed. At least two of the families of local victims were in attendance, including the mother of the young man, Christopher Chafin, who was

killed in November, according to Freels.

Freels also introduced members of her family who have attended the special service each year. In 1984 the Freels family were returning from a picnic in the Smoky Mountains when they were struck by a drunken driver. Fortunately, no one in the car, including two family friends, were killed although her son and husband and the two friends in the back had concussions and serious injuries. All recovered.

Following their recovery the family became involved in RID and with the help and prayers of their church, Calvary in Lenoir City, they established a RID chapter in Loudon County.

The purpose of the annual motorcade is to involve local churches and individuals in recognizing the tragedy of drinking drivers and to express sympathy to those whose lives have been changed forever, Freels said, adding that those unable to attend are encouraged to participate by driving with their headlights on that day.

"Over the years different churches have hosted the event and their combined efforts have ministered to numerous needy and hurting people in their community. Through the combined cooperation of local Baptist churches, God has gotten the glory and his name continues to be praised," Freels noted. ■

Tennessee assembly may consider Union student's proposal

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The Tennessee General Assembly is expected to consider a bill that was sponsored by Union University's Annie Laurie Crane, a sophomore communication arts major from Bartlett. Crane and seven other students represented Union as delegates to the 30th General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, a mock governmental body.

At the state TISL meeting, Crane proposed a piece of legislation that would amend Title 39, Chapter 17, Section 1507

of the Tennessee Code in order to eliminate access of tobacco to minors. The act would require that cigarette vending machines be used only with special tokens sold by the management of the organization in which the machine is located. Such a measure would require owners and managers to sell tokens to the machine only to individuals over the age of 18.

That piece of legislation was labeled as "priority" and is among nine bills that will be presented for consideration to the actual Tennessee General Assembly.

This year's TISL state assembly was

the first at which Union has been represented. The school made "an excellent first impression," Crane said. Three students received individual honors: she received the Douglas Carlisle Award, given to only three of more than 200 delegates in the mock House of Representatives; Smithy Sipes was elected Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate for the 31st General Assembly; and Andrea McDaniel was chosen to serve on the governor's staff.

In addition, the Union delegation received the award for Best New Delegation out of seven new participating schools. ■

With missionary Wade Watts of Memphis

Peruvian suing for \$400,000 in accident

Baptist Press

LIMA, Peru — A Peruvian businessman is seeking payment for damages from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's missionary organization in Peru, and specifically missionary Wade Watts, relating to an auto accident last year.

In a lawsuit filed Jan. 24 in Peru, the plaintiff claims Watts and the Peru Baptist Mission should pay for losses — which he placed at \$400,000 — as a result of an auto accident on a mountain road outside of Huançayo, south of Lima.

The mission, which had until Feb. 7 to file a response to the case, had gathered reports

and receipts related to the medical care of Watts and his family. A missionary spokesman estimated the cost of their care to date at more than \$600,000.

Police initially faulted no one. But surprisingly, a police report on record now pins the blame on Watts, the spokesman added.

The February 1996 accident left the plaintiff with broken bones and injuries to his mid-section. Watts, 41, suffered injuries to the brain and internal organs and, for some time, was too unstable to be moved from Peru. In the United States, he lay in a coma until late last summer. His movement even now is limited almost to the point of total paralysis.

Lawyers for the mission consider the plaintiff's claim exaggerated, the missionary spokesman said; they believe more than half of the expenses listed are unfunded.

In the accident, Watts' wife, Nancy, 36, and their two sons, Joshua and Marcus, also sustained injuries. Nancy and Joshua, 8, are fully recovered now. Marcus — like Watts, underwent brain surgery in Peru before being airlifted to Memphis. Doctors say Marcus, 10, has recovered 90 percent of his physical and mental capacity.

Nancy and the boys were sleeping at the time of impact, and the plaintiff was in shock and unable to recall events leading up to the crash, according to earlier reports. ■

Belmont offers new bachelor of business administration degree

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A degree in business might be necessary to get the job you want. The trouble is, if you're already employed, it's not easy to find the time to complete a degree.

Belmont University's new professional bachelor of business administration degree program,

which originated in a cooperative effort with Aquinas Junior College, meets the needs of working adults. The program is designed for adults who have completed at least two years of course work at an accredited community college or four-year university and can be completed in two years or less. For more information, call James L. Boydston, program director at (615) 460-6784. ■

Holiday Inn officials apologize for offensive ad

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Officials of Holiday Inn Worldwide met with Southern Baptist Convention officials, apologized for airing a controversial television commercial, and pledged it would never be used again.

The commercial, aired during January's Super Bowl game, featured a transsexual surprising her former classmates with her sex change. It was designed to introduce the hotel chain's renovation program but generated hundreds of protest calls to local franchises as well as the company's Atlanta headquarters.

"I was favorably impressed with Holiday Inn's willingness to meet with us, their surprise at the negative reaction to the commercial, and the apparent sincerity of their apology," said Phil Roberts, interfaith witness director for the Home Mission Board, who arranged the meeting. ■

Parents advised to measure child's spiritual readiness

By Ken Camp
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Children should come to Jesus just like grown ups — freely. Parents should neither push them into premature professions of faith nor neglect their spiritual nurture, leaders of a "Bring the Children to Jesus" workshop said during the Texas Baptist evangelism conference.

"Teach parents that they have a responsibility to God in the stewardship of their children's spiritual development," said Karen Cavin, minister of

childhood education at Mimosa Lane Church, Mesquite, Texas, who led the workshop with Wayne Shuffield Jr., pastor of Royal Haven Church, Dallas, and co-author of *Bring the Children to Jesus*, a resource published by the Baptist Convention of Texas evangelism division.

The Gospel plan of salvation can be explained in terms an older child — a fourth, fifth, or sixth grader — can easily understand, they noted. Realize children think in literal terms, so avoid figurative language, they suggested.

Shuffield and Cavin advised parents and church leaders to look for signs of readiness in children such as:

(1) Questions. Listen carefully to a child's questions about spiritual matters.

"If the child is asking who the guy was that climbed the sycamore tree, he's probably just asking for factual information about Zaccheus," Shuffield said. "Just because you know the verse follows

about the Son of Man coming 'to seek and save that which was lost,' don't assume the child is making that leap."

On the other hand, if a child begins to ask serious questions about sin, death, and eternity, that could be a sign the Holy Spirit is drawing the child. Explore the level of interest and understanding by asking probing, open-ended questions, not queries that could be answered "yes" or "no."

(2) Focus. Watch for a child who suddenly becomes focused on religious instruction. Unusual attentiveness in Sunday School or during worship could

be a signal a child is ready to make a faith commitment.

(3) Behavioral changes. Anything from a sudden interest in Bible-reading to expressions of guilt over wrongdoing at home could mean God is working in a child's heart.

While some young children genuinely are converted, that is the exception, not the rule, Shuffield said. Pastors, teachers, and parents can help young children by distinguishing between the natural desire of a child to express love for Jesus and the life-changing decision of receiving him as Lord and Savior, he said. ■



Children's series airs new episodes on PBS

Baptist Press

LOS ANGELES — The highly acclaimed children's weekly animated television series "Adventures from The Book of Virtues" premiered all-new episodes on PBS, beginning Feb. 9. Airing is scheduled for the 6-7 p.m. time period (check local listings).

Based on William J. Bennett's best-selling *The Book of Virtues*, the series was created and produced by Bruce Johnson, a leading filmmaker and active layman in the Christian community. He also produced the "Greatest Adventures from the Bible" series. More than eight million copies have been sold in video.

Ken Wales, executive producer of the "Christy" TV series for CBS and the video series for Broadman & Holman Publishers of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said, "This exceptional quality program imparts values and life lessons we aspire to teach our children. Practically everyone will enjoy viewing these very special episodes depicting truth, faith, and other spiritual values. PBS has given the Christian community an incredible opportunity by presenting this top-quality series."

Wales said the new episodes include many time-honored stories that illustrate powerful themes such as friendship, respect, humility, generosity, and perseverance. ■

Rose joins Executive Board staff

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Lana S. Rose of Columbus, Ohio, has joined the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Rose began work Feb. 3 as church annuity accounts specialist in the Church Staff Leadership Group.

A native of Whitley City, Ky., Rose has worked with the State Convention of Bap-

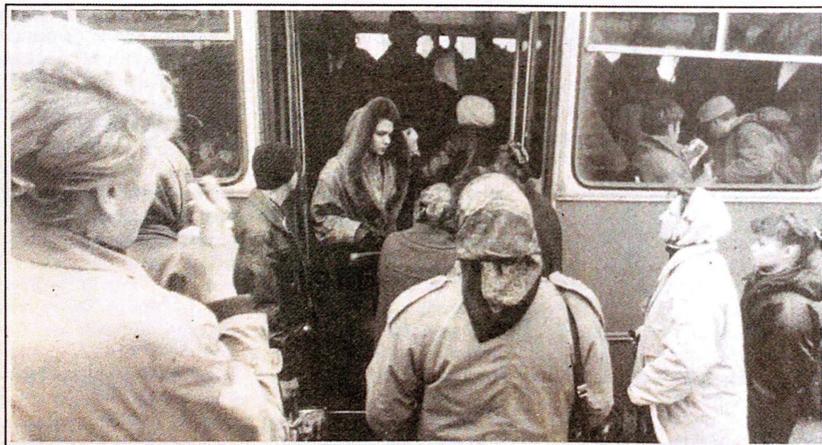


ROSE

tists in Ohio since 1974. Her last position with Ohio Baptists was executive administrative assistant. Her duties included handling executive board activities, the state convention annual meeting, and other related tasks. ■

'Open doors' create need for new missionaries

A STREET VENDOR (photo to right) works near a subway entrance in Kiev, Ukraine. BELOW, are commuters in Kazan, Russia. — Photos by Roy M. Burroughs and Warren Johnson



Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A call for new missionaries — "as many as you can send" — has come from Baptists in Russia and Ukraine, where until recently doors were closed to foreign missionaries. Seventy years of communist domination strangled Russia's more than 1,000 Baptist churches, many of which have no trained leaders, no buildings, and little literature.

The collapse of communism freed Russian Baptists to teach and train and share the Gospel openly. As a result, they've issued an open invitation to Southern Baptists to send as many as 150 new missionaries to help train and mobilize Russian Baptists to proclaim the Gospel while there is freedom.

The countries of the Soviet Union aren't the only places where doors of opportunity have opened suddenly. In one country, Southern Baptists have been offered the use of more than 40 visa slots another missionary organization has been unable to fill.

For more information about "open door opportunities," call 1 (800) 999-3113, ext. 1635. ■

January SBC CP gifts down; up for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January were down 7.66 percent compared to last year's January, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the fiscal year, however, Cooperative Program gifts are 6.87 percent ahead of last year.

January CP gifts totaled \$14,075,108, compared to January 1996 of \$15,241,892.

For the four months of the SBC fiscal year, CP gifts totaled \$51,529,813, compared to the same period a year ago of \$48,216,077.

The SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget requires a monthly total of \$12,087,791. Compared to that figure, the January gifts exceeded the budget requirement by \$1,987,317 or 16.44 percent.

Designated gifts for January were \$19,798,348, an increase of \$2,548,351, or 14.77 percent over January 1996. ■

Churches raise awareness of Lottie Moon offering

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist churches found many ways to promote giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, but one of the most useful means was simply educating members about what the LMCO is all about.

Some churches used drama, others used missionary speakers, and others found unique ways to raise money. They all had the same goal of creating interest among members and explaining why the offering is important.

First Church, Murfreesboro, surpassed its goal for the LMCO by more than \$3,500, collecting \$30,041.75, largely due to a "campaign designed to educate our rapidly growing congregation as to just who Lottie Moon was and why it is so very important that as Southern Baptists we fully support this effort each year," said Kristina Woods Brown, WMU director at the church.

The church held its first annual Lottie Moon dinner in which the usual Wednesday evening meal was prepared by leaders of Women on Mission, Mission Friends, and GAs instead of the church hostess and her staff. The same amount was charged for the meal with the proceeds going to the Lottie Moon offering. The church usually feeds 130 on a typical Wednesday night, but that night 214 were served. The foreign mission study followed.

The church did many other things including sending a letter to every parent of a preschooler or child asking that this year instead of buy-

ing a gift for their child's Sunday School or Discipleship Training teacher, they give a gift to the Lottie Moon offering in their honor.

"Everyone, not just one person or group was responsible for making this a success story. Your whole church must know why this is important and put their all into supporting its cause. I expect next year to be just as successful," Brown said.

Faith Church, Bartlett, did several things to increase awareness including an Acteen Lottie Moon Post Office, the annual foreign mission study, an RA Bike/Skate-A-Thon, and a live telephone interview with missionary Mike Ewing of Tanzania, Africa. The four-year-old church had a goal of \$10,000 and received \$12,464.90.

First Church, St. Bethlehem, set its largest goal ever of \$2,250. A church member made a church from plywood while another member painted stained glass windows. The windows were covered with sections of construction paper to represent \$100 per section. As the offerings came in each week, the sections were removed to reveal the beautiful stained glass windows. The offering was emphasized each week and when it was over members had exceeded the goal by giving \$2,895.62.

Central Church, Woodmore, Chattanooga, stressed the LMCO for several weeks before the offering was taken by praying, having testimonies from the laity, foreign missions emphases, and retired foreign missionary speakers one Sunday. On Dec. 15 the 161 mem-



ACTEENS FROM West Paris Church, Paris, hold their cookbook they used to raise more than \$1,100 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. From left are Jackie Davis, Amanda Speight, Cortney Crossnoe, Tammy Thompson, Acteens leader, Amanda Jones, Melanie Peale, Jennifer Mann, and Jamie Davis.

bers of the congregation marched forward and placed their offerings in a manger made by the RAs. That one offering totaled \$10,000. The church went on to exceed its \$15,000 goal by \$65, according to Bula Dill Blanchard, WMU director.

In late October Acteens from **West Paris Church, Paris**, voted to print a cookbook with favorite recipes from the church family to raise money for the Christmas offering.

All work, both printing and construction of the books, was done in the church office. The first printing of 75 books sold immediately. Two more printings (275 total) were done and the sale of the books resulted in more than \$1,100 for the offering. "We want to thank our girls and their leader, Tammy Thompson, who worked very hard on this project," said Jane Crossnoe, WMU director. She also thanked Pastor Tony Crossnoe who helped put the books together. "I think this ex-

perience was a great teacher for our girls in the fact that none of us ever expected so great a return on our efforts. They learned that God blesses greatly when we work for him."

The GAs of **Chapel Hill Church, Milan**, made Christmas ornaments and magnets to sale along with baked goods. They also auctioned a cake. Their efforts netted \$131 of which they donated \$100 to the Lottie Moon offering and took the balance to buy food for the local food bank, according to Linda Higgs and Shirley Smith, GA directors at the church.

"I don't think our girls will ever forget what God did with their Christmas ornaments," Higgs said.

First Church, Somerville, had an offering goal of \$7,000 and received \$10,164.81, according to Pastor Phil Lovelace.

He credited the success to some members who prayed fervently the church would become more missions-minded.



The youth of the church presented a skit to kick-off the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. In addition the church had Richard Lusk, a retired missionary to Hong Kong, speak that Sunday morning. Later the church hosted an associational missions rally with Steve and Dottie Babcock, furloughing missionaries-in-residence at Union University as guest speakers.

"Through prayer and firsthand reports from the field, hearts and billfolds were touched," Lovelace said.

In 1987 **Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet**, gave \$820 to the Lottie Moon offering. In the nine years since the church has given \$18,208 to foreign missions through the offering. This year the church had a goal of \$3,000, but gave \$4,251.64.

Pastor Russ Stephens attributes the growth in the offerings to several factors including a numerically growing congregation, strong pastoral support of missions, and participation in Tennessee Baptists' Michigan partnership, and reviving a missions education program for all ages.

"Much of the promotion comes from the pulpit," Stephens said. "My calling, as far as missions is concerned, is to lead the church I pastor to be a strong mission supporting church," he said. ■

Tennessee churches believe in Lottie Moon Christmas offering ...

— Continued from page 1

pastor said, noting the church's average weekly offering is about \$500. "Many accepted the challenge to put aside some each week from their paycheck and thus the final offering was six times more than the regular weekly offering," Baker said.

Mission offerings at **Summertown Church, Summertown**, have always been low for "a church our size," said Barbara Henson, church secretary. "It seemed that no matter how low our goal, we had only reached it once. Our average giving was less than \$600."

This year, however, WMU director Kathy Godsey set the goal at \$1,000. Summertown's pastor, Wayne Godsey, said he would "eat his hat" if they received the goal.

"That was all it took. When we told the deacons they promoted it in the church. We not only got \$1,000, we received \$1,443.55, well above our record.

"What did it take? The pastor and deacons promoted it. We all had light hearted fun and received a tremendous blessing knowing that we could do it," Henson said. And, the pastor did eat his hat. Fortunately, the members made it easy by baking him a cake shaped as a hat.

Sugar Tree Chapel in Holladay, a mission of Eastview Church in Carroll-Benton Association has a membership of eight with an average attendance of 20 on Sundays.

Last year the church gave \$223.26 to the Lottie Moon offering and set a goal of \$175

this year, said Pastor Frank Koger. Church members exceeded their goal and gave \$370, 53 percent more than their goal. "This proves to me that when people are united in their goals and have Christ at the center, no matter how small or large the group may be, they can walk in victory," he said.

First Church, Friendsville, planned to set their goal at \$1,875, which was the same as last year.

However, Mark Grubb, who joined the church as pastor last August, thought the goal was too low and encouraged the church to set it at \$2,500, so they did, said WMU member Dot Cooke.

On Dec. 22 everyone was asked to bring their gift to Jesus. A manger scene was set up

with a family representing Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. "It was just great how everyone responded. It was that the people were giving themselves, not just the money. But when the money was counted, we had given over \$5,100," she said.

W.H. Longmire, pastor of **Calvary Church, LaFollette**, reported the church normally placed a box in the front of the sanctuary at the beginning of each Christmas season and normally would receive \$500 to \$660 for the LMCO. This year, a member challenged the church to set a goal of \$1,000. Another member challenged the goal to be set at \$1,500.

The final offering reached \$1,880.01. "We think this is a great accomplishment since our congregation averages 25-30 people on Sunday morn-

ings," Longmire said.

Members of **Memorial Church, Crossville**, were in the midst of a three-year commitment to the church's building fund and some were skeptical of the church meeting its \$2,000 goal.

Pastor Bill Roberts challenged the church to not only make their Lottie Moon offering the first gift, but the best gift.

Women on Mission led the way and a Christmas tree was placed in the foyer and decorated with gift boxes representing every \$100 given for Lottie Moon. The goal was reached and exceeded with a total of \$2,144.67. In addition, a college student made a commitment to seek God's leadership in his life and missions may be in his future. ■ — See page 10 for more LMCO stories.

Relationships require consuming effort

Did you ever wonder why Baptists don't get along always. Southern Baptists, that is?

And has it been a shock to you that Tennessee Baptists need help even while they try to build relationships?

No, answers don't come easy. There are as many answers as questions, there are as many questions as there are people.

We have been talking about "building relationships." If we are successful, it will be because there develops more action than talk.

The best formulas for building good relationships come straight from the New Testament. Jesus said, teaching about how we are to treat our enemies, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." And he also said, "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back" — Luke 6: 31, 35.

We call such actions the Golden Rule.

We can take that formula and diagram it like a sentence in English Grammar 101, but it will always come out the same way. Don't do anything to friends, family, enemies, or strangers — that you wouldn't want done to you. Don't say anything, don't do anything, don't think anything, don't cause anything bad to happen — if you want to avoid the same medicine.

The positive side to that is just as simple: Do, say, think, act, cause things to happen — that you would like to have said or done for you.

Most of what we learn about building relationships

comes from firsthand experience. Sometimes relationships with other Christians are so bad that they are severed. Yes, we do abuse each other.

And it is particularly hard to endure when someone, even a Christian whom you respect, is the perpetrator. And you are left wondering "why?"

No one is innocent or guilty all of the time. We must learn how to respond or to lead in a Christian manner. For those who call him Master, there is no other way. So we have to take risks and we have to guard the visions, personal and corporate.

We have to be willing to put aside reasons which would avoid relationships, we need courage to overcome the obstacles and boundaries.

In another place and time, an editor friend was having problems with a pastor. Everything about the editor's writing was wrong, he thought. The pastor criticized constantly — and perhaps some was justified.

Finally the editor called the pastor, and said that he didn't understand the lack of a good relationship. He said that they agreed on ninety percent of the things they discussed.

The pastor replied that the other ten percent was a constant barrier, and he could not compromise. That relationship never flourished, never grew.

There are ways to work around barriers without compromising deep beliefs and matters of the heart.

One of the best formulas is to determine those things that are important to us and locate the common ground. As Christians we must remember Romans 8:35-37, "Who shall separate us from the love of

Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

When we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, we will know that he has transformed us so that we might walk in the power of his resurrection.

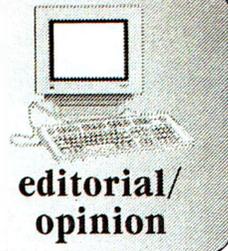
Nilson Fanini says that, even so, God's people have an arch-enemy. "Sometimes we act as if Christians from other denominations are our enemies," he says. "Sometimes we even treat fellow members of our own churches as the enemy."

We might add that sometimes we even act as though family members are our enemies, and people that we work with are our enemies.

But the arch-enemy, the one who wants us to act as enemies toward each other, is Satan.

Good Christian friends know who the enemy is. They, of course, are first loyal to Christ. But as the friendship develops into a lasting relationship, they are loyal to each other, they have a comfort zone. They reach a common ground, but they can also disagree. They are always supportive, and don't make a hobby of throwing around harmful criticism.

True Christian friends know how to get along when they don't agree, and abound in the mercy, love, and grace of the Lord Jesus. **B&R**



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Wife to husband at their 50th wedding anniversary: "I saw the tears in your eyes several times. I didn't realize how sentimental you are. That's sweet."

Husband to wife: "It's not what you think. I remembered when your father said, 'If you don't marry my daughter, I'll see you get 50 years in jail.' Just think, I would be a free man today."

Take this truth

Sometimes we must suffer a long time for our decisions. I read once that much of the suffering in hell will be remembering the bad choices we made on earth.

That makes much sense. Goethe said, "Choose well, your choice is brief yet endless."

Memorize this Scripture

By faith Moses ... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures for a season." (Hebrews 11: 23-24)

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to remember that it is by life's choices not by life's chances that happiness comes to a person. ■

When God comes to the rescue, you are really safe

When our father remarried after our mother's death, his bride inherited an instant family of six children, in-laws, several grandchildren.

We gained a mother whose life had been dedicated to nursing, was a middle-aged spinster, and had no firsthand experience with the likes of us.

She learned, and we learned. Oh yes, all of us learned. I never sat on her lap or stroked the softness of her face, but I learned to love her.

I think it was the enormous love she had for our father that gave her the capacity to give us a chance.

My sister Elsie and I were the only children at home. Teenagers we were with all that implies. I know now that we were not always lovable. But God solved all those problems, and we loved each other.

In fact, when asked about my early years, I find it easy to say that I had two mothers — different, but real mothers.

I've never addressed this in so many words before, but I truly did love them,

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

and they each played a strong role in shaping my life.

My mother, or Mama, as we called her, was a warm and gentle spirit. Soft-hearted almost to a fault, she loved her family and her God. She was jolly and graceful. She laughed at us and with us — even as she cared for us. She was Mama, my best friend.

Her life was short. There is no one to blame, I suppose, but when she died suddenly, I was not bitter toward God, but toward mortal men, doctors whom I blamed.

God did not leave two hurting teens and a good and lonely farmer out of his plans. He gave us Viv.

Her ways were different and she did not replace my Mama. But I gained a second mother who showed her love in a way that we needed at that time.

She enabled us to step up to life instead of enjoying a pity party. She did not try to replace our Mama, but she did what she could, and did it quite well. Eventually she had her place.

My sister soon went off to college and then to work, and I was left to be the assistant housekeeper. I didn't mind, because while I was sweeping and dusting. I could listen to Ferlin Huskey, Ernie Ford, Webb Pierce, and the others on the Hillbilly Hit Parade.

One Saturday morning, I was so carried away with the music that I flipped the dust cloth with a snap that brushed a beautiful vase off the piano. It was smashed.

When I told her about it — and expected the worst, Viv smiled and said, "Son that was a valuable vase, a gift from a dear friend. I'm sorry that it's broken, but it's you that is important. I know it was an accident."

How like my Mama that was, and how like our Jesus. Forever friends. ■



ALLEN

Getting older has advantages; it beats the alternative

an occasional word

— by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

thought 40 was old too. But now that I'm almost there, it doesn't seem old anymore.

As a kid I can remember adding numbers to the year I was born to see how old I would be in the year 2000. I remember thinking 42 years old is so far away; now it's almost here.

So, back to the really important question. Am I on the last leg of being over the hill? NO WAY. Other than an aching knee, I feel better now than I have in recent years. I am trying to eat healthier and exercise more.

I believe "old" is a state of mind as

much as anything else. Sure, the aches and pains come with increasing years, but I know people 70 year olds and older who definitely have a "young" frame of mind. In fact, I only hope I can have their energy and stamina at that age.

Am I looking forward to 40? Of course. It beats the alternative. Besides it gives my family and friends something to look forward to.

In addition to Joanna and Daniel, I know three ladies in the *Baptist and Reflector* office who also have the date marked on their calendar. In my younger, "foolish" days I reminded them constantly of the day they turned 40. Unfortunately, age hasn't affected their memory. They like to remind me, "Revenge is sweet." ■



WILKEY

The countdown has begun. According to my two wonderful kids — Daniel and Joanna — and to a lesser extent my wife, Joyce (she can't say much, she's older than me), I am officially on the last leg of becoming "over the hill." As of press day on Monday I turned 39 years old.

Along with the traditional "Happy Birthday Dad" best wishes were "You'll be 40 next year," and "you're almost over the hill." Kids tend to think of 40 as the magical age when a person is suddenly "old."

It's nothing new. When I was younger I

Students from 24 countries attend meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

CHAPEL HILL — Students from 13 Tennessee college campuses and 24 countries were equipped for ministry at the International Student Ministry Conference at Henry Horton State Park Jan. 31 – Feb. 2. Leaders of the students also received training for their ministries at the conference.

Ingil Cho, pastor, Korean Church, Knoxville, and Luis Lopez, Hispanic ministry coordinator, Bledsoe Association, led several Bible studies during the weekend conference.

Cho led sessions on discrim-

ination and the Christian response to prejudice. Lopez facilitated a study on respect for human life and another on committing one's life to God. Lopez, a native of Venezuela and a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, also reflected on his experience of attending the conference when he was a student.

Other activities for the international students and their leaders were led by "Witness," a student group from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, which led worship. Ashley Mofield, state Baptist Student Union presi-

dent and a student at Austin Peay State University, Clarks-ville, presided at sessions.

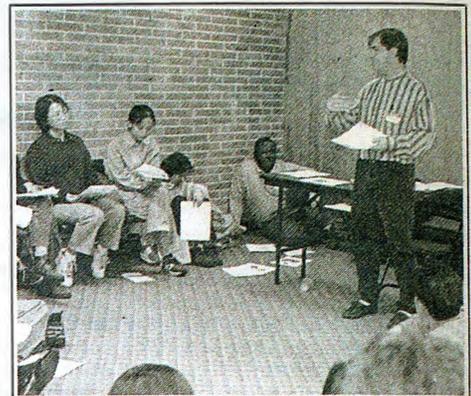
Training was provided for students and for those who lead international ministries on campuses. Leaders were Kathy Skinner, director of International Student Services, Belmont University, Nashville; Pat Hall, associate director, student ministries, UT – Martin; Brian Whaley, graduate assistant, UT – Knoxville, and former missionary journeyman to Korea; Joe Wiles, director, student ministries, Tennessee Tech University;

Lopez; and Cho.

The conference, which was planned by student ministries directors Adam Hall of UT – Martin, Bob Hall of UT – Knoxville, and Joe Wiles of Tennessee Tech, is a ministry



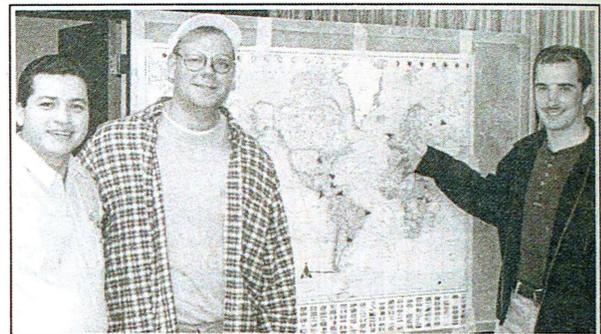
Tennessee features



LEADING a seminar on cross-cultural friendships is Brian Whaley, a former journeyman to Korea. B&R



IN A GROUP BUILDING activity led by Bob Hall, student ministries director, UT – Knoxville, students assemble a giant jigsaw puzzle to learn that every part and person is important.



POINTING TO his home in Northern Ireland is Mark Lamont, right, of Hiwassee College, Madisonville, with new friends, Ashley Mofield, center, BSU president; and Luis Lopez of Gallatin.

Students, other volunteers renovate Baptist Student Center

For Baptist and Reflector

MARTIN — Volunteers, led by students, have renovated the Baptist Student Center at the University of Tennessee – Martin.

The project was studied and directed by a local committee of church, association, and student center representatives, but volunteers soon became involved.

Philip Brown of Bells, who is a resident of the center in charge of maintenance, became involved after attending several committee meetings in which plans were made. Upon learning of the committee's approval of the renovation project, Brown was so enthusiastic that he began that night to pull down ceiling tiles which were to be replaced, reported Adam Hall, Baptist student ministries director, University of Tennessee – Martin.

Brown, who is the son of Margaret Brown and C. David Brown, pastor, Walnut Hill

Church, Bells, continued to work on the center and was soon joined by students Burton Rutledge, Charles Williams, Patrick McCorkle and former student Andrew Brown, Philip's brother.

Local Baptists like Bob Diehl of Public Well Church, Martin, began helping the students. He cut a doorway in a concrete block wall and laid the foundation for a storage building.

Some volunteers became involved in unusual ways. One day Aubrey Keller, a sociology professor, was driving by the student center and saw a committee outside the center discussing

needs. Keller, who is a member of First Church, Martin, stopped and learned about the renovation project. He volunteered to help. Keller installed a handicap access ramp into the building and did additional work in the center.

Other volunteers were Betty

Baker and Jerri Conley of First Church, Martin, who hung wallpaper in a room. Baker also served as the consultant for interior design.

Additional volunteers were Noel Arant, Southside Church, Martin; Paul and Lori Jackson, First Church, Woodland Mills; and John Ayers, First Church, Martin.

After six months of work, the project is partially completed. Ceiling tile have been replaced with a new ceiling and lighting fixtures. And the lounge area has received additional lighting fixtures, newly paint-

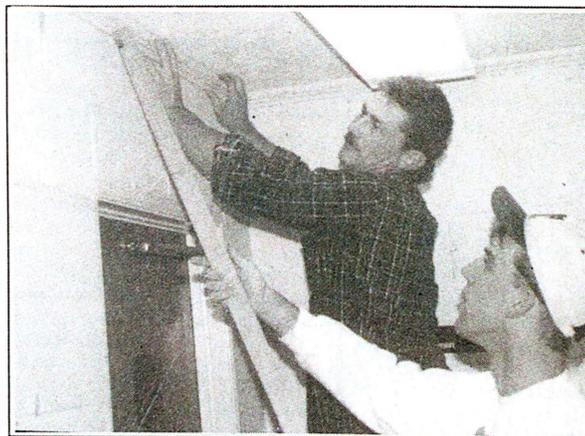
ed walls, carpet, furniture, a stereo, and a gas log fireplace unit.

Hall said results of the renovation project have been expressions of appreciation from the students and capacity crowds at noonday devotionals.

The kitchen, which has received a new dishwasher, still needs work on its cabinets, counter tops, and the addition of cabinets.

Other plans are to add a worship center which will be used for noonday devotionals, Bible studies, creative worship time, and other special events. The worship center will have restrooms with showers. This will allow use by mission groups, many of which come to the area to participate in the Mississippi River Ministry.

Hall said the experience, though a lot of hard work, had been rewarding as students set the example and other Baptists followed their lead to assist the student ministry. B&R



INSTALLING some molding is Paul Jackson, left, First Church, Woodland Mills, and Philip Brown, student from Bells.

Homeschooling leads to Russian experience

For Baptist and Reflector

GALLATIN — When the Drake family of Gallatin began home schooling their children 12 years ago, they didn't know it would lead them to Russia to help Russians learn about Bible-based curriculum for children.



RECEIVING a gift from a Muscovite is Pamela Drake, right, of Gallatin.

The family's experiences recently in Russia were ironic, said Mark Drake, pastor, Berean Church, Gallatin, because the Drakes got to witness more openly in schools in Russia than they do in the United States.

Drake and his wife, Pamela, and children, Matthew, 16, and Corrie, 12, served in Moscow Dec. 12 - Jan. 3 under the direction of the Advanced Training Institute, an evangelical homeschooling organization. The institute, based in Oak Brook, Ill., provided homeschooling participants from the United States with ministry opportunities and with involvement in its project of installing evangelical cur-

riculum in the school system there. The project is endorsed by the Russian Department of Education.

Drake said many teachers in Moscow have welcomed the curriculum, which is a translation of the materials used in the U.S., he explained. The curriculum emphasizes character development based on biblical principles.

During this visit the family, who worked with other homeschoolers of the institute, only visited a few schools, but during a previous effort Drake made alone, he traveled to many schools as a part of the curriculum effort.

The Drakes traveled to a school and orphanage, where Matthew and Corrie helped



THE DRAKES of Gallatin, from left, Pamela, Corrie, in front, Matthew, and Mark, who is pastor of Berean Church, Gallatin, pose in front of a Christmas tree during their visit in Moscow, Russia.

present a Christmas play. After one of the presentations, Mark Drake explained the true meaning of Christmas and God's plan of salvation.

The Drakes also helped conduct nine events for retired teachers. About 250 pensioners attended each gathering, which included a banquet. The Americans gave the Russians gifts, which included fruit, a booklet with a biblical message, and some money.

Drake explained that many of the pensioners were almost destitute because of the poor economy.

The Drakes also distributed

Bibles, tracts, and Christian literature. They found many people on city buses and the subway who accepted a piece of literature. In fact, the Muscovites rarely refused the literature and often began reading it, Drake reported.

One day was spent distributing Bibles and literature in a village outside of Moscow. When the Americans parked their vehicle in the wrong place, they met the local police. That incident resulted in Bibles being shared with policemen, said Drake. The policemen even directed them to good distribution sites.



Tennessee features

The Tennessee family also went Christmas caroling with others in the group. They visited apartment buildings, a store, bank, and market. Passersby would stop, listen, and some sang with them, said Drake. Again the Americans distributed literature during this experience.

On Sunday, the family attended a service at Pure Heart Baptist Church, Moscow. As they sat on backless benches, they were assisted by an American student behind them who interpreted the spoken activities. After the service they attended a tea with congregation members. "It appeared that the people had very little materially, but the joy of the Lord was evident in their smiles and warm welcome," Drake described.

The Drakes also enjoyed cultural experiences like viewing the ballet, "The Nutcracker." These experiences met curriculum requirements for Matthew and Corrie.

"God is working in Russia," said Drake. **B&R**

Group from Claxton serve in Dominica

For Baptist and Reflector

CLAXTON — Because of the work of Acteens from Edgemoor Church, Claxton, on a Caribbean island, members of the church raised more than \$5,000 to help a congregation there, and recently 12 members of the Tennessee church went to help the congregation complete its church building.

It all began in 1994

when Lola Byrd led a group of Acteen Activators to work in Dominica. They helped missionaries Melody and David Graham, a dentist, by conducting Vacation Bible Schools at Baptist churches in several villages. One of the churches they helped was Grace Church in Bense. The church's building is perched on the side of a mountain. The building's lower level

had no walls or floor because members could not afford to complete it.

When the Acteen group returned home, they led Edgemoor Church to accept the church's need as a project. During the next two years as they worked, they were encouraged by a visit from the Grahams, who came to help the congregation make plans.

Another important member of the planning team was Dawson Hughes of Edgemoor, who is a retired brick mason. He trained the 10 team members who would do the work.

When they arrived in Dominica, all of the training came in handy. The volunteers also learned how to mix concrete without machinery. In fact, the water and sand for the concrete was hand-delivered to the site.

The Tennesseans worked with members of the church. They also attended activities at the church, which are

under the direction of Wilkie Williams, pastor, on both Sundays they were in Dominica.

Two additional members of the team did not do construction work but rather led Bible studies and a prayer retreat for women in Roseau, capital of Dominica. Tennesseans Becky Young and Linda O'Brien worked with Melody Graham. They also assisted Graham with a literacy and prison ministry.

The Tennesseans reported that they met "loving, friendly folks" in Dominica. In fact, the relationships became so strong that a majority of the congregation of Grace Church traveled in the back of a pickup truck to the airport in order to say goodbye to their new friends.

All of the volunteers said they would be willing to participate in another missions effort. **B&R** — Lola Byrd, of Edgemoor Church, is a writer and columnist for *The Oak Ridger* and contributed to this story.



PAUSING DURING the trip are team members, from left, first row, Brenda Wentworth, Barry O'Brien, Suzy Morris; middle row, Bill Brown, Jeff Morris, Patsy Longmire, Linda O'Brien, Stan Young, Becky Young, Walter Brown; and back row, Chris Carpenter and David Brooks.

Bradley County Association names Rogers as DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Michael C. Rogers of Lexington, Ky., has been called as director of missions of Bradley County Association, effective Feb. 1.



ROGERS

Rogers is founder and president of Kingdom Agenda Ministries and co-author with Claude King of Murfreesboro of the book, *The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in Your Workplace*. Rogers was pastor of Chevy Chase Church, Lexington, Ky., for seven years. He and his wife, the former Deborah Smith, served as missionaries in Venezuela for five years. He also served as pastor of Bethlehem Church in Henry County, Ky.

Rogers is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. **B&R**

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION'S

\$30 MILLION

for the sons and daughters

Union University Campaign Leadership

Rev. Randy Isbell
Hopewell Baptist, Savannah

Rev. Phillip Lovelace
First Baptist, Somerville

Rev. Raymond Boston
First Baptist, Dyersburg

Dr. Skip Parvin
First Baptist, Milan

Rev. Jerry Massey
First Baptist, Paris

Dr. Roger Oldham
First Baptist, Martin

Rev. Max Walker
First Baptist, Selmer

Dr. Herbert Higdon
Crossroads Baptist, Alamo

Rev. Edward Mallonee
Popular Corner, Brownsville



Dr. Phillip Jett
Englewood Baptist, Jackson
Co-chair



Dr. Ken Story
Germantown Baptist, Memphis
Co-chair

Dr. William Northcott
First Baptist, Covington

Rev. Fred Ward
First Baptist, Huntingdon



Dr. David Dockery
President
Union University

Dr. Hoyt Wilson
First Baptist, Lexington

Dr. Michael Prince
Audubon Park Baptist, Memphis

Dr. Joseph Rosas, III
Union Avenue Baptist, Memphis

Dr. Jerry Tidwell
West Jackson Baptist, Jackson

Rev. Donald McCulley
First Baptist, Dresden

Belmont University Campaign Leadership

Dr. Roger Freeman
First Baptist, Clarksville

Rev. Kevin Goza
First Baptist, Lebanon

Rev. Murray Mathis
Third Baptist, Murfreesboro

Rev. Bob Vassar
Pleasant Heights Baptist, Columbia

Dr. Jerry Winfield
Forest Hills Baptist, Nashville



Dr. Michael Glenn
Brentwood Baptist, Brentwood
Chair

Last November in annual session, the Tennessee Baptist Convention launched a three-year state-wide campaign for the benefit of current and future Tennessee Baptist youth.

The three Baptist schools - Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University - are conducting simultaneous campaigns to raise \$10 million each in their assigned regions for permanently endowed scholarship funds.

Today's Baptist youth represent the future. Indeed, they are tomorrow's servant-leaders for our communities, our churches, and our Convention. Tennessee Baptists have a vital interest in ensuring that adequate scholarships exist for these youth to attend a Baptist college or university that reflects the values and commitments of our denomination.

Any Church Can Establish or Add to an Existing Fund

Churches are asked to work with the institution in their geographic region to establish a scholarship fund to assist youth from their own congregation, association or region. Any church can place the institution in its annual budget and "build" a fund over a period of years. Churches with existing scholarship funds are asked to continue adding to their fund.

The Average Baptist Can Too

If you've ever wanted to help a young person fulfill their dreams, establishing a Baptist scholarship will fill your heart with joy. Individuals may establish a fund bearing their own name or that of a loved

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

ON GOAL

ers of Tennessee Baptists



Dr. William Trout
President
Belmont University

Carson-Newman College Campaign Leadership

Dr. Ron Murray
Central Baptist, Johnson City

Rev. Allen Lockerman
First Baptist, Cleveland

Dr. Marvin Cameron
West Hills Baptist, Knoxville



Dr. Fred Steelman
Red Bank Baptist, Chattanooga
Chair



Dr. Cordell Maddox
President
Carson-Newman College

"Financial obstacles should never be a reason that one of our young people cannot attend Carson-Newman College,

Belmont University or Union University."



Dr. Tom Madden
State-wide Endowment
Campaign Chairman

one. Individuals may also add personal gifts to their church's fund.

Keeping Christian Higher Education Accessible

The private status of our Baptist institutions allows them to be distinctively Christian in their approach to education. This is what makes Belmont, Carson-Newman and Union preferred educational choices.

With your help and that of your church, the Baptist Scholarship Endowment Campaign will reduce the financial barriers to Christian higher education. Our vision is to see that not one of our youth is denied the opportunity to attend a Baptist school for financial reasons.

For More Information

Representatives from the institution in your geographic area will be contacting your church in the future. You may learn more now if you prefer by contacting the institutional representative in your area.

West Tennessee
Union University
Rev. Paul Veazey
(901) 661-5217

Middle Tennessee
Belmont University
Dr. Fred Kendall
(615) 460-6435

East Tennessee
Carson-Newman College
Rev. Alan Medders
(423) 471-3245

TBC churches support missions through LMCO

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Billie Northcut, church clerk at **First Church, Waverly**, noted that "Lottie Moon's undying love for missions has inspired many people to go as missionaries, and led many people to give generously to provide financial needs."

Undoubtedly, many Tennessee churches feel that way as they supported the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year.

Northcut said the Waverly congregation does many of the traditional means of creating awareness of the foreign missions offering — a parade of flags, missionary speakers, etc. The church even has three of its own serving as missionaries — Jeff and Regina Palmer, Philippines, and David Emmert, Ethiopia.

So, it's not surprising that First Church, Waverly, set an all-time high goal this year of \$10,000 and exceeded it by \$3,044.19. Why: "We did not receive a letter from Miss Moon. There was no 'hard-sell' or fund raisers. People gave because they have a heart for missions and there is an ongoing exposure here to missions, and opportunities for hands-on missions," Northcut said.

Other "success stories" include:

Eastland Church, Nashville, received a check for \$54,195.71 from the estate of Bessie Russell who wanted the money to be used for foreign missions. She was a loyal member of WMU at Eastland and giving to missions was a part of her life.

Middle Creek Church, Coalfield, used the efforts of various missions organizations in the church to exceed its \$1,000 goal by \$300.

Members of **Enterprise Church, Morristown**, had a goal of \$3,300, but gave \$6,029.08, according to Pastor Jim Turner. It was the largest offering of its kind to his knowledge, Turner said. "Much time was spent in prayer and to receive a great offering shows God hears and answers our prayers when prayed believing that we shall receive," he noted.

New Hope Church, Dyer, set the largest goal in its history at \$2,500. "As the offering came in we soon realized we would meet and exceed our goal," said Pastor James Adams. The end result at New Hope was \$4,900.

Finley Church, Finley, had a goal of \$1,500, which was \$500 more than last year, and members gave \$1,782. "God has richly blessed our church during the past five years and this was another blessing," said Lin-



GA's AT FIRST CHURCH, Watertown, raised money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by operating a church mailbox for Christmas cards.

da Graves of the church.

Walnut Grove Church, a small rural church in Dover, set a goal of \$250. Church members had a cross made with lights on it that were lit for every \$10 given. Cookies were made from the Lottie Moon recipe and given to members along with a copy of the recipe and an explanation of how Lottie Moon reached people. The church not only reached their goal but gave \$422.

Highland Park Church, Jackson, failed to reach its goal last year, but in a step of faith, increased it by 10 percent this year. The church used missionary speakers to create awareness along with other

ways and surpassed their goal by 11 percent.

Maple Springs Church exceeded its Lottie Moon offering goal "quite a bit," according to Mary Lee Cox.

Mossy Grove Church, Harriman, received the largest offering in its history with \$3,174.86, according to Juanita Eastham, Women on Mission director. The church's goal was \$2,150. The church had a live manger scene and people filed by with their mission offering, she said.

Emmanuel Church, Crossville, had a goal of \$500, but on Dec. 29, in response to a challenge from Pastor Thomas Farmer, their offering totaled



\$1,000, according to member Sue Powers.

First Church, Woodbury, had a goal of \$8,500 and gave more than \$9,500.

Riverside Church, Harri-man, held a missionary march with Baptist Women and GAs dressed in costumes of different countries and a drama featuring a woman portraying Lottie Moon. When the church musicians played "We've A Story To Tell the Nations," members placed their offering on the Lord's Table and met the church's LMCO goal.

Bethel Church, Parrotts-ville, set a Lottie Moon goal of \$500 and raised \$1,435.61, said Pastor Terry Humberd. Members lit an electric candelabra and one member crocheted angels for gifts to people who gave an offering in memory or in honor of someone.

Michael Eldridge, a Tennessee student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, reported the church where he is on staff, Parkland in Louisville, exceeded its \$9,000 goal by \$1,500. ■

Fishing is easier if you have the right tools.

When it comes to sharing our faith, many of us get wet feet. We want to share Jesus, but don't know how. That's why every pastor in Tennessee should bring 10 church leaders to the *People Sharing Jesus Conference*.

Get hands-on guidance and equip your church to reach out to the lost in natural, loving, effective ways. With an investment of just 6 hours and \$13, the *People Sharing Jesus Conference* will equip you to:

- turn everyday conversations into sharing opportunities
- listen to others and share Christ at the point of their need
- recognize God-given opportunities to share
- share the Good News of the gospel in creative ways.



WALTER JACKSON
Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, TN



JAMES GARLOW
Pastor, Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego, CA



DARRELL ROBINSON
Vice President for Evangelism, Home Mission Board



STEVE CAMP
Recording Artist



And once you're equipped, you can train others. So bring 10 leaders with you, and join us April 25-26. Before you know it, people will describe your church as *People Sharing Jesus*.

For more information or to make reservations, please call Judson Baptist Church at (615) 833-6606.

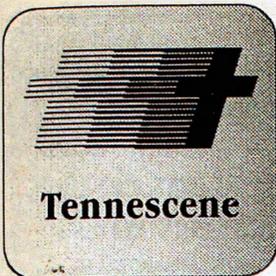


The People Sharing Jesus Conference

Judson Baptist Church — Nashville, Tennessee

- Friday, April 25, 7pm - 9:30pm: Evening Session
- Saturday, April 26, 8:30am: Continental Breakfast
- 9am - 12 noon: Morning Session
- 12 noon: Lunch • 1pm - 2:30pm: Afternoon Session

*PRE REGISTRATION PER PERSON \$13.00, \$15.00 AT THE DOOR. REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES ENTRANCE TO ALL SESSIONS, A CONFERENCE SYLLABUS AND TWO MEALS.



Tennesseene

Leaders

- **Wade Kelly**, pastor, Feathers Chapel, Somerville, has resigned effective Jan. 26.
- **West Union Church**, Dresden, has called **Tommy Harrison** as interim pastor.
- **Calvary Church**, Sevierville, has called **Bill Brewer** of Walden's Creek Church, Sevierville, as music director.
- **Hyran E. Barefoot**, retired president, Union University, Jackson, has been called as interim pastor, Sand Ridge Church, Lexington, effective Feb. 2.
- **Claude Duncan** has been called as music director of East Side Church, Elizabethton.
- **Mack's Grove Church**, Dresden, has called **Jerry Powell** as pastor.
- **Moore's Chapel**, Greenfield, has called **Tony Terrell** as pastor.

- **Ted Daugherty** of Fairview has been called as pastor of Liberty Church, McEwen.
- **Raleigh Church**, Memphis, has called **Rusty Wheelington** as minister of youth.

churches

- **The Woman's Missionary Union of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, is collecting children's clothes for Montgomery Village Baptist Center and Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.
- **Gearin's Chapel, Greenfield**, is remodeling its buildings.
- **Southside Church, Martin**, will hold a marriage seminar, "Making Good Families Better" Feb. 22. Bob Swift will speak.
- **Memorial Church, Hixson**, will host "The Dynamics of Anointed Biblical Preaching," a one-day institute featuring Stephen and David Olford on Feb. 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes refreshments, lunch, and materials. For more information, call the church office at (423) 877-7922.
- **First Church, Kingston**, will celebrate its 120th anniversary with several events. On

Feb. 23 "Yesterday," a historical drama, will be presented. On March 2 Reunion Day Services will be held. Activities include a luncheon featuring old-fashioned entertainment and a historical exhibit. On April 6 a presentation of current ministries, "Today," will be offered followed by a fellowship. And on May 6 a drama, "Tomorrow," will be presented. For more information, call (423) 376-6041.

- **Parkway Village Church, Memphis**, is planning its relocation east of the city.
- **Liberty Church, Somerville**, has bought one and a half acres of land adjoining its property and plans to build soon.
- **Raleigh Church, Memphis**, has acted to put its current property and facility on sale in preparation for relocation.
- **East Athens Church, East Athens**, will return to Peytona, W.V. July 12-18 to work.

associations

- **Riverside Association** will hold a work day to continue construction of its office building Feb. 15.



■ **Sevier County Association** is hosting a True Love Waits Rally at First Church, Sevierville, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. Scott Carter, minister to youth at the church, will speak and Dean Watson, chalk talk artist, will perform. Call (423) 436-7618 for more information.

■ **Loudon County Association** will hold its Evangelism Conference Feb. 17-18 at Calvary Church, Lenoir City, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Larry Wynn, Hebron Church, Middleton, will speak. Additionally, the association is hosting a True Love Waits Youth Rally Feb. 12 at Lenoir City High School. Glenn Watley, True Love Waits National Coordinator, and Johnathan Pierce, musician, will lead it.

■ **The Evangelism Conference of Clinton Association** will be Feb. 18. Bill Stafford III will speak.

■ **The 20th Annual Watauga Baptist Association Music School** will be Feb. 24-25 and 27-28 at First Church, Elizabethton, from 7-9 p.m. "Triumphs of His Grace," will be prepared and performed Feb. 28. Marty Parks will lead it.

■ **Knox County Association** has acted to develop its

property on Westland Drive by enclosing it with a fence, erecting a pavilion, building a new office and training center, and converting the current facility into a missionary residence.

■ **Weakley County Association** will hold a Sunday School Leadership Night Feb. 24 at Eastside Church, Martin. Training will be provided.

missionaries

■ **James Sok Jr.**, former pastor of the Nashville Korean Church from 1986-91, and his wife, **Mary**, have been named home missionaries to Illinois. Sok is serving as a missionary and as pastor of Antioch Korean Church, Park Ridge, Ill. He also has been director, Chicago campus, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and director, Korean studies program, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Ill.

■ **The need of Debbie Wohler**, missionary in Tahoe City, Calif., for a van was featured in *Missions Mosaic* this month. She reported that to raise money, she is collecting labels of Campbell's soup and other related products. Many are sending the needed labels, but many are requesting information. For information on specific labels needed, contact the Tennessee WМУ office at (615) 371-2038.

Tennessee Baptists encouraged to send nominations for boards, committees

Shown at right are the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees.

The forms to the side are smaller replicas of the original forms which are being sent to every Tennessee Baptist church and to directors of missions of all 68 associations in the state. Additional forms may be acquired from local DOMs or the TBC Executive Leadership Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

Individual Tennessee Baptists desiring to recommend persons to a board or committee position should use these forms. A form needs to be filled out for each person nominated to a board or committee. Recommendations for the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees should be mailed by March 17 to the Chairman, Committee on Boards, or Chairman, Committee on Committees, c/o Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

Forms also may be faxed to (615) 371-2093. ■

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees, TBC 1997

Eligibility from the Constitution and Bylaws:
 (1) A member serving on either the Committee on Committees or the Committee on Boards shall not be eligible for election to either the Committee on Committees or the Committee on Boards until having been an official four consecutive years. (Bylaw 2.17)
 (2) No director who has served two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election until such director shall have been out of office for one consecutive year. (Constitution Article VII § 4)
 (3) A member of a committee who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until having been out of office for one consecutive year. (Bylaw 2.17)

Nominee's Association _____ East _____ Middle _____ West _____

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Boards. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume that recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 17.

I recommend _____ for the _____ Board/Committee.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE:

<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Homes
<input type="checkbox"/> Belmont University	<input type="checkbox"/> Union University	<input type="checkbox"/> Carson-Newman College
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Baptist Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Harrison-Chilhowee Academy
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System, Nashville	<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System, Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System, East Tennessee

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (Business)
 Approximate Age _____ Sex M _____ F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____
 Church Membership _____
 Address _____
 Average Sunday School Attendance 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500-1000 _____ >1000 _____
 Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service _____
3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1996 \$ _____
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific. _____
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended? _____
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee? _____
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone () _____
 Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code _____

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Convention Committees, TBC 1997

Eligibility from the Constitution and Bylaws:
 (1) A member serving on either the Committee on Committees or the Committee on Boards shall not be eligible for election to either the Committee on Committees or the Committee on Boards until having been an official four consecutive years. (Bylaw 2.17)
 (2) No director who has served two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election until such director shall have been out of office for one consecutive year. (Constitution Article VII § 4)
 (3) A member of a committee who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until having been out of office for one consecutive year. (Bylaw 2.17)

Nominee's Association _____ East _____ Middle _____ West _____

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Conventions. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Conventions, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Conventions. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 17.

I recommend _____ for the _____ committee.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE:

<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Audits	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Credentials
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Resolutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Boards	
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Constitution & Bylaws	

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (Business)
 Approximate Age _____ Sex M _____ F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____
 Church Membership _____
 Address _____
 Average Sunday School Attendance 0-250 _____ 250-500 _____ 500-1000 _____ >1000 _____
 Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____ Title _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service _____
3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1996 \$ _____
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific. _____
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended? _____
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee? _____
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone () _____
 Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code _____

In Philippines

Haywood volunteers witness God's power

For Baptist and Reflector

BROWNSVILLE — Sixteen mission volunteers from Haywood Association returned home recently after serving with 16 churches in East Pangasinan Baptist Association in the Philippines.

The team reported 2,655 professions of faith, plus 266 other decisions. The team was the seventh from Haywood Association that has served in the Philippines since 1989.

The island nation is made up of 7,100 islands and has a land area of about the size of Tennessee with a population of more than 70 million people.

Two team members worked with Filipino Baptists to construct a church in a barrio or village called Paldit near the town of Sison. The church is only the second congregation around Sison. The construction team was invited to speak in several churches in the area and conduct a dedication service for the new building.

It was the eighth building Haywood Baptists have built in the last eight years in the Philippines. The people at Paldit Community Baptist Church had been meeting in a bamboo and grass hut, before the East Pangasinan Baptist Association chose the congregation to receive the new building.

Jerry Foster and Ray Ellington, both laymen and members of Zion Church, Brownsville, served with the Filipino workers to construct the concrete building with wooden trusses and a metal roof.

Ellington, who was on his second trip to the Philippines, noted "it was a joy just to get to know the Filipino people, since they blessed me much more

than I did them." Ellington also spoke at a nightly crusade and saw the power of the Lord save many souls.

Haywood Association Director of Missions Charles Pratt, who has coordinated all the trips, said the nightly crusades drew large crowds, especially when the "Jesus" film or other such films were used.

Some locations had no electricity so generators were used to power the movies. Richard Hartsfield, a layman from New Hope Church near Dyer, noted that one night the power went off and "the Lord sent the brightest moon that I have ever seen to light up the entire crusade site."

Church services were packed with people, who often had no

transportation. "I am thrilled with the hunger for the Word of God that I see among the Filipino people," said Randy Crews, pastor of First Church, Rutherford.

Crusades were often held on sites where there were no churches nearby. Two particular areas were targeted to start new congregations during the coming year in follow up to the crusades.

In addition to the crusades some team members conducted home Bible studies with groups that were too far away to attend the churches and others spoke in the high schools. The American pastors also conducted a "Pastor's School."

"I stand amazed at the life-changing message of the Gospel

to penetrate all barriers of culture and language," said Ken Culver, pastor of Calvary Church, Brownsville who was on his third mission trip there. "I feel so grateful and thankful to my Lord and my church for permitting me to be a part of God's work."

John Hayes, a medical doctor from Brownsville Church on his second trip, noted he was "amazed at the awesome power of God to perform miracles like we experienced."

Mark Conway, pastor of Zion Church near Brownsville, said the blessings from the trip were "immeasurable."

Johnny Witherspoon, pastor of Walnut Grove Church, near

Rutherford, said "the warm hospitality of the Filipino people will always remain in my heart."

Four Haywood churches and one Gibson County church — Shaws Chapel, Stanton, Zion, Harmony, and Bethpage — as well as individuals gave money to purchase building materials.

Others gave money to purchase Bibles and New Testaments in the Filipino language for the volunteers to distribute.

■ — Charles Pratt



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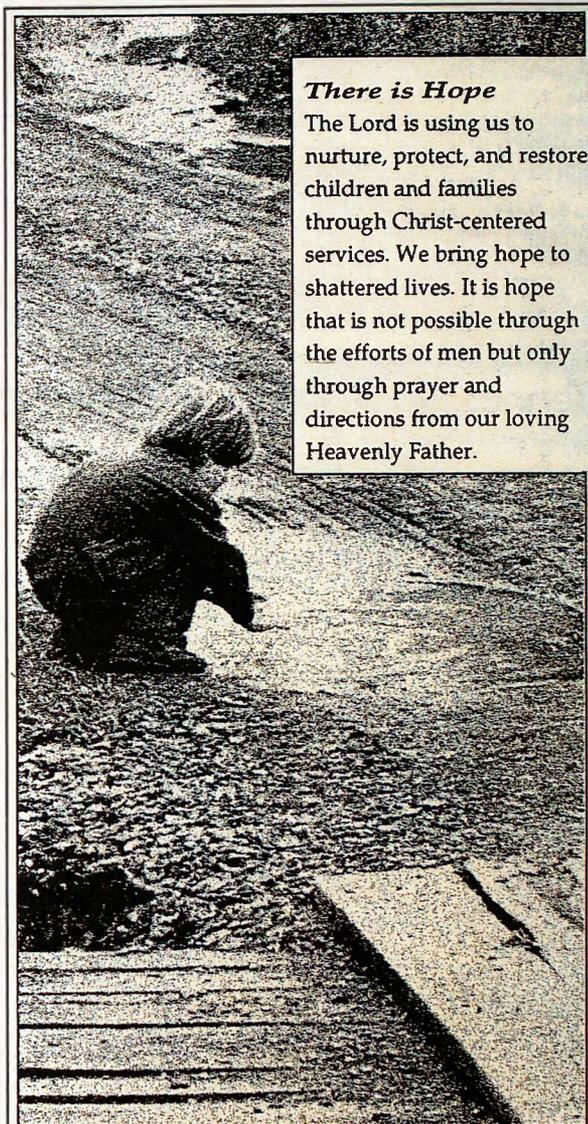
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Knoxville congregation

WestLake — from mission to church quickly

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — No one is certain of the precise day it all began, or even who can be credited with initiating the unique mission effort.

But because of love for missions and a dream for a new mission church, WestLake is a young church thriving in Knoxville. It grew quickly.

WestLake is the child of First Church Concord.

The journey began four years ago as a dream and a challenge. Pastor Doug Sager and First Church Concord had a vision to fulfill a small part of the Great Commission by starting a new congregation in their own backyard.

The approach to start developed in an innovative way and went well beyond prayerful support and a modest financial investment.

First Church early in the vision began looking for the "right person" with all the tools to reach the needs of the target community of unchurched people.

At the same time, God was working in the life of a young pastor in Dallas, Texas.

As a pastor with solid church planting experience, Larry McCrary and his family were considering a return to their native East Tennessee roots. It was far from being a singular focus or the end result of his ministry.

They continued thinking and praying about taking their experience back to Tennessee.

God brought the McCrary family and First Church together. In September 1994, Larry McCrary joined the staff at First Church as associate pastor for church planting.

McCrary didn't know it, but he would soon become the pastor of a fledgling mission church, a child of First Church.

Components of the vision began taking tangible form. So the seeds for WestLake Church were planted in west Knoxville.

Blessings began to help the vision move from the drawing board into reality.

There was a quick consensus within First Church for the vision, method, and target group for the new church.

Generous gifts and actions also came quickly from the First Church congregation. For

example, the church today fully funds the WestLake pastor's salary — and gives \$20,000 per year in start-up expenses.

A survey placed the greatest need for a new mission church within six miles of the mother church. The survey found strong support from First Church. A steering group was formed — and First Church supplied leadership in all areas in the early stages of start-up.

WestLake Church began in a local school in August 1995. A month later, the group moved to a new school, opening with more than 200 people present, about half from First Church.

At the end of the first year, more than 200 were regularly attending WestLake, and average Sunday attendance is more than 125.

On any given Sunday about 35 percent of the congregation has not been actively involved in church for at least five years. And, since opening day, 10 percent of attendees have accepted Christ as Savior.

What's more, hundreds of families are moving into the

rapidly growing neighborhoods.

Services at WestLake tend to be less traditional, and are packaged to reach the seeker who is typically unchurched or non-churched.

The message is traditional but is blended into a contemporary presentation through music, drama, video clips, and occasional props. The atmosphere is casual.

For continuing education and individual growth, a variety of small groups, Bible study, and special interest events are used to teach the Gospel.

For the believers, Wednesday evening is reserved for the pastor to delve deeper into biblical principles. Two-way discussion is the norm.

Although WestLake may not be for everyone, church leaders say, the demographics range from couples 80 and over to newlyweds in their 20s.

In early 1996 acquisition of land for WestLake became a priority at the mother church. A local land developer, who had been unwilling to divide or sell his real estate there made a generous offer to the two



churches. The land was offered at about 20 percent below market, 28 acres of prime land.

Located a half mile from the church's meeting place and along a new interstate connector, I-140, the cost was more than \$1 million. The site is in the center of the mission's target area.

On Dec. 4, 1996, First Church Concord took possession of the land on behalf of WestLake.

Church leaders say that during the first year, the mission church had been "an evolving story of faith, generosity, and God's grace and blessing."

The vision and reality of First Church and WestLake involved prayer, hard work, many volunteer hours, and great cooperation.

Programs of interest are developing for all age groups, and many needs are being met. — Dennis Grahl developed this story. ■

Church building/finance conference planned for March 18 in Knoxville

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Is your church planning to build or remodel?

Does your church need to make better use of its facilities?

Do you need financial assistance for these goals?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, then the Church Building/Finance Conference, scheduled for March 18, may be the answer.

The meeting, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Staff Leadership Group, will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

It is the first such conference sponsored by the TBC in recent years, said Archer Thorpe, church administration specialist.

The conference is designed to provide information, training, and resources for churches that will enable them to better plan to minister in their community, using their facilities as a tool for ministry, Thorpe said.

Featured topics include master planning for long range growth, steps in a building program, designing space, how churches finance building programs, planning a building budget, and selecting and working with an architect.

Conference leaders include Thorpe, Jerry Grubbs, architect and consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board; and Bo Childs, certified financial planner and president, Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

The cost for the conference is \$10 and includes lunch. Registration fee should be made payable to Church Administration and sent to Archer Thorpe, Church Administration, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

A similar workshop will be held Nov. 18 at West Jackson Church, Jackson, Thorpe noted.

For more information, call Thorpe at (615) 371-2017. ■

HIV/AIDS seminar set for March 15 in Lebanon

For Baptist and Reflector

LEBANON — Tennessee Baptist pastors are invited to an HIV/AIDS seminar March 15 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the cafeteria of Cumberland University here.

The seminar is a doctor of ministry project of Jim McAfee, pastor of Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet.

The cost of the seminar is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and includes lunch, two snack breaks, and free educational material.

Topics to be discussed include medical terminology, medical treatment, how to relate to those who are dying, biblical and theological models, and more.

Program guests include McAfee, Margaret Baggett, a public health nurse in Wilson County for 16 years; Katherine Bertram, a physician from Cookeville currently treating HIV/AIDS patients; Mr. and Mrs. Ken McDaniel, volunteer educators with Nashville Cares; Viki Black, a Hospice volunteer and counselor for those who are dying of HIV/AIDS-related causes; and Debbie Runions, author of *Sabrina's Gift*, who is HIV positive. She will share what it is like to live with the virus and how it has affected her life.

"One of the great crises that is confronting the church today is the epidemic of HIV or AIDS," McAfee noted.

"Few churches are equipped to minister to those who have been infected by this virus and very few have any type of education program for their congregation," observed McAfee, who is a candidate for the doctor of ministry degree from Drew University and School of Theology, Madison, N.J.

McAfee said he designed the seminar to help churches and Christians minister to those who are affected by the deadly disease.

Reservations for the seminar are needed by March 8. For more information, call McAfee at (615) 444-2390 or 444-5524. ■

Concord churches raise funds for tornado victims

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Concord Association churches are collecting funds for victims of the recent tornado which swept through Rutherford County. Funds are primarily for those without sufficient insurance coverage.

Churches also have sent clothing and oth-

er items for the tornado victims to the Concord Association office.

So far, more than \$5,000 has been received to help the victims.

Any churches or individuals wishing to contribute to the ongoing fund may send a check, designated for Storm Victim Relief Fund, to: Concord Baptist Association, P.O. Box 1884, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1884. ■

State Brotherhood leaders eye future

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — State convention Brotherhood leaders paid tribute to the prominent "markers" in almost 90 years of Brotherhood Commission history during the final Brotherhood Leadership Conference Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

The leaders, meanwhile, discussed the future of their work in a Southern Baptist Convention that, by the end of

June, will no longer have Brotherhood as a separate agency.

Brotherhood President James D. Williams told the state workers, "... it's time to complete the 'grief work' over the dissolution of the Brotherhood Commission," exhorting them to "let your allegiance to Christ, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, give you a spirit of adaptation and change to the new SBC organization."

The next step, Williams continued, is to "hold the North American Mission Board accountable for being a servant to you and the churches, and to demonstrate that kind of cooperative spirit that enables us to build on the strengths of the past, but claims the potential of a God-sized future."

"Without question, the major functions of our work will go on, and hopefully strengthened and enlarged."

The North American Mission Board will be formed in a merger of the Brotherhood, Home Mission Board, and Radio and Television Commission under the SBC-wide restructuring "Covenant for a New Century," approved by messengers at the 1995 and 1996 SBC annual meetings.

The state Brotherhood leaders, many of who have or soon will face organizational change in their own conventions, seemed most concerned about the availability of missions education materials now produced by the commission. Williams assured them "there will be orderly continuity."

Specifically, the Brotherhood leaders learned that *Lad* and *Crusader* magazines for Royal Ambassadors will continue for the immediate future, as will *Challenge* magazine for young men in grades 7-12.

However, *Missions Today*, the agency's flagship monthly magazine for Baptist men, will fold with the June 1997 issue and be replaced by a new publication from the NAMB. All other men's ministries materials currently offered are now under evaluation, according to Mike Day, Brotherhood's executive vice president.

"Nothing else has been decided as to which materials will be produced for men by either the North American Mission Board or the Sunday School Board," Day said.

A new catalog containing materials certain to be offered for the 1997-98 church year will be available June 1. ■

Germantown teen selected as Acteens panelist

For Baptist and Reflector

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — An Acteen from Germantown Church, Germantown, has been selected to serve on the six-member 1997 National Acteens Panel.

Laura Marie Howell was among those chosen from nearly 100 Acteens nationwide.

Her selection is based on accomplishments in Student Act, the individual achievement plan for Acteens; involvement in Acteens and other church activities; and achievements in school, scholastically

and socially.

During the year Howell and the other panelists will provide leadership in state and associational WMU meetings, write for *Accent*, and serve as pages at the June 15-16 WMU annual meeting and the June 17-19 Southern Baptist Convention, both in Dallas.

Two other Tennesseans were among 20 nationwide cited as 1997 National Acteens Top Teens — Katherine Lewis, Sharon Church, Knoxville, and Melody Maxwell, First Church, Collierville. ■



HOWELL

Tennessee RA Congress set for March

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 43rd Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress will be held March 27-29 at Belmont University, Nashville. The event is sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.

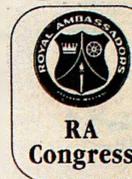
The theme is "Being Missionary ... Sharing Christ's Love." Featured guests are Kevin Shrum, senior pastor, Inglewood Church, Nashville; Jest for Jesus, a clown ministry of Fellowship Church, Knoxville; and David Campbell, congress music coordinator and medical student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

Main events include: Campcraft Rodeo, Missions

Speak Out, Parade of Flags, Project Hall, RA Racers, Missions Carnival, Missions Fair, Missions Conferences, 5K Walk/Run, and more.

A special meal ticket will be offered by the Belmont University cafeteria through the Men's Ministries office until March 6. Call for meal ticket information. Preregistration forms and \$15 per person fees are accepted through March 6. After that date, the cost is \$17 per person. Registration packets may be picked up March 27 from 7-9 p.m. or March 28, 7:30 p.m.

All forms and fees must be sent to Tennessee RA Congress, Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. For more information, call (615) 371-2025 or 1 (800) 558-2090. ■



Partnership Prayer Requests February

- 12 — Pray for a national gathering of Canadian denominational leaders, district superintendents, area ministers, and others in the Toronto area which is scheduled for Oct. 27-30. They will pray, plan, and set goals to plant one evangelizing congregation for every 2,000 Canadians.
- 13 — Pray for Charles and Barbara Layton in Poland as they coordinate simultaneous revivals there in May.
- 14 — Pray for South Central and Southwestern associations in Michigan as they interview a candidate for director of missions.
- 15 — Pray for two Canadian Seminary students — one has Bell's palsy and the other is trying to sell his house.
- 16 — Pray for Lynn Porch, wife of TBC Executive Director James Porch who has a malignancy.
- 17 — Pray for Executive Director Michael Collins as he leads the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 18 — Pray for Colson Bargain, infant son of Lloyd and Laurie Bargain of Canada who has heart and lung problems and had recent surgery.

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- Tour #HL57: Holy Land Pilgrimage. June 9. Opt. extn. to Europe — Switzerland, Germany (Rhine Cruise), Austria, France, & Belgium.
- Tour #EU31: Best of Europe. 8 days. Germany (Rhine Cruise), Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, & France. June 15.
- Tour #B16: British Isles & Ireland. 14 days. Aug. 14
- Tour #SP6: Austria/New Zealand. 16 days. Oct. 13.
- Tour #HL58: Holidays in the Holy Land. 10 days. Opt. extn. to Egypt and London.

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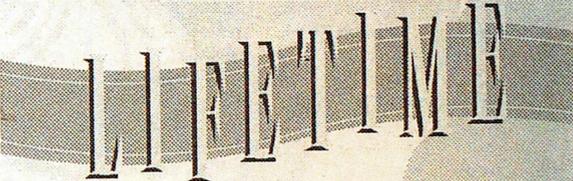
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Obey

By Donna Wright

Focal Passage — Matthew 21:23-32

There are many people in this world who need to obey the Word of God. There are prostitutes, drug dealers, thieves, liars, murderers, the list goes on and on. The funny thing, however, about my pointing my finger at other people, is that there are three, on my own hand, that point back to me.

Me? I need to obey? How can you say that? And, to me, of all people. Don't I go to church? Don't I proudly pray in public?

There were people who asked Jesus those same questions. This is how he answered them.

There was a man with two sons. To the first, he said, "Go today, and work for me." The son refused. Then, he had a change of heart and went.

To the second son he said the same. The son said, "Yes, Lord, I will." But, he never did.

After Jesus had told this story, he asked those who felt themselves righteous, "Which son did his father's will?" They answered, "The first."

Jesus agreed with them. Then he went on to tell them that the prostitutes and publicans would enter the kingdom of heaven before they did, for they listened to John the Baptist and repented. But the Pharisees and chief priests never would repent.

What's the big deal? God knows we are all human. He doesn't really expect us to obey. We are saved by grace, why do anything more?

Why do you tell your children not to play in traffic? Why do you tell them to look both ways before crossing the street? Why don't you allow your child to climb upon the roof and play?

Because you know the consequences, that's why.

Do you honestly think that the Lord told us not to engage in certain acts, just to keep us from having fun? Unlike us, he knows what the effects of our sins will be.

He knows that promiscuity can end in unwanted pregnancies, AIDS, Herpes, and various other venereal diseases that we can't even imagine. He knew it before we did. He tells us how to treat our bodies, but instead of listening to him, we tried it on our own. After all, it felt good, didn't it? We weren't hurting anyone, were we?

Now, AIDS is the NUMBER ONE killer of young people in this country. It even outranks accidents.

In the 1960s when it became stylish to be promiscuous, did we know about AIDS? No. Did God? Of course he did. Why do you think all those warnings are throughout the Bible? He didn't want us to be hurt.

We should obey the Lord for one reason. Because we love him.

However, if you want more than that, here it is: Our God is a heavenly father. He established rules for the same reason you establish rules for your children. All he wants is to protect us from what Satan puts out there to snare us.

Isn't it wonderful to serve a God who commands us, in love, to obey? ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Kingsport.



Start Something New
1997 Season of Home Missions
Home Mission Study, Feb. 16-19

Priscilla and Aquila

By Mike Shelton

Focal Passage — Acts 18:1-4, 18-19, 24-26; Romans 16:3-5

One day during a class in seminary a professor of mine told the students about a friend he had known years ago. The friend had become a Christian early in his teenage years. He could not contain the joy he had in his heart. He shared Christ with people everywhere he went. One day his friend organized a game of basketball among some other boys in the neighborhood. When the game was over, he took advantage of the opportunity for witnessing he had and asked all the boys to sit underneath the basketball goal. Once they did, he stood and shared the Gospel with them. All but one gave their hearts to Christ on the spot. That young man reminds us of the two people we see in our lesson for this week, Aquila and Priscilla. No matter where they were, they seized the opportunities the Lord gave them to do his work.

In Corinth — Acts 18:1-4

We are told that Priscilla and Aquila were in Corinth because they had been expelled from Rome, along with all other Jews, when Claudius was emper-

Family Bible Lesson

or. Corinth was notorious for its immorality. They were uprooted from their home and transplanted into a city that probably challenged their faith on a daily basis. Once there they befriended Paul when he came to Corinth preaching Christ. The clear impression is that they opened their home to Paul and assisted him in his efforts to make a living as a tentmaker and to win people to faith in Christ.

Some of us probably would have reacted differently

had we been in Aquila and Priscilla's shoes. We might have blamed God for our predicament. Had Aquila and Priscilla taken that route they would have missed the chance to serve the Lord and help Paul start a new church. Their openness to God's leadership made all the difference.

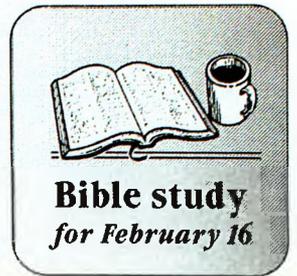
In Ephesus — vv. 18-19, 24-26

We next find the couple in Ephesus after they had accompanied Paul on his journey to that city. Even here they continued doing God's will. When a preacher named Apollos preached in the synagogue, Priscilla and Aquila could see that he had only a limited knowledge of God's Word. He needed more instruction. They lovingly guided him to Christ. Apollos then became a powerful spokesman for the Lord.

We never know when the opportunity to witness may come. The most effective evangelists are those who keep their eyes and ears open for a chance to share Christ with someone who's lost. We, too, should remain focused on our responsibility to witness.

In Rome — Romans 16:3-5

In this final mention of Aquila and Priscilla, Paul cited them as "helpers in Christ Jesus" who had sacrificed for the Gospel. They continued to show their devotion by volunteering their home as a meeting place for the church in Rome. It seems these people held nothing back from Christ. When Paul needed friends and helpers in Corinth, they responded. When Apollos needed an evangelistic witness of Christ, Aquila and Priscilla pointed the way. When the church in Rome needed a place to assemble, they opened their home. May we also be faithful with every opportunity Christ gives us to serve him wherever we may go. ■ — Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.



Bible study
for February 16

Ready for the King

By Howard Kitter

Focal Passage — Matthew 24:3-6, 29-31, 42-47

"One hundred, ninety-nine ... three, two, one, ready or not, here I come!" Almost every time that statement was bellowed out, one of the other kids would quip, "Wait, I'm not ready." "Toooo bad! You're it." Do you remember playing that old game? Everyone knew that if you weren't ready when the counting was over, you would be caught. A similar basis holds true with this lesson. Everyone knows the countdown is in progress. The question is, "Are you ready?" There will be no starting over because someone calls a foul in fairness. The bottom line is, Jesus is coming, are you ready?

An important set of questions — vv. 3-6

Matthew 24 and 25 is most commonly called the "Olivet Discourse." This discourse given by Jesus was prompted by some important questions from the disciples. The answer that was given by Jesus is the longest answer to any question in the New Testament. The basic three questions asked of the Savior were as follows: 1) When will the temple be destroyed? 2) What is the sign of Christ's coming? and 3) What is the

Explore the Bible Lesson

sign of the end of the age? (History reveals to us that the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans.)

In verse three there is a word used that expresses something about the disciples mind set. That word is when. For some time these men believed that the kingdom of God was not only eminent, but very close. The word when seems to imply immediacy, carrying with it a suggestion that the time might be tomorrow, the day after, or possibly no later than the next Passover. This reflected the disciples' expectations that it would be soon.

"What will be the sign of your coming?" They wanted to know what the first indicators would be for his ascension to the throne. The coming that the disciples had in mind was not the second coming. The concept that was captured in their minds at this time was, what would be the sign given to signal the full manifestation of his permanent presence as Messiah and King. The disciples had no thought of his returning because they had no idea of his leaving. Their idea was more of a perfected presence, which they expected him to do presently.

As far as the "end of the age," I

believe the disciples were expecting the end of the present world system of darkness and sin. Their desire was to know the sign that would herald these events in before their eyes. Thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus in their minds. They thought they had it all figured out and wanted Jesus to just fill in the small details.

An important warning — vv. 29-31

Be careful of the deceivers. There will be no guess work in understanding when Jesus returns. The entrance of Jesus will be known to all. The entire world will see him come.

An important exhortation — vv. 42-47

No one knows the day or the hour of his return. Instead of being all tied up in the question of "When," we should be more concerned with the question of "Are you ready?" Knowing that he is coming back is ample motivation for the child of the King to be prepared.

Ask yourself: "If Jesus were to tell me that he is coming back tomorrow, would I change anything in my life today?" If the answer is yes, then your response ought to be repentance and turning back to him. Now by ready. He is coming. ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.



world news

FMB missionary escapes injury

Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania — A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary escaped injury when 20 to 30 men attacked his car during violence that erupted in late January.

Albanians rioted for several days after the government shut down illegal investment schemes and much of the population lost money.

Missionary Lawrence Duhon of Euless, Texas, was driving alone through Zhame, a village between the capital city of Tirana and his home in Fier when a mob surrounded his car and began beating it with steel rods.

The windshield was shattered, a side window was broken out, and a door handle was ripped off by the attackers who tried to forcibly enter the car. But the car window beside Duhon somehow withstood the heavy blows by men swinging steel rods against it.

Duhon was unhurt. "I was personally untouched, thanks to God's hand of protection. It was amazing for me to watch them beat the driver's side window hard with big rods without it breaking," he said, noting he felt attackers mistook him for a government official. ■

Three more denominations express concerns over Disney company's values

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Three denominations have been added to a growing list of Christian groups calling on the Walt Disney Company to return to a more pro-family approach in its entertainment offerings.

The three groups whose stances have received recent attention are the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), the Presbyterian Church in America, and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Last June messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Con-

State buys old Clarke campus

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Identical bills to appropriate funds for the state of Mississippi's purchase of the former Clarke College campus in Newton have been filed with the state senate and house of representatives.

The \$16.5 million appropriation measure includes \$9 million for the purchase and renovation of the Clarke College campus "for the operation of a residential psychiatric hospital," according to the language of the bills.

Clarke College, a former Mississippi Baptist-affiliated junior college, closed in May 1992. Mississippi Baptists will receive \$1 million from the sale of the campus. ■

CBF revises 1996-97 budget

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — For the second straight year, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship revised its budget at mid-year, as the first six months of fiscal 1996-97 revenue fell more than 10 percent below budget projections.

The CBF 1996-97 budget called for \$14,102,000, but after six months of the fiscal year, July through December, actual contributions have slowed to the point CBF officials are projecting \$12,580,000 for the full year, a 10.8 percent shortfall.

CBF's Coordinating Council, the organization's governing board between annual meetings, voted to revise the year's budget downward 1.69 percent and use reserves to make up the difference. ■

tion passed a resolution calling on Baptists "to give prayerful and serious consideration" to whether to attend Disney theme parks and purchase Disney products. The resolution suggested a boycott of Disney if it continues "this anti-Christian and anti-family trend."

After the SBC resolution, other denominations and organizations, including the Assemblies of God, the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and the *Texas Catholic* newjournal, followed a similar course or endorsed the Southern Baptist action. ■

The biggest reduction in the CBF budget will come out of the Baptist Principles Ministry Group, with across-the-board cutbacks to theological institutions supported by the organization. CBF "friends" such as Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also will receive less funds. ■

BWA condemns attacks on camps

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Baptist World Alliance has asked the government of the United States of America to condemn four recent attacks by Burmese militants on Karen refugees in Thailand and use its power with the government of Myanmar and with the United Nations to help prevent such further attacks.

In these forays on the Karens, most of whom are Baptist, churches and schools were burned down in which BWA leaders preached and spoke last December.

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, the global organization of Baptists, asked President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeline Albright not only to condemn "but to impress on the ... government of Myanmar that such border incursion and attacks must cease."

In these incidents, more than 1,000 refugee homes and buildings have been lost, two people have died, and some have been wounded.

"We appeal to you to do all you can to protect the dignity of the lives of the Karen refugees in Thailand," Lotz wrote. ■

Historical Society seeks endowment

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Historical Society has received a \$250 check for

its endowment fund from First Church, Orlando, Fla. With the donation, one of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest churches is the second church to support the society's "Every Church Has a History" campaign designed to raise \$1 million in endowment by the end of the year 2000.

Presently, the SBHS has approximately \$50,000 for its annual operating budget; the organization needs \$120,000 annually if it is to continue the work of the SBC Historical Commission not assigned to other convention agencies when the commission closes in June under the SBC restructuring, "Covenant for a New Century."

First Church, Shawnee, Okla., was the first church to designate an annual contribution to the SBHS's budget. ■

New seminary a possibility in Kentucky

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Articles of incorporation have been filed for a new Baptist seminary in Kentucky, but details of the new venture apparently have not been finalized.

The Kentucky school would join a number of alternative theological schools springing up in recent years.

A January newsletter from the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, a moderate group of Baptists, features a brief column by Paul Simmons, chair of the group's theological education committee. He is a former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The Baptist Seminary of Kentucky is now a reality," Simmons wrote, adding that "articles of incorporation have been filed toward full recognition as a non-profit organization." The committee hopes to locate the seminary on a college or university campus, Simmons also wrote. ■

HMB offers web page for US-2 applicants

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — As a mid-February deadline approaches for US-2 missionary applications, information and applications are available on-line. By accessing www.nambsbc.org on the World Wide Web, candidates can complete the application on-line, or download the file and send in their information via the Internet at a later time.

"This will be much faster for the applicants," said Judy Smith, personnel specialist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionary personnel department. "Along with the application, candidates will be able to see available positions."

The new web site coincides with a second opportunity for applicants to be considered for the

Three B&H books are 'best-sellers'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a first for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers, three books made January best-seller lists of the Christian Booksellers Association Marketplace.

The B&H edition of *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby and Claude King ranked 12th in the cloth-bound nonfiction category; *Anonymous Tip*, a novel by Michael Farris was 10th on the paperback fiction list; and the *Here's Hope NIV New Testament* ranked ninth in the best-selling mass-market paperbacks category.

January CBA Marketplace lists were based on actual sales in Christian retail stores in the United States and Canada during November. ■

Mid-Continent taps David Jester as new president

Baptist Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. — David Jester, former foreign missionary and former president of Wayland Baptist University in Texas, has been named president-elect of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

Jester, 66, will become the sixth president of the west Kentucky college May 9 upon the retirement of LaVerne Butler.

The school is owned by 15 Baptist associations in four states: Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee. Although not directly affiliated with any Baptist state convention, the college has been formally recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■

1997 class of US-2ers. The first opportunity for group interviews was held Jan. 31-Feb. 2.

US-2 missionaries are college graduates age 30 years or younger at the time of application who serve two years under appointment with the HMB and selected state conventions. Areas of service include church and community ministries, church starting, language missions, resort ministries, evangelism, and international/seafarers ministries.

Completed application material for the second opportunity must be received by the HMB missionary personnel department no later than Feb. 18. A group interview session for selected applicants will be held in Atlanta, April 11-13.

For candidates who do not have access to the Internet, they may call the missionary personnel department at (770) 410-6175. ■