

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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For Baptist Sunday School Board

Name change needed, trustees say

By Linda Lawson & Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Executives and trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention agree — the name of the 106-year-old agency needs to be changed to better reflect its vision and the diversity of its ministries. The question now is: "To what?"

That's exactly what a 19-member employee naming committee will continue to explore in the coming months.

BSSB trustees affirmed Feb. 11 a recommendation from the board's executive management group that the name should be changed. Trustees had authorized exploration of a possible name change in September 1996. The employee committee then was formed and a consulting firm also was employed to assist with the process.

As part of the exploration process, Southern Baptists were invited to submit names; more than 200 were suggested.

In meetings in December and January, the committee narrowed their choices to two short lists of about 20 names.

With the decision that a

new name is needed, the special committee will continue to explore possible names. A recommendation will be presented to BSSB trustees at their Sept. 15-17 meeting in Glorieta, N.M. If approved by trustees, the new name would then be presented in the form of a charter amendment to the SBC Executive Committee in February 1998 and then to messengers of the SBC for consideration in June 1998.

Why change the name of an organization that has had one name since 1891? There are several reasons, according to Mike Arrington, executive director for corporate affairs who is leading the name selection process.

"We were established 106 years ago with one assignment — publishing Sunday School literature. Now we need a name that better reflects the significant changes in the organization's strategic direction and our diversity of resources and services," he said.

In addition to Sunday School literature, the board in 1997 provides resources for a

number of church ministries in addition to publishing trade books, music, videos, and church supplies. The board also operates 63 bookstores and two national conference centers.

While there is no consensus on what the name should be,

Arrington said focus group participants identified several words as descriptive of the board's ministries. These included: resources, ministry, church, and international.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. emphasized any name would include its ties to the SBC.

"In no way will we divorce ourselves from the Southern Baptist Convention," Draper said. "Whatever we become will include the words, 'of the Southern Baptist Convention.'"

"My generation doesn't need a new name, but my grandchildren do," Draper said. "More important, we need the mind of Christ in this." Although he said he agrees with the need for a name change, Draper said agency will not abandon its strong emphasis on Sunday School and Bible study. ■



'Last Frontier' can be impacted by year 2000, FMB trustees told

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Before the 21st century dawns, Southern Baptists and their global missions partners can still significantly impact the region where more than 1.69 billion people live without knowing Jesus Christ, Foreign Mission Board trustees were told during their Feb. 10-12 meeting.

It's possible before the end of the year 2000 to penetrate 2,000 of the remaining 2,161 unreached people groups, a segment of the world known as "The Last Frontier," said Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for strategy among those groups. That would give 99 percent of the world's peoples access to the Gospel.

Access means each people group would have Christians and churches in their midst.

To better position itself to reach them — as well as the rest of the present harvest fields — FMB President Jerry Rankin proposed a comprehensive reorganization of the board's overseas operational structure. He asked for — and trustees approved unanimously — a special task force of FMB administrators and trustees to conduct a study. A preliminary recommendation is expected in mid-April and the final report in early June.

"We cannot afford to remain locked into organizational structures created for a different era," Rankin said. "We need to adapt our structure for future growth. We cannot risk bogging down as we approach a new century.

"It is essential that we create a structure that enables our total missionary force to be unified and mobilized to reap the harvest and penetrate The Last Frontier," the FMB president said. ■



Bivocational ministers and spouses attend retreat

The first retreat scheduled specifically for bivocational ministers and spouses was held Feb. 7-8 at Fall Creek Falls State Park Inn with 35 couples attending. Sponsored by the Church Staff Leadership Group, TBC Executive Board, the retreat was led by Ray Gilder. The two couples above are, from left, Steve and Marylin Gallimore, Birds Creek Church, Puryear; and Wanda and Terry Griffin, Bible Union Church, Martin. According to Gilder, a second retreat is planned for September.

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Join other students across U.S.

Tennessee students celebrate 'TLW Goes Campus'

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

MOUNT JULIET — Rachel Shepard and Kristin Gardner are not afraid to take a stand for God. In fact, the two 16-year-olds are bold enough to stake out a table in their high school cafeteria and publicly encourage fellow students to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Shepard and Gardner were the driving forces behind the "True Love Waits Goes Campus" campaign at Mount Juliet High School in Mount Juliet. The Goes Campus campaign is part of the first year of a national effort to display True Love Waits cards on high school and college campuses on Valentine's Day.

This year, Shepard and Gardner and other members of Mount Juliet's Young Men and Women for Jesus group — which meets daily at the school 30 minutes before classes start — took their turns in the cafeteria asking classmates to sign pledge cards vowing to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The Christian group, which began its campaign two days before Valentine's Day, had collected nearly 200 signed pledges by Feb. 14, the morning the cards were staked into the ground near the high school's flagpole.

"Signing the commitment card is no more than a step of obedience for me. God says to save sex until marriage," said Shepard, who is a junior and member of **First Church, Mount Juliet**. "It's not just a commitment to not have sex, but to stay pure sexually."

Gardner, who signed the pledge card

three years ago at **Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory**, where the TLW program officially began, said her decision to wait until marriage to have sex can be explained just as simply: "God told me to wait."

The teens say they are not afraid of being taunted by fellow students for taking a stand against sex and for God. "I love telling people about True Love Waits," Shepard said. "Anytime you take a strong stand for something, people respect you."

True Love Waits, an international campaign designed to challenge teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage, was launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board in April 1993. The first national True Love Waits rally was held in Washington in July 1994. The second rally — where the Goes Campus campaign was launched — was held in Atlanta in February 1996.

A total of 350,000 signed cards were displayed during the Goes Campus kickoff last year in Atlanta, representing pledges from all 50 states and 76 countries. Those cards had been collected since the original True Love Waits launch in Washington.

In heading the True Love Waits Goes Campus campaign at their school, Shepard and Gardner said they were fortunate because they had the support of Christian principals and teachers. Some students in Milwaukee however, weren't so lucky.

According to a news release from Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based religious civil liberties education and legal defense organization, students in the Christian Fellowship

club at a Milwaukee high school filed a lawsuit against the school and the school district for being denied the right to display pledge cards or make announcements about the campaign over the intercom. The lawsuit claims censorship and violation of First

Amendment rights to free speech and the federal Equal Access Act. A federal judge subsequently issued an emergency restraining order requiring the school to allow Goes Campus publicity.

Richard Ross, one of the spokesmen for the Sunday School Board campaign, said, "While, the national True Love Waits team is not involved in litigation regarding True Love Waits Goes Campus displays, we do believe that the creating of pledge card displays on school campuses is a free speech action protected by the Equal Access Act adopted by Congress in 1994 and upheld by the Supreme Court. However, we believe that is a local issue."

The 1997 Goes Campus campaign "is only the beginning of what we see as being an annual event on school and college campuses," said Jimmy Hester, another spokesman for the Sunday School Board's TLW movement. He predicted "many more students will be involved in the 1998 campaign because of what they saw happen at their school in 1997." ■ — **NOTE:** If your church or Christian organization participated in the True Love Waits Goes Campus campaign and would like to record the number who made pledges, you may fill out an electronic form on a Home Mission Board web site at <http://www.youthangelism.com>.



WMU celebrates 100 years of preschool ministry

By Teresa Dickens
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The dream of a mother and young pastor in 1886 to create an avenue to instill in children a love for missions is being celebrated this year, as Woman's Missionary Union marks its 100th year of coordinating such a ministry.

The mother, Anna Louise Elsom, taught children ages 4 through 13 at Fairmont Church in Nelson County, Va. She called the class "Sunbeams," because the sunshine illuminated and warmed the corner of the church where she taught the children.

The pastor, George Braxton Taylor, was the answer to Elsom's prayer for someone to come to Fairmont who knew missions and would help her start a missionary group for children. Taylor, the son of early Southern Baptist missionaries to Italy and nephew of the first secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, had a heart for missions and was willing to help Elsom achieve her dream. In 1886, Elsom and Taylor started the first Sunbeam Band at Fairmont. Elsom taught the class, while Taylor developed

the curriculum and handled the administration of the group. Membership in the band required an initiation fee of one penny, followed by a contribution of one penny a month, all of which went to support missions.

Historical documents note Taylor insisted the children earn the money they contributed. Most of the children earned their money by selling eggs and even dedicated the chickens to the cause by naming them after missionaries.

By early 1887, Taylor had won the endorsement of the Foreign Mission Board and began promoting the Sunbeam Band movement through denominational papers.

Taylor managed the Sunbeam movement until 1896 when he, in agreement with the Foreign Mission Board, relinquished the task to WMU. This was a natural transition in leadership since the two movements had a common cause and Taylor had known Annie Armstrong, corresponding secretary of WMU, since his seminary days.

Under WMU's leadership,

the focus of Sunbeams eventually shifted away from fundraising to learning about missions. The curriculum included prayer, stewardship, community missions, telling others about

Jesus, and study.

The age span also changed, shrinking first to children 8 and under. In 1942, preschool Sunbeams were separated from school-age children and divided again by 1956, when WMU began promoting nursery and beginner Sunbeam Bands.

The most sweeping change for the preschool missions organization came between 1964 and 1970, when WMU and other Southern Baptist Convention agencies adapted their programs to follow a unified grouping/grading plan. The changes prompted WMU to introduce new organizational names and lines of operation, along with new periodicals for each age level.

On Oct. 1, 1970, Sunbeams became Mission Friends, and leaders began receiving a new magazine called *Start*. In 1978, WMU added a leaflet for Mission Friends called "Share" and, in 1995, WMU began promoting

a class for parents of Mission Friends. Today, Mission Friends number slightly less than 170,000.

WMU is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Sunbeams/Mission Friends throughout the 1996-97 church year. Along with encouraging recognition services at the church, association, and state level, a national search is on to find the longest-tenured Sunbeam/Mission Friends teacher.

Nominations for this award will be accepted through April 1. The process for making a nomination can be found in the 1996-97 *WMU Yearbook*.

The past 100 years have brought many changes in missions programs for preschoolers, but leaders today share a common dream with Elsom and Taylor — to instill in children a love for missions.

"Today's child needs to learn, to pray, to give, and to do missions more than ever before so that they will automatically develop a missions lifestyle," said Kathy Burns, WMU preschool consultant.

For a Starter Kit on beginning a Mission Friends organization, call WMU Customer Service at (1) 800-968-7301. ■



Taking the risk; guarding the vision

Starting "something" is a simple plan for sharing the Gospel, with the idea buying property, starting a building, and get people involved.

We have opportunity to do something new, to start another mission. After all, "Start Something New" is the theme for the week of prayer for Home Missions.

Here we want to use another meaning for the word "mission." It's a perfectly good meaning, akin to being "on mission," or starting a mission church.

Last week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* carried the good news of the launching of an endowment campaign for Tennessee Baptists' three colleges.

In conjunction with that launch, it's noteworthy that on last Sunday many churches in Tennessee recognized their three colleges. It was a day of significance, Baptist College and Seminary Day for Southern Baptists.

Tennessee Baptists are blessed with three outstanding colleges, one in each region of the state: Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Belmont University, Nashville; and Union University, Jackson.

Each of these three institutions is doing stellar work in higher education. Each has carved out a niche of high visibility in the United States of America, and around the world.

The colleges have sent well-trained, well-prepared, and highly-motivated alumni as missionaries. pas-

ters, church staff members in all areas of service, the business world, in technology and medicine, in health care, teachers and educators, journalists and writers, and in all sorts of diversified vocations. They are serving as homemakers, volunteers, and caretakers of every worthwhile venture that can be named.

More than that, the alumni of Tennessee Baptist colleges are strong in their service in churches, hospitals, community government and civic affairs, and many volunteer agencies.

And, they add a powerful source of support for their own schools.

With these success factors in mind, last November Tennessee Baptists voted to approve a \$30 million endowment campaign to move the colleges forward and beyond the year 2000.

Baptist and Reflector readers read last week about the campaign. The colleges will share equally in the

\$30 million. They will work in concert with each other, but of course they will concentrate on their geographical areas for major support.

We encourage all Tennessee Baptists to consider seriously a personal role in supporting the colleges.

The colleges have permission to "start something new." They are doing that, but a great outpouring of prayer and "dollar" support is needed.

Every Tennessee Baptist is urged to read again the information from last week's edition, explaining the \$30 million endowment campaign. Better still, call your college and find out what you can do. *B&R*



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Baptists can't grow weary in well-doing

Everyone's group has the toughest task, the longest hours, and less appreciation for a job well done. Everyone's group, no matter how small or large, endures the most abuse, irritates the most people, gets the most insignificant reward.

Fortunately, Christians, and in this case, Baptists, do not have to depend on this present world for any of the above. We have assignments and desire.

We march to a different drummer, we hear a different cadence, we are in tune with heavenly music. While this life is not without its value, and its merit,

we certainly won't be here for long.

A word to the weary, and perhaps to the wise. Speaking for editors of the other 36 state Baptist papers, we can say that we knew satisfaction would come by serving the people.

We knew there would not be glamour — heaven forbid, who wants it!

We knew there would be hard times, and times for shouting with joy. Last week's annual meeting with other members of this small group was energizing.

For that we are grateful. It is a good group. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Toastmaster, at a banquet where the program was running late: "Now Mr. Jones, will give us his principal address."

Mr. Jones: "Though I travel a lot, my principal address is 1052 Devonshire Drive and I am going there right now. Good night."

Take this truth

Knowing when to "quit" or "get out of the way" is the highest form of wisdom. We can stay too long in a situation and lose all the "effectiveness of the early days."

For instance, one wonders how successful Abraham Lincoln's latter days would have been if he had lived 10 more years.

Could he have "made it" during Reconstruction Days?

Memorize this Scripture

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord ... shall give me. — II Timothy 4: 6, 7.

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to learn early in life, and never to forget what is important and what is insignificant. ■

There is a way to measure beauty; go to the standard

I know little of his background, nothing of his aspirations for the future.

But I do know he moved from New York to San Francisco 30 years ago, that he isn't a conformist, and that he puts away treasures from the present — every day.

When we entered his taxi after several hours of wonder and wandering with the Gold Gate Bridge, we were weary and ready for a smooth, quiet ride back to the hotel. The six of us were exhausted.

The roundtrip trek across the bridge was just an idea on Monday — which developed into an intense longing by Tuesday. We had to walk the bridge.

And we did. So far as we know, there could not have been a more perfect day. The wind was easy, the sun was a bright glory, and the bridge toyed with our imaginations.

Put your disclaimers away, forget the annoying nuances. For sheer beauty, San Francisco becomes a standard for measur-

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

ing the beauty of other cities.

There was so much for which to marvel, so much to disarm our fragile balance of gauging our small memories. We could have "camped out" on the bridge.

No one had warned us of the grasp the bridge can have on visual acuity. The bay's magic was packed into our memories in minute detail.

There was the soaring architecture of the bridge itself. There was the enormous grandeur of bay, tiny boats, seagoing ships, hustling cars traversing the bridge, the wispy, scudding clouds that played their games across the sky.

And there were people. Someone remarked as we neared the end of the return trip, that the gold of the sun on the white buildings, delicately nestled on the city's hills, was almost comparable to

Jerusalem bathed in sunlight.

The big ships and the little sailing boats dotted the bay waters. The air breathed fresh on our faces. But only God owned the ocean, the bay, the bridge and The City.

As we neared the San Francisco side, from whence we had debarked, we turned as the bridge beckoned, and lovingly looked one more time.



ALLEN

In a few minutes we were in the taxi. The driver's hair was pulled back in a pony-tail. He was bare-foot. The radio played the classics.

In that all-too-brief eight mile ride back to the hotel, he showed us some of the simple beauty often overlooked by folks impressed by Alcatraz or the shopping malls.

He showed us houses of plain grandeur, the Grand Palace of Fine Arts, quiet back streets. It was a perfect ending for our excursion. It all fit — the bridge, the taxi driver, the day. Count it all joy, and beauty, and renewal. ■

Dealing with the blended family situation

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Many Christian families face the dilemma of crisis and conflict in blended families. In this grouping, I consider all families in which children live with parents who are not their biological parents.

Families formed after the death of a spouse face unique problems, since the step parent may face vying with the role of the deceased parent. In families formed following divorce, children usually feel caught in the middle and may need to defend the absent parent.

I have a rule for all blended families. Simply stated, it is: The biological parent must be the disciplinarian. The non-biological parent cannot even rescue the biological parent from bad decisions. They

can only stand by and help clean up the mess. And intervention by the non-biological step parent will be viewed by the children as stepping beyond the limits of parental rights, and an infringement on parental rights of the biological parent.

Here are four needed characteristics for all step parents:

They should be caring, communicative, possess common sense, and be capable of change.

They must be especially caring since the step child's worth has already collapsed and the child may feel responsible.

The child needs special tender loving care, no matter the behavior.

Communication is necessary, since the easy way out is to ignore the "brat" and hope he will grow up or go away. Lines must be kept open always.

There is no substitute for common sense in the minefield of step parenting. The "golden rule" is excellent here.

The step parent must be capable of change. Rigidity is a sure sign of defeat in this area. The blended family often has a conglomeration of ritual and habits that must be blended. There must be a willingness to do things differently.

The blended family doesn't have to be a constant enigma. There are workable solutions. Remember the four points. ■

Bivocational pastors 'retreat' to Fall Creek Falls

Weekend event successful, second retreat scheduled

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

PIKEVILLE — In a two-day retreat Feb. 7-8, 35 bivocational ministers and spouses met at nearby Fall Creek Falls State Park for study and renewal.

Led by Ray Gilder, the group heard "specialists" in marriage enrichment, preaching, and dealing with problems as ministers' families.

Gilder said the retreat was planned to offer help for special areas of bivocational ministry. He is bivocational ministries specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board staff.

Feedback from the group indicated the weekend was a success. Participants were given opportunity to evaluate the entire program. Early results from the evaluation verified the feedback.

The next such retreat is scheduled for Sept. 26-27 at Pigeon Forge.

The retreat group heard Terry Cain, family counselor, Brentwood; D. L. and Alice Lowrie, Lubbock, Texas; Archer Thorpe, Church Admin-

istration Ministry specialist, TBC Executive Board; Bill Wilson, Ministry Coordinator, TBC Executive Board; and Bill and Jeannie Anderson, entertainers from Brentwood, and he is retired from the Sunday School Board.

Lowrie is pastor of First Church, Lubbock, and former Executive Director, TBC.

Lowrie was the keynote speaker, addressing the group on Friday evening and Saturday morning. He also led the pastors in a conference on "Ideas for Sermon Preparation," also on Saturday.

Alice Lowrie talked with spouses Saturday morning on "Life in the Fishbowl."

The Andersons provided program music and entertainment.

During the Friday afternoon session, Cain led a discussion on family enrichment.

He said marriage partners should be able to say and feel that "if one of us has said anything, both of us have said it."

Cain said each member of the marriage partnership should be confident in saying, "I have made a deliberate decision that I will never hurt



ATTENTIVE PARTICIPANTS at the bivocational ministers' retreat heard a variety of speakers during the weekend. In the relaxed atmosphere, they took notes and also asked questions of concern.

you deliberately."

He advised married couples to approach everything in life with "an amused tolerance." He pointed out that the human brain is "wired" to grasp negatives five times more strongly than positives.

"So we owe each other five positives for each negative," he admonished, "otherwise the mate will have a negative balance, resulting in an empty tank."

He reminded the couples "don't trust your feelings, trust the truth. Never decide based on feelings, decide on truth."

D.L. Lowrie discussed the stress factor Friday night. "Just because you are working with a church doesn't mean you won't have stress," he reminded the ministers.

"Regardless of the stress that sometimes comes, there is always a need for another prayer, another visit," he said, adding that it is "a lot easier to preach it than to live it."

He said that when God calls a minister, he gives with the call a sense of urgency — even if the place of service is "bigger than you can get your arms around."

Lowrie said then God says that the place of service is the whole world, to every creature.

He added that the minister can sometimes feel that "there is no one but me" to do the work. "The indifference of the redeemed is pathetic, irresponsible," he said.

But, he said, "it is possible for humans like us to have the strength, the power, the might, that dwells in Almighty God, in all its adequacy, making us sufficient in all he asks us to do."

Lowrie admitted that the most demanding time of all is the daily walk, the sameness, the routine, the rut.

"The strength that God gives us for any day, any task, any difficulty, he will give enough and a little more," he said.

However, there is a condition, he said. "Waiting for the Lord, as he says, means renewal of strength. It is most difficult to wait, just to wait on the Lord. But it is the opposite of depending on self.

"Baptist preachers are like wasps," he said, "when we first hatch out we are bigger than we will ever be again.

"And when we wait on the Lord, we position ourselves to do, to be, and to go — for his pleasure. Then he takes our weakness and inadequacies and replaces them with his

strength and his adequacy."

On Saturday morning Bill Wilson reminded the participants that 47 percent of Baptist pastors in Tennessee are bivocational.

He talked about the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, commenting that their greatest resources were not what they saw, but what they could not see. He said it is a mistake to see our resources as what we have, when in reality they are revealed in God's power.

"Most of us have not let God supply what we can't supply," he said.

"We ought to remember," Wilson said, "that our greatest dangers are in the past, not in the future. The greatest danger is to be chained to the past."

Wilson said that God is God of the future, and that he always has the best for us in the future.

Archer Thorpe talked about building for a sound financial future, by using wisely what God gives us early in life.

"A little extra effort in setting goals makes all the difference in the latter years for the minister and family," he said.

Thorpe showed the participants some approaches for building such a "nest egg."

In the meeting's closing session, Lowrie discussed Revelation 21:4. He said the startling fact of the verse is that God himself promises to wipe away the tears of the redeemed.

He said those tears were of two kinds, tears of regret and tears of rejoicing.

The tears of regret may be because of the kind of life lived on earth, what might have been — and misused gifts and talents. There also are misplaced treasures, and misled souls, he said.

Tears of rejoicing result from "just being there in Heaven," seeing Christ face to face. The goal of life, Lowrie concluded, is to "stand in his presence with a minimum of tears of regret and a maximum of tears of joy."

Gilder said he felt the weekend was a success, and that more couples would participate in September. The weekend was sponsored by the Church Staff Leadership Group of the TBC Executive Board staff. **B&R**



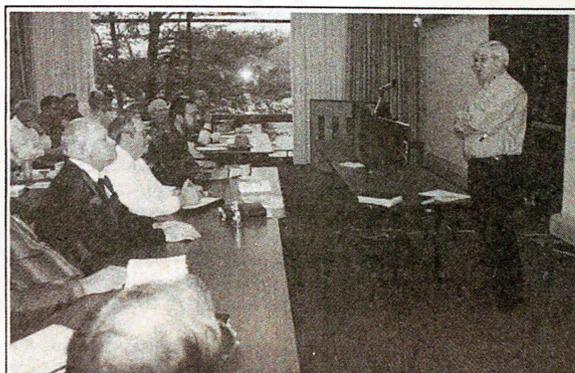
Tennessee features



TERRY CAIN and his wife led a period of marriage enrichment for ministers and spouses. Cain is a family counselor in Brentwood, and discussed maintaining good relationships.



ALICE LOWRIE led a seminar for wives of ministers, "Life in the Fish Bowl." The topic covered a variety of subjects, some humorous, some serious. The wives participated in the discussion.



D. L. LOWRIE discussed sermon preparation with ministers on Saturday morning. One pastor had been on the job for just two weeks, and several others had served 20 or more years.



Canada
Michigan
Poland
Costa Rica

The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships —
Canada, Poland, Michigan, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

From your missionary

A rich variety of volunteer opportunities are available for you and your church this year through Partnership/Volunteer Missions.

Our partners are depending on Tennessee Baptists to come work along side of them to reach their communities with the Gospel of Christ.



SHARP

Would you pray about picking one of the many project opportunities available? If not you, who will pray? If not now, when will you pray?

A Vacation Bible School, church construction, or an evangelistic encounter may never take place unless you go.

God Bless,

Larry

Churches needed to participate as 'sister churches'

For The Macedonian Call

Many Tennessee churches are needed to make the Sister Church Program with Michigan viable. Over 25 Michigan churches have requested a sister church in Tennessee to join them in this pilot effort.

The Sister Church Program is designed to bring together churches in the two states. Through this relationship and partnership, the churches will learn to support each other through prayer and frequent contacts.

The churches may choose to assist each other through mission efforts, revivals, and VBS.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions office at 1-(615)-371-2021 or 1-(800)-558-2090. ■

Project is first of partnership

Tennesseans lead first project in Costa Rica

By Marcia Knox
TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team

A group of 28 Tennessee Baptist volunteers recently returned from the first partnership missions project in Costa Rica, where they held simultaneous revivals for spiritual renewal, according to Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions state missionary.

The group worked Jan. 11-19 in 14 teams in Costa Rican churches which resulted in about 88 people making professions of faith and 220 making other spiri-

tual decisions, Sharp said.

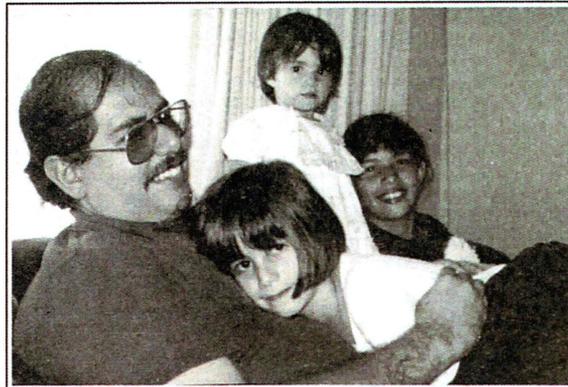
"We were invited by the Costa Rica Baptist Union to do renewal in order to start a time of concentrated commitment," Sharp said. "During Sept. 8-15 in Costa Rica, simultaneous evangelistic revivals will take place in many of the same churches."

The Tennesseans' work of leading renewal began when they arrived in San Jose, where they were met by the Costa Rican missionaries and host pastors. They were escorted to the Baptist Center for a brief orientation to prepare for the revivals.

The volunteers stayed with host families and all but five of the volunteers changed churches and host families in the middle of the week. "The people were very warm and hospitable. They are very caring people," described Sharp.

Staying with host pastors in Costa Rican homes, explained Sharp, allowed the volunteers to not only visit with church leaders, but also visit with their families. When the host families could not speak English, the volunteers were able to find a common ground through their joint commitments to Christ.

The joint commitments to Christ became the bonding tool between the American culture and the Costa Rican culture. "When the volunteers left their host families to return to the states, many wept because of the friendships we had made," Sharp added. ■



RELAXING with his children in their home are Alexander Arias, pastor, First Church, San Jose. — Photos by Terry Sharp



DIRECTOR OF Missions Bennie Creel, Sweetwater Association, pauses with the pastor of the Trinidad Church near San Jose in front of the church building.

Volunteers experience town, country of Costa Rica

by Mike Overcash
TBC Information Systems specialist

During a mission effort Jan. 11-19 to Costa Rica, focusing on a series of spiritual renewal meetings to prepare for simultaneous revival meetings, our "Town and Country" team visited a Costa Rica town and a country church setting.

Our team consisted of Larry Kirk of Smyrna, our team leader and preacher, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group leader and State Missions specialist; Margaret Robbins of Byrdstown, member, church treasurer, and Woman's Missionary Union missions program chairman, First Church, Byrdstown; and myself, Mike Overcash of Brentwood, music leader, TBC Information Systems specialist.

Our first assignment was at the Baptist church at San Pe-

dro, called the "University" or "Alpha and Omega" church. It is located adjacent to the University of Costa Rica, and only about two blocks from the Baptist Center of Costa Rica. The church building is located in an area of bars and eating establishments which cater to university students.

We met the pastor, Juan Carlos Castro, on Saturday afternoon when we completed our orientation session with our missionaries to Costa Rica. Castro is a young man, age 32, with a lovely wife and four lively boys. The pastor's home was about what one would expect in a city or town condominium in the United States. We expected to be eating Costa Rican food, but this family was much more inclined to provide American food for themselves and us. We ate one meal at a large shopping mall near the church with a three-level food court.



TENNESSEANS Margaret Robbins of Byrdstown and Mike Overcash of Brentwood teach children at Mansion de Luz church in Costa Rica how to sing 'Jesus Loves Me' in English.

The church services in San Pedro were very similar to services in the states. The people were very friendly and welcomed us warmly. During fellowship times, the three of us did a lot of repeating "Gracias" (thank you) and "Mucho Gusto" (pleased to meet you). A

worship team led in praise and worship, we sang from the Baptist Hymnal, and the order of service seemed very familiar.

Robbins gave her testimony, I gave my testimony and sang (in English), and Kirk preached, — See Volunteers, page 6

Tennessee 20,000 is goal for volunteers in 2000 A.D.

For *The Macedonian Call*

The Tennessee Baptist Convention has set a goal of 20,000 volunteers involved in partnership missions by the year 2000.

The work toward "Tennessee 20,000" will be coordinated through the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention. In addition to Tennessee 20,000, a special Volunteers in Missions Day emphasis has been set for Feb. 23.

The goal of Tennessee 20,000 is not only to provide recognition for those who have already volunteered in mis-

sions, but to provide a computerized data base of volunteers and their available skills for matching with ministry/service needs. This data base will furnish names for future missions work as well as recognize those volunteers for their excellent work.

Tennessee Baptists who do some type of mission work that is conducted outside their church facilities, whether at home or abroad, may be nominated to reach the goal.

This mission work can be done for one day or the entire year.

Nomination forms may be attained

from the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team or from associational offices. Nominations will be received during this calendar year.

Tennesseans should send in nomination forms as they complete their assignments. More than one nomination per person is permissible if missions work involves different skills. However, only one certificate will be provided.

Certificates of recognition will be provided by the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team to the director of missions for distribution to the volunteer's pastor.



Volunteers experience town, country of ...

— Continued from page 5

all with the help of an interpreter. During the four days and four services at San Pedro, I did not perceive any great sense of urgency in reaching people. We attempted to challenge the people to begin reaching out and preparing for simultaneous revival services, which are scheduled for September.

Then we moved from the town to the country. And, I do mean country. After a day of sightseeing on Wednesday, we met the pastor of our second church, Mansion de Luz or the House of Lights, which is located in a village about 10 miles outside of the town of Alejuela. The three of us stayed with the pastor, Manuel Santamaria, his wife, and seven children. It was a small house that had five sleeping areas of which we occupied two.

In contrast to our first fami-

ly, the members of which all spoke English to some degree, the Santamaria family seemed to understand very little English. When we first arrived and tried to communicate with them, they would only stand and look at us with bewilderment in their eyes. Their bewilderment became even greater when we tried our very limited Spanish.

Between the three of us, we probably knew no more than 25-30 Spanish words and phrases. Over the period of four days with this wonderful family, we learned to communicate with hugs, sign language, and the few phrases we knew.

At the Santamaria home, we did have Costa Rican food at every meal. The staple food is rice and beans. We had rice and beans for breakfast, beans and rice for lunch, and some variation of the two for supper.

The first service saw seven

people make professions of faith and the second service had one more person make a profession of faith and two people made rededication decisions. In the final two services, we majored on preparation for revival and had no more decisions.

We learned something too. These church services were different from what we were used to, so we learned how other people worship.

Costa Rica seems to be a place ripe for the Gospel. The people are friendly and willing to talk with strangers, especially Americans. The national pastors seem to have a fervor for their work.

There will be many opportunities to go to Costa Rica, since our partnership has just begun with that country.

For those who cannot go, be sure to pray for missions efforts around our world. "Que Dios de bendiga," (God bless you). ■

The nomination forms must be received by Dec. 31, 1997, in order for the volunteers to receive certificates by February 1998.

To nominate missions volunteers, request a form from Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at:

Tennessee Baptist Convention, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. Or call 1-(615)-371-2021 or 1-(800)-558-2090.

On receiving certificates

Unfortunately, this year's certificates will not be available by Feb. 23, Volunteers in Missions Day. However, we will process certificates in a timely manner as nomination forms arrive in our office. ■

Letter from Costa Rica

My Beloved Brother Terry,

It is my prayer that the Lord is blessing you and the Baptist work in Tennessee. I just want to thank you and all the members of the teams that came to share Jesus' love with Costa Rican Baptist churches from Jan. 11-19.

We realize the big effort, not only each individual, but also your churches have done in order to come to Costa Rica and bless us.

For me, this was a very special experience. Not only for the establishment of new bridges of partnership and friendship, but because of the tremendous impact that I could see in the life of each church and pastor. It was part of this "Awakening Week."

We discovered that there are some aspects we should work on ourselves, but our churches are excited and waiting to see you come back so we can work together for His glory. We found out that you Tennessee Baptists have already conquered part of our hearts, and that the Lord is working through you to bless our nation.

Many rededicated their lives to Jesus and many were saved. Hope and expectation are blooming in our churches. It is this that I call a blessing.

This is just the beginning. Please ask the churches in Tennessee to keep praying for Costa Rica. We will keep praying for you. Juntos en Avivamiento.

Luis Chavarria, President of Union Nacional de Iglesias Bautista

Convention experience changes Knoxville family

By Scott Thomas, pastor, Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville
For *The Macedonian Call*

After two years of power struggles and a battle against the state lottery, my Louisiana pastorate ended. My son, Scott II, age 9-10, saw his church and his dad torn apart by the battle. We were called to Knoxville in 1994.

On several occasions during the Louisiana battle, I witnessed to my son. He said, "If the Christ you work for does this to people, I don't want it." After moving to Knoxville, Scott was able to see church from a different angle. He saw a sweet spirit at Mt. Harmony.

That sweet spirit was enhanced by a wonderful Missions Extravaganza that closed our 1996 Tennessee Baptist Convention. Scott, Nicole, my daughter, and I were overwhelmed with over 70 young people from First Church of Concord, Knoxville, singing and sharing about their trip to Poland. Their testimony was supplemented by the athletes from Belmont University and the Processional of Flags.

A week later, Scott was channel surfing when Charlie Daniels was on a Billy Graham Crusade. Scott listened and that night asked Jesus into his heart. I have expressed appreciation to the TBC Arrangements Committee. I praise the One True Living God for your work. ■

Audiovisuals requested by team

TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions is making a promotional video. Missions volunteers have one more opportunity to send slides and tapes from missions efforts. The audiovisuals need to be received by April 1 to be included in the video.

Please only send those slides and tapes that represent former

or current countries where Tennessee Baptists have had or have partnerships.

Keep in mind that slides or video footage will not be returned to the owners.

Send slides and videos to: TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

Rapid Response Team set

For *The Macedonian Call*

A new Partnership/Volunteer Missions Rapid Response Team was recently established to assume missions projects that become unstaffed due to unexpected changes in the plans of volunteers, according to Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions state missionary.

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a special group of partnership/volunteer missionaries who can respond in a moment's notice and staff a mission effort which would otherwise have to be canceled.

If you are interested in serving, membership applications are now being accepted for RRT. Please indicate areas of interest on forms. For more information, contact Christina Peters of the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-(615)-371-2021 or 1-(800)-558-2090. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests February

19 — Pray for Larry Woods, a volunteer serving as Baptist Student Union director, Michigan State University.

20 — Pray for Columbia Avenue Church in Michigan as it seeks a pastor.

21 — Pray for Mel Cruikshank, BSM director in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, who is recuperating from surgery.

22 — Pray for Bruce Potterton in Ontario, Canada, who has heart problems.

23 — Pray for Billy Whitt, state missions leader, Michigan convention, who also is serving as an interim pastor.

24 — Praise God for the Jan. 24-25 Men's Retreat in Canada, which focused on Promise Keepers.

25 — Pray for Jerry Wittenmyer, associational missionary in Canada, who had heart surgery.

Polish Baptists seek help in revival effort

By Marcia Knox
TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team

Over 30 Polish churches have requested volunteers to help lead the "Here's Hope — Poland" simultaneous revivals in Poland May 18-28, according to TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions state missionary, Terry Sharp.

The fields are ripe for harvest and an "opportunity of a lifetime" awaits the volunteer teams, Sharp said. "There is a desperation for hope in Poland," he explained. Tennessee volunteers helping lead the simultaneous revivals in Poland will be a perfect opportunity for Baptists to say *Jest Nadziesza Chrystus* or "Here's Hope Christ."

Sharp and TBC Ministries coordinator Bill Wilson recently returned from Poland to report that Polish Baptists have done outstanding planning for the revivals. Meeting with 52 Polish pastors and missionaries to pray and review the plans, Sharp discovered that the revival was the first massive coordinated effort of Polish Baptist churches. It is an historic evangelistic effort for the country, he said.

The Polish Baptist Union invited every Polish Baptist church to participate in the revivals. The union is made up of 60 Baptist churches with approximately 4,000 members.

The effort needs 33 volunteer teams to hold the revivals. Teams will be made up of

preachers, soloists, and others leading youth music, drama, puppets, and clowning. Opportunities range from personal witnessing and street evangelism to school assembly programs.

Two orientation sessions will be held. The first session will be March 15 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Demographics of Poland will be discussed as well as do's and don'ts to ensure a successful mission trip.

The second orientation session will be held May 19 on-site at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw. At the end of the revivals local sight-seeing near church sites and in Warsaw will be held. A victory celebration banquet also will be held.

A deadline of March 1 has been set by the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team for sign-up forms and deposits to be received at the state convention office. The total cost of the trip per person,

including room and board, is \$1,750. A \$300 registration fee is due with the forms, and the balance is due 45 days before

the trip.

Those interested may phone or FAX the Partnership/Volunteers Missions

Team at 1-(800)-558-2090 or FAX — 1-(615)-371-2014. Application forms will be sent to interested individuals. ■



Projects for May 18-28 Simultaneous Revivals in Poland

Project #: A Location: Zyradow Church Participants: 1-4 Description: Music group with soloist.	Location: Zdunska Wola Mission Station Participants: 1-6 Description: Evangelist with five-person music group. Bring sound systems.	tem for street concerts.	Location: Bialystok Participants: 5-7 Description: Small African American choir and may include evangelist.	Participants: 2-10 Description: Evangelist and a music group. Bring portable sound system.
Project #: AA Location: Lublin Church Participants: 2-5 Description: Evangelist, soloist and three-member music team.	Project #: EE Location: Czestochowa Mission Station Participants: 1-8 Description: Evangelist with country music band. Church wants a team member to lecture on Eastern religions and/or problems youth face.	Project #: I Location: Radom Mission Station Participants: 4-15 Description: Evangelist, music team (band), and drama team. Church requests speaker to lecture in high schools on drugs and Christian views of sex.	Project #: R Location: Olsztynek Church Participants: 1-5 Description: Evangelist and a youth mission team.	Project #: W Location: Elk Church Participants: 8-10 Description: Evangelist, country music band, and drama and/or pantomime team. Church wants lectures on how to protect children from cults.
Project #: B Location: Gzizycko Church Participants: 2-6 Description: Evangelist needed to do lectures in high schools and a music group with soloist. Bring sound equipment.	Project #: F Location: Gdynia Church Participants: 6-10 Description: Evangelist targeting young people and a Christian rock band.	Project #: K Location: Swinowjście Church Participants: 5-8 Description: Evangelist, band, and drama team.	Project #: S Location: Przemysl Church Participants: 1-5 Description: Evangelist and a music team (band).	Project #: X Location: Katowice Church Participants: 2-7 Description: Evangelist, a small band, and a 2-3-member personal witnessing team. Also need someone to teach how to organize and conduct home Bible studies.
Project #: C Location: Ostroleka Mission Station Participants: 1-6 Description: Evangelist and a country music group.	Project #: FF Location: Gryfino Mission Station Participants: 2 Description: Evangelist and a music team.	Project #: L Location: Poznan Church Participants: 5-6 Description: Evangelist, music group, and soloist.	Project #: T Location: Bielsk Podlaski Church Participants: 2-6 Description: Evangelist and a country music band.	Project #: Y Location: Kielce Church Participants: 2-22 Description: Evangelist, soloist, six pantomime or drama workers, a band of eight, and six street witnessing workers. Requests are flexible in all of the above.
Project #: D Location: Konin Church Participants: 2-3 Description: Evangelist and soloist. Church wants messages on "The Second Coming."	Project #: H Location: Elblag Church Participants: 3-8 Description: Evangelist, soloist, and youth music group. Bring portable sound system.	Project #: N Location: Dubieze Cerkiewne Church Participants: 3-4 Description: Evangelist, soloist, and music group. Church requests traditional music since it has older members.	Project #: U Location: Keirzyn Church Participants: 2-6 Description: Evangelist and music team (contemporary Christian band with no rock music) or soloist.	
Project #: DD		Project #: O	Project #: V Location: Gorzowike Church	

Watertown Royal Ambassadors send funds to Poland seminary

For The Macedonian Call

The Royal Ambassadors and Challengers of First Church, Watertown, recently donated \$1,172 to the Polish Baptist Seminary in Warsaw. About 20 RAs and 10 Challengers raised the money, despite suffering the loss of its director and a member.

The project began two years ago through the efforts of their late RA director, Joseph Hughes. Hughes contacted the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team and learned about the needs of the seminary.

Hughes led the boys and young men to hold a "game-a-thon." The activity involved the boys playing games for an extended length of time, for which they took pledges per hour of their participation. The RAs/Challengers played games for 12 hours.

Money also was raised during a "rock-a-thon" in which the RAs/Challengers rocked in rocking chairs continuously to accumulate hours of rocking time. They raised money again by requesting pledges per hour of participation.

The group was shaken on May 31, 1996, when Hughes and his older son, Christopher, 8, died from injuries received in a two-car accident. The Hughes family was traveling in their car when it was hit by a drunk driver. Traci Hughes, wife and mother, and a younger son and brother, Peter, survived the accident and recovered.

The fatal accident devastated the congregation as well as the RA/Challenger program, according to Suzanne Crosby, former leader and wife of Pastor Tim Crosby. However, after some time had passed, the RA/Challenger program re-focused and continued the mis-

sion project. The RAs also decided to name their chapter the Joseph and Christopher Hughes RA Chapter.

The mission project gifts were donated in memory of Joseph and Christopher Hughes to the Polish Seminary, and the RAs included a special recognition tag to be placed on the gift. The seminary bought a food chopper which it needed for its kitchen.

Thanks from Poland

Dear Joseph and Christopher Hughes Chapter,

Please accept our thankfulness for your generous gift of United States dollars of \$1,172, which has been received. We are going to use the money to purchase a vegetable chopper for our seminary kitchen.

We really appreciate the money because it will help us meet one of our urgent needs. As you well know preparing

food for a group of people takes a lot of time and effort. Therefore, we are grateful for anything that can improve the hard work in the kitchen.

Thank you again for all your

help and thoughtfulness. May God continue to bless you.

Yours sincerely,
Gustaw Cieslar,
Rector, Poland Baptist Theological Seminary ■



THE JOSEPH AND CHRISTOPHER HUGHES RA Chapter from First Church, Watertown, are, from left, kneeling, Brad Ferguson, Roy Wilhoit, Derrick Wright, Brandon Jennings, Josh Miller, Peter Hughes, and Michael Bain; second row, David Murphy, Gary Stewart, Joshua Crosby, Tommy DuPuy, Matt Rose, and Mike Jennings; back row, Ray Miller, Brent Bain, and Bryan Morgan.

Costa Rica Projects

- Project #: CR71997802
Dates: Feb. 11-17
Location: Alajuela
Description: Camp
A team of 8 is needed to provide a Centrifuge-type camp for 20-30 youth.
- Project #: CR71997829
Dates: March 21-30
Location: Heredia
Description: Training
A team of 4 is needed to lead puppet and mime training.
- Project #: CR71997804
Dates: March 21-30
Location: Alajuela
Description: Camp
A team of 14 is needed to provide a Centrifuge-type experience for 75-100 adolescents and college-aged young people.
- Project #: CR71997817
Dates: April 12-20
Location: San Jose
Description: Prayer Conference
An unmarried female is requested to lead a WMU group in an intercessory Prayer Ministry Conference.
- Project #: CR71997814
Dates: April 12-20
Location: San Jose
Description: Evangelism
A team of 6 is needed to do door-to-door evangelism and church promotion.
- Project #: CR71997823
Dates: May 3-10
Location: Central Valley
Description: ESL/Education
Volunteers are needed to teach English speaking Costa Ricans how to teach English.
- Project #: CR71997815
Dates: May 3-11
Location: South Zone
Description: Construction
A team of 10 is needed to do construction for a public health clinic.
- Project #: CR71997811
Dates: May 17-24
Location: San Jose
Description: Special Services
A team of 3 is requested to join local missionaries in a "prayer walk" through unevangelized areas.
- Project #: CR71997824
Dates: May 17-27
Location: Atlantic Zone
Description: Sports
A team of 20 is needed to do sports/evangelism using soccer.
- Project #: CR71997821
Dates: June 7-15
Location: Peidra Angular
Description: Special Services
A team of 3 is needed to train workers on how to set up and run a Christian day care.
- Project #: CR71997826
Dates: June 14-23
Location: Atlantic Zone
Description: Sports
A team of 10 is needed to do sports/evangelism using basketball.
- Project #: CR71997819
Dates: June 18-24
Location: South Zone
Description: Evangelism
A team of 3 is requested to distribute tracts and witness in "prayer walks."
- Project #: CR71997827
Dates: July 11-19
Location: Atlantic Zone
Description: Sports
A team of 12 is needed to do sports/evangelism through volleyball.
- Project #: CR71997807
Dates: Aug. 1-30
Location: San Jose
Description: Special Services
A computer network specialist is needed to examine all computer systems of missionaries.

- Project #: CR71997812
Dates: Aug. 23-30
Location: San Jose
Description: Special Services
A team of 3 is requested to join local missionaries in a "prayer walk" through unevangelized areas.
- Project #: CR71997813
Dates: Sept. 20-27
Location: San Jose
Description: Special Services
A team of 3 is requested to join local missionaries in a "prayer walk" through unevangelized areas.
- Project #: CR71997801
Dates: Dec. 13-22
Location: San Jose
Description: Music
A team of 30 is needed to perform evangelistic Christmas concerts in churches and public places. The target is young people.

Michigan Projects

- Project #: M-3
Dates: ASAP
Location: Port Huron
Description: Church Planting
A volunteer is needed for church planting through evangelism, leadership development, and music. The term is one - two years.
- Project #: O-9a
Dates: June 2-6
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to pour the foundation of their new building.
- Project #: O-9b
Dates: June 9-14
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to work on framing, trusses, sheathing, doors, and windows on their new building.
- Project #: M-1
Dates: June 15 - Aug. 15
Location: Roseville
Description: Camp
Antioch Church needs 2 volunteers to help lead a day camp.
- Project #: M-4-M-12
Dates: June 8 - Aug. 17
Location: Macomb
Description: Summer Missionary
Each church needs a volunteer to do youth ministry work for 10 weeks.
- Project #: O-9c
Dates: June 16-21
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to do roofing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical work on new building.
- Project #: O-9d
Dates: June 23-28
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to do siding and insulation on new building.
- Project #: L-1
Dates: July
Location: Adrian
Description: VBS/BYBC
A team of 8 is needed to lead children's activities and a revival.
- Project #: UP-2
Dates: July
Location: Gwinn
Description: Evangelism
A youth group has been requested to do evangelism, puppets, drama, and music in several churches.
- Project #: O-9e
Dates: July 7-12
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to put up drywall in new building.
- Project #: O-9f
Dates: July 14-19



- Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to finish drywall, cleaning, painting, electrical, and plumbing work in new building.
- Project #: O-9g
Dates: July 21-26
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to lay carpet and do detail work on new building.
- Project #: O-9h
Dates: July 27-31
Location: Clarkston
Description: Construction
Oakland Woods Church needs a team to lay carpet and do detail and finish work on new building.
- Project #: SW-1
Dates: July/August
Location: St. Joseph
Description: Evangelism
A team of 20-50 is needed to do beach ministry including volleyball, sports camp, musical group, and drama.
- Project #: UP-1
Dates: July/August
Location: St. Houghton
Description: Construction
A team is needed to repair the roof of a church sanctuary by resurfacing it.
- Project #: M-13a-L
Dates: Summer
Location: Clinton Township
Description: Construction
Central Church needs construction help on a new sanctuary.
- Project #: O-2-O-7
Dates: Summer
Location: Southfield
Description: Church Planting
Oakland Association needs 10-50 volunteers to start new churches with block parties, surveys, BYBCs, and creative ministries.
- Project #: O-8
Dates: Summer
Location: Pontiac
Description: VBS/Construction
A team is requested to lead VBS and do painting and minor repairs.
- Project #: SC-2
Dates: Summer
Location: Portage
Description: VBS/BYBC
Volunteers needed for BYBC, VBS, and basic survey work.
- Project #: G-1
Dates: Summer
Location: Burton
Description: Church Planting
Several teams of 5-20 are requested to do church planting work including evangelism, VBS, puppets and drama.
- Project #: B-1
Dates: Open
Location: Birch Run
Description: BYBC
The Bay Area Association needs five or more volunteers to lead a BYBC.

Canada Projects

- 2-4 to help conduct a VBS.
- Project #: CA-8
Dates: July 14-18
Location: Saskatchewan
Description: VBS
Faith Church needs a team of 6 to lead VBS for preschoolers.
- Project #: CA-5
Dates: July 28 - Aug. 1
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: Camp
New Life Chapel needs a team of 4-6 to lead one-week Bible camp for children.
- Project #: CA-6
Dates: Aug. 4-8
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: Camp
New Life Chapel needs a team to lead a one-week Bible camp for youth.
- Project #: PM11997603
Dates: Aug. 4-11
Location: Birch Run
Description: BYBC/Construction
A team of 16 is needed to hold BYBC as well as pour a 250-foot-long concrete walk.
- Project #: PM11997636
Dates: Open
Location: Surrey, British Columbia
Description: Church Planting
A team is needed to help plant a church by leading BYBC for Vietnamese children.
- Project #: PFIVS6601
Dates: Open
Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba
Description: Church Planting
A team is needed to complete a survey.
- Project #: PM11997601
Dates: Open
Location: Calgary, Alberta
Description: Singles Retreat
Two volunteers are needed to provide the music and messages at a singles' retreat.
- Project #: PM11997620
Dates: Open
Location: Calgary, Alberta
Description: Children's Ministry
A team of 3-5 is needed to lead a weekend children's festival with creative ministries.
- Project #: PM31997605
Dates: Open
Location: Prince Albert
Description: Construction
Volunteers are needed to purchase and renovate a bus for a mobile chapel.
- Project #: PM11997622
Dates: Open
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia
Description: Church Planting
A Tennessee church is needed to help Gladstone Church sponsor a Mandarin-Taiwanese congregation.
- Project #: PM11997602
Dates: Summer
Location: Williams Lake, British Columbia
Description: Construction
A team is needed to help renovate a building to increase the sanctuary and education space.
- Project #: PM11997619
Dates: Summer
Location: North Kildonan
Description: Church Planting
A team of volunteers is needed to help start a new congregation.
- Project #: PM11997642
Dates: Summer
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: Camp
A team of 3 or more is needed to serve as camp pastor and counselors for a youth camp.
- Project #: PM11997643
Dates: Summer
Location: Grand Prairie, Alberta
Description: VBS
A team of 3 is needed to lead a VBS at New Life Chapel.
- Project #: PM11997644



- Dates: Summer
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: Camp
A team of 3 males and 3 females is needed to lead a children's rustic camp.
- Project #: PM11997650
Dates: Summer
Location: Cochrane, Alberta
Description: Construction
A team of 10-20 is needed to build a playing field with baseball backstop, soccer goal posts, and landscaping.
- Project #: PFPIHS6600
Dates: Summer 99
Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba
Description: Special Services
The Keystone Association needs volunteers for the 1999 Pan American Games to be translators, evangelism teams, choirs, and booth workers.
- Project #: 31-a
Date: Feb. 17-23
Location: Warsaw
Description: Construction
A team of 1-3 is needed to do renovation and remodeling of Baptist offices.
- Project #: 31-b
Dates: March 7-19
Location: Warsaw
Description: Construction
A team of 2-3 is needed to do renovation and remodeling of Baptist offices.
- Project #: PS-4
Dates: March 8-16
Location: Warsaw
Description: Special Services
A team of 10 is needed to lead a Business Education Seminar.
- Project #: 44
Dates: April
Location: Gzyzko
Description: Evangelism
A team of 6 is needed to do pre-evangelism ministries including music, drama, clowns, puppets, etc.
- Project #: 11997408
Dates: Spring
Location: Poznan
Description: Music
A team of 4-6 is needed to do preaching, personal witnessing and music evangelism in schools and public areas.
- Project #: 36
Dates: April 4-27
Location: Elbag
Description: ESL/Education
A team is requested to do lectures in high schools on dating and sex as well as do music concerts.
- Project #: 42
Dates: April 21-27
Location: Radom
Description: ESL/Education
1-2 male volunteers are needed to lecture in local high schools on sex, addictions, dating, and to preach in the evenings.
- Project #: 33
Dates: April 24 - May 7
Location: Choszczno
Description: ESL/Education
2 volunteers are needed to teach English as a second language.
- Project #: 34
Dates: May 6-20
Location: Choszczno
Description: ESL/Education
A team of 2-3 is needed to teach English as a second language.
- Project #: 11997422
Dates: May 22-25
Location: Bialystok
Description: Music
A team is needed to do concerts with African American spirituals and testimonies.
- Project #: 47



- Dates: May 25 - June 1
Location: Wrocław
Description: Evangelism
A team of 20-25 is requested to do street evangelism during the World Catholic Congress.
- Project #: 11997421
Dates: June 2-9
Location: Bialystok
Description: Sports
A team of 6-8 is needed to play basketball, visit schools, play teams from Bialystok, and give testimonies.
- Project #: 11997404
Dates: June 7-20
Location: Warsaw
Description: Senior Adult Camp
A team of 10 is needed to help with a Senior Adult Camp by mostly leading craft activities.
- Project #: 51
Dates: July 5-21
Location: Szczycno
Description: Camp
Christian Church needs 2-4 men to lead youth camp/canoing trip.
- Project #: 11997417
Dates: June 28 - July 13
Location: Bielsk
Description: ESL/Evangelism
A team of 5-6 is needed to teach English as a second language. This work includes evangelism and outreach activities.
- Project #: PC-12
Dates: July 6-20
Location: Torun
Description: Construction
A team of 4-6 men is needed to continue construction on a rustic camp.
- Project #: 11997413
Dates: Aug. 4-8
Location: Warsaw/Radosc
Description: Camp
A team of 3-10 is needed to lead a day camp for children. This includes teaching Bible stories, crafts, games, etc.
- Project #: 11997412
Dates: Summer
Location: Koszalin
Description: Construction
A team of 3-5 is needed to replace the windows in a church.
- Project #: 32
Dates: Summer
Location: Poznan
Description: Construction
A team of 4-6 is needed to renovate a church. This includes painting and repairing wood floors and laying paving tiles for a parking area.
- Project #: PC-11
Dates: Sept. 1-Dec. 12
Location: Radom
Description: ESL/Education
Two young single men are needed to help plant a new church through teaching Conversational English and Bible studies.
- Project #: 11997415
Dates: October 2 - 4
Location: Warsaw
Description: Pastors' Wives Conference
A team of 6-8 is needed to help conduct a Pastors' Wives Conference.
- Project #: PC-15
Dates: Fall
Location: Swientajno
Description: Construction
A team of 12-15 is needed to help construct a new camp building.
- Project #: PC-16
Dates: Open
Location: Gdansk
Description: Construction
A team of 8-10 is needed to complete construction of an attic for educational space.
- Project #: 50
Dates: Open
Location: Szczycno
Description: Construction
Christian Church needs team of 2-4 to do carpentry repair work and interior painting on a church.



Tennescene

leaders

■ On Feb. 2 **Richard L. Miller** of St. Louis, Mo., began serving as minister of education, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville. Miller is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Formerly, Miller was minister of education and outreach at a church in St. Louis.

■ Cherokee Church, Memphis, has called **Gary Powell** of First Church, Forrest City, Ark., as minister of music/education, effective Feb. 9.

■ A pastor in England is interested in an exchange relationship with a pastor in the United States for 4-6 weeks. If interested, please contact Bill Wilson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2020 or CompuServe 104045,3032.

■ **Roy D. Bunch** has been called as pastor of New Hope Church, Readyville, effective Jan. 9.

deaths

■ **Jason Armstrong**, coordinator of the jail ministry of Weakley County Association, for 19 years, died Jan. 28. More

than 400 inmates and others have become Christians through the ministry in the past 10 years, reported Richard Skidmore, director of missions of the association. Armstrong also was known for his encouragement of pastors. He was a former Sunday School director and deacon of New Hope Church, Latham.

missionaries

■ The address for **Jeff and Kathy Deasy**, missionaries to Brazil, was incorrect in a recent issue. It is Rua Luis Barbalho, 84, Apt. 601, 50001-970 Recife, PE, Recife, Brazil. The former Kathy Callahan considers New Johnsonville her hometown.

people

■ A member of Crieewood Church, Nashville, **LaFloy**

Johnson, recording artist, will travel to Poland April 7-16 with George Hamilton IV, a recording artist who is a member of the Grand Ole Opry, to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership. The musicians will perform concerts in the country.

associations

■ **Fayette Association** will hold a simultaneous revival effort March 16-19. Speakers will be from the Oakland Association in Michigan to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. This is a reciprocal activity because churches in the Michigan association held a similar event led by Fayette Association leaders two years ago.

churches

■ A divorce recovery seminar, "New Beginnings," will be held at **First Church, Nash-**

ville, on four consecutive Sunday mornings beginning March 2 from 9-10:30 a.m. Jefferson Hood, a therapist and author, will lead it. Lunch will follow. For more information, call (615) 664-6007.

■ **Twin Hills Church, Westmoreland**, will hold Old Fashioned Day March 2. Ralph Bethea Jr., of No Greater Love International will speak. Activities include a luncheon and gathering at 4 p.m. featuring Bethea and musicians.

■ **Ridgeway Church, Memphis**, will host a training event for exercise instructors. The Faithfully Fit Tour '97 will be led by AerobiRhythms Christian Aerobic Resource March 7-8. For more information call the church at (901) 761-1113.

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, is hosting "Random Acts of Grace," Feb. 23 which will be presented by Paul and Nicole Johnson of Brentwood, who are dramatists.

■ **Bruce and Irene Howard**, members of **Cumberland Homesteads Church, Crossville**, served in Venezuela on a health care/evangelism team Jan. 31 - Feb. 10.

Classified

ORGANIST: Hillhurst Baptist Church of Nashville needs an organist. If interested or know of someone, call the church office at (615) 226-1260.

NEEDED: Church secretary with typing, organizational, and people skills; word processing experience; and a desire to help others. Approximately 30 hours a week. Temple Church, Old Hickory, call (615) 847-5091.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Grandview Church is seeking permanent, part-time minister of music. Send resume to: Grandview Baptist Church, 2208 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, TN 37803

Needs Minister

FBCO is seeking full-time minister of preschool/children responsible for organizing activities of infants through 6th grade. Requirements include personal and organizational skills, college/seminary or equivalent, relocation required. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attention: Personnel Committee, 1400 W Jackson St., Ozark, MO 65721 by March 3.

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Seminary Positions Available

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Applicants should possess a research doctorate and should affirm the seminary's statement of faith. All candidates must maintain membership in a Baptist congregation and affirm conservative-evangelical theological convictions.

Applicants must be committed to the preparation of Christian ministers through the seminary's programs of study at the masters and doctoral levels.

Send biographical information to Search Committee Dean, Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration, Box 319, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. Nominations and applications will be accepted until the appointment is made. The seminary reserves the right to pursue the search as long as necessary to find the right persons for these important assignments.

Austin Peay students learn to be flexible

For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — In late January eight Baptist Student Union students from Austin Peay State University, along with BSU director Jim Alexander, trekked to Bambi Lake Baptist Assembly in Roscommon, Mich., to lead a winter youth retreat.

Alexander noted he had some reservations about making such a trip during the winter when first approached by Tom Martin, church starter strategist and associational missionary coordinator with the Michigan Baptist Convention.

"After some initial fears of not being able to get all the way to Bambi Lake due to the unpredictable Michigan winter weather, we left the weather to the Lord and told Tom we would come," Alexander said.

The southern adventurers discovered several new things,

but truly learned the meaning of flexibility.

Flexibility is learned on any retreat involving people. Program schedules are merely suggestions, Esther Overbay, BSU program assistant at Austin Peay, learned.

Planned discussions can be altered by one comment; thus the ability to be flexible is essential when trying to follow God's desires, she noted.

"The most meaningful lesson learned or reinforced on the trip was that in order to be used by God, we must be sensitive to his presence and leadership. This meant changing our planned discussions, altering our schedule, and above all praying continuously," Overbay said.

Upon returning to Clarksville several students noted the trip was a humbling experience. "Even though we were the leaders of the retreat, we were servants of God. Nothing



AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY students who ministered recently in Michigan included, from left, Esther Overbay, TaiCorp, Emily Chambers, Josh Horne, Jon Atchley, Joe Donahue, Beth Duncan, and Steve Wolverton.

is more humbling than coming to God and allowing him total control of your life, and then to see his power and love in action," Overbay said.

"Even though I am just one member of the team, I feel confident in speaking for the team

when I say college is much more than classes and homework," she continued.

"The true education is in the opportunities to explore other places, to work with different people, and to experience the presence of God." ■



Tennessee features

Convention offers tutoring children, youth workshop

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention will offer a Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop at the Baptist Center March 21-22.

The conference is designed for anyone who is involved in literacy ministry.

Illiteracy is a problem plaguing America. Sixty million adult Americans are functionally illiterate. One million 12-17 year olds cannot read above the third grade level.

Positive adult role models are lacking for many children and youth. Tutors can become these role models.

Lee Hudson, wife of Lawrence Hudson, pastor of Monument of Love Church, Memphis, will lead the workshop. She is a literacy missions associate, certified by the Home Mission Board.



HUDSON

The workshop begins on March 21 at 1 p.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. the following day.

Meals and breaks are provided through the Golden State Missions Offering. The cost of the manual is \$10.

For registration information, contact Beverly Smothers, Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, TBC, (615) 371-2044. ■

Deacon Conference begins Feb. 28

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The State Deacon Conference will be held Feb. 28-March 1 at Belmont Heights Church here.

The theme of the weekend meeting, sponsored by the Church Staff Leadership Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is "Building Healthier Churches."

The conference begins at 6 p. Friday evening with registration and concludes around noon on Saturday.

Program participants include Aubrey Hay, TBC; Joe Stacker, pastor, Belmont Heights Church; Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor, *Baptist and Reflector*; James Draper, president, Baptist Sunday School Board; and Norris Smith and Bob Sheffield, BSSB consultants.

There is no registration fee for the conference. For more information or to register, call Hay at (615) 371-2010. ■

World Changers targets Memphis

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Many urban ills exist in Memphis, especially in its low-income communities where residents do not have the financial resources to lift themselves out of the despair that often surrounds them.

As World Changers and World Tour participants converge on Memphis June 21-28 to participate in housing renovation and inner-city ministry projects, they will seek to remedy some of those ills by providing a visible witness of Christ to those who are hurting.

World Changers is a coeducational project combining missions education and hands-on work projects, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission.

World Tour, a new missions effort by World Changers, combines a diversity of relationship ministries with a paint project in inner-city neighborhoods.

Allen James, project coordinator for the World Tour project in Memphis, says sev-

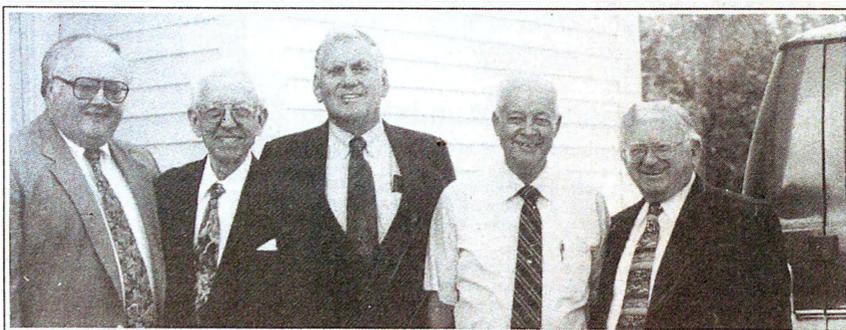
eral ministry opportunities are lined up for the week including Backyard Bible Clubs, homeless shelter work, food and clothes closet ministries, and more.

"The World Tour experience gives the youth a balance and blend, the personal touch of ministry, along with the hands-on construction work," said James, minister of youth and recreation at Faith Church, Memphis.

"Having a little bit of everything gives youth a better taste of their options in missions work. They learn that it's more about giving than receiving. The self-centered moods aren't there anymore."

James describes the World Changers experience as being like no other. He says summer camps are good experiences for youth to get close to Christ through devotions and Bible studies.

In addition to the World Tour project in Memphis, World Changers is sponsoring two senior high projects in Memphis and one in Kingsport, along with another World Tour project in Knoxville this summer. For information, call (901) 272-2461. ■



Homecoming marks 150 years

A homecoming celebration recently marked the 150th anniversary of New Hope Church, Readyville. The church has had four men from its membership called to serve as pastors including Randy Sledge and James Harney. Joining in the celebration were, from left, Sledge, retired pastor Bob Dowdy; Harney; deacon chairman Franklin Boyce; and Archie King, retired TBC Brotherhood director.

At state capitol

Leaders of Faith Day planned

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The third annual Leaders of Faith Day at the State Capitol will be held Monday, Feb. 24, in the War Memorial Auditorium here.

This is an opportunity to pray, to learn, to meet the leaders who serve Tennessee, and tour the state capitol.

An optional detailed legislative briefing will be held in the morning starting at 9 a.m. Additionally, pastors may attend a special reception lunch with federal and state legislators at Legislative Plaza. Senator Bill Frist

will be the guest speaker.

The in-depth afternoon session will include panel discussion, and corporate prayer. Guest speaker K. Alan Snyder will present "If Our Foundations are Destroyed," a look at the biblical principles on which our government is based.

No registration fee is required for pastors; however, a \$5 donation is recommended for lay leaders and others. There is an \$8 cost for pastors attending the luncheon.

For more information about Leaders of Faith Day, call (615) 662-5115. ■

Be ready

By Donna Wright

Focal Passage — Matthew 24:36-51

Like the Boy Scouts, our Lord taught us to be prepared.

All of the verses that we look at this week are about being prepared. Why is this necessary? After all, the apostles thought they were living in the "last days," but at least to our human minds, they were wrong.

Christ explains his second coming as a thief in the night, the hour and day, no one knows, except the Father. "Therefore, be ready, because you won't be expecting me, when I come for you" (v. 44).

My grandfather died at the ripe old age of 90. He could quote Scripture better than anyone I have ever known. After watching the news, he would say to me, "Don't you know that these things are told to us as far back as the Old Testament? Don't you know that the news gives us the signs of the times, every day?"

The Bible gives us events to watch for, to gauge the date of his return. Many people believe that the trumpet is poised at Gabriel's lips.

Well, if this is true, where does it leave us? Christ described both men and women at work. Of the two men, one will be taken, the other left for judgment. And so, the women, also. Then, he goes on to say, "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It is good for that servant whom the master finds him doing so," (vv. 45-46).

There are those who do not believe in the second coming.

However, I believe that Jesus told us in the verses we study this week, that his return is a future event. One that has already been written in the history book, and is just waiting to happen.

What do we really need to know about his second coming? The date? The time?

No. Jesus' own conclusion was to "watch" and "be ready." As Christians, we need to do nothing else, except obey his will.

Just for the sake of argument, however, let's pretend that someone is reading this who isn't sure that they need to "be ready." To know Christ Jesus as Lord and savior. To surrender his or her life to him. What if, in fact, you think that I'm wasting my life, trying to live for him.

That's fine.

You see, if I were wrong, and I were to leave this earth tonight, I would have tried to live a life that was good. That is all I would lose.

If I'm right, and that person does not prepare, is not ready, what then?

Jesus said, "But, suppose that servant is wicked, and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

BE READY! ■ — Wright is a member of First Church, Newport.

Timothy

By Mike Shelton

Focal Passage — Acts 16:1-5; I Corinthians 4:14-17; Philippians 2:19-22; II Timothy 1:4-7

Nothing seems to stir the hearts of older Christians like the sight of a young person entering the ministry. It is a sign the Lord is continuing his work into the next generation. Our attention is drawn to Timothy, a young man trained by the apostle Paul for the work of the Lord. In statements made about Timothy by Paul and Luke, we see how new believers today can be helped to become leaders in the church.

Assisting others in their work

Luke tells us that Paul was so impressed with Timothy while he was in Derbe and Lystra he asked Timothy to accompany him in his further missionary journeys. Paul asked this young man to undergo the rite of circumcision so as to be of greater help in their efforts to win those of Jewish heritage. Timothy followed in humility and service. He proved to be an excellent assistant. All the while he was gaining the skills and experience needed to become a church leader later in his life.

Family Bible Lesson

Assisting others in their work for Christ is an excellent way to help new believers mature. When I began preaching at the age of 16, my father, a longtime Southern Baptist pastor, asked me to accompany him as he carried out his duties. I learned from him how to pray, visit, witness, and preach. The experience gained as his unofficial "assistant" has been invaluable to this young minister. If you have been a Christian for awhile, make yourself available as a mentor to a new Christian who shows promise as a future leader. If you are a new Christian, help a leader do his or her work.

Related to the king

By Howard Kitter

Focal Passage — Matthew 25:31-41, 46

Have you ever heard the old question, "If you were to be placed on trial with the accusation of not being a Christian, what evidence would be in your life to prove you really are a Christian?" That makes for a good hardy discourse with yourself and the Lord, doesn't it? In this lesson we should learn something about this evidence.

Judgment — vv. 31-33. Verse 31 makes one of the most pointed statements about the coming of the Lord that I know of. "When the son of man shall come ..." It is made very clear in this verse that the event of Jesus' coming back is inevitable. This event will not be solo either, the angels shall accompany him to the throne of glory.

The next verse states just as clearly what will take place after his return. All nations shall be gathered before him and separated. Some will go to his right and the others to his left. It seems as though there will be a silent sort of judgment at first. He will separate the people, just as a shepherd would his sheep and goats. This particular verse is silent in words, but sharp in activity. With eternal omniscience the king will already know who is to be placed on

the right and who is placed on his left. I cannot imagine there being any disagreement by even one person. It is really something to try to understand that when the king tells one where to stand, it is known by that person as a right and just judgment. Have you ever asked yourself which side the king would tell you to stand?

Just responds — vv. 34-40. Here the king issues a great reward to those on his right. Those blessed of God will inherit the kingdom prepared for them. The response of those in this category is almost startling. There is no room for false humility with the righteous. They simply asked the King, "When did we minister these things to you that you say?" Their question is saturated with true humility and honesty. The king told them when they ministered to all these people as they did, they really did it unto him. You see the righteous do not minister to people to gain access or approval of God. Ministry comes as a supernatural fruit, out of what God has done for them in Christ. The motivation for ministry is not what one can receive for doing service, but rather it is a "Thank you" for what God already did for



Bible study for February 23

Doing special tasks

On two occasions Paul commissioned Timothy to work with churches who needed help. The tasks seem to have been rather short-term and specific in nature. In Corinth Timothy's job was to remind the church of what Paul had preached and taught while he was establishing the church in that city. The other instance took place in Philippi. Paul wanted to send a representative to the church there who would care for them and carry back to Paul a report of the church's condition. Timothy served well in each case.

One way to build confidence in new church leaders is to give them specific, short-term projects that have clearly defined and measurable goals. When they are accomplished, everyone involved is strengthened and uplifted.

Being encouraged along the way

Many scholars believe Timothy may have been a timid person by nature. If true, then the encouragement to "stir up" his gift would have been needed by Timothy from time to time. The reminder that the Christian's new spirit is one of power also would have been helpful to him.

All believers need encouragement. Difficult experiences in ministry have a way of dampening our enthusiasm and desire. The power of sin and evil in our world can appear more powerful than God. What we need on those occasions is for someone who has walked the narrow way longer to come to us, comfort us, and inspire us to keep serving in the almighty spirit of God. Paul did it for Timothy. You can do it for a fellow minister of Christ who may need to stoke the coals of his calling from mere embers back into a blaze. ■ — Mike Shelton is pastor of Bellevue Church, Nashville.

you. As our lives leave a legacy of ministry (with the correct motive) to others, we find compelling evidence pointing to the Christ likeness inside our hearts.

Unjust condemned — vv. 41, 46. Verse 41 records the most woeful moment in history, either past or to come. Here the ones on the king's left are meted out their punishment. Some may say those people deserve it. Mankind deserves hell for their sins, the Bible says. I think we should try to understand how great a tragedy it is for even one soul to die and go to hell. Even here, I believe those on the right will experience a degree of sorrow, as the eternal punishment is given to those on the left. For what person with a heart for God could sit back idly and watch without emotion the condemnation of even one soul?

The basis for their punishment is clear, there was no evidence of belonging to the king in their lives. I'm sure in this group, there will be a great number of religious, good, and ethical folk. But the judgment will stand, because there was no evidence of belonging to the king.

Ask yourself: What evidence is there in my own life that would prove my kingdom citizenship? What would it mean if there is none in my life? Ask the king. ■ — Kitter is pastor of First Church, Bethel Springs.



Start Something New
Home Missions Weeks of Prayer
March 2-9



world news

Baptists reach Brazilians via film, tracts

Baptist Press

SALVADOR, Brazil — For 13 straight nights in late January Baptists showed the "Jesus" film on the streets of Salvador.

"In nearly every place, about 10 percent of those watching accepted Jesus. I am convinced that showing films on the streets is one of the best ways to reach people," said Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Danny Callis of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

About 4,000 people attended the film showings.

The overall effort involved 175 Baptists and missionaries working in teams throughout the city. The teams handed out 140,000 tracts and led nearly 700 people to accept Jesus Christ. ■

SBTS adds new faculty; announce staff openings

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert

Mohler announced Feb. 4 the appointment of two faculty and declared nine faculty positions open during the seminary board of trustees' executive committee meeting.

Gregory A. Wills was appointed assistant professor of church history and former Tennessee pastor C. Ben Mitchell was appointed assistant professor of Christian ethics.

Mohler announced the seminary is seeking professors to fill positions in the areas of Christian theology, Old and New Testament interpretation, Christian preaching, Christian missions, church music/hymnology, and more.

Board members also were given a preview of architectural plans to renovate some of the school's classroom space. The renovation of the north-east wing of Norton Hall will cost approximately \$1.4 million. Mohler said the renovation will give the seminary modern, state-of-the-art educational space. ■

GGBTS explores Internet degree

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary is looking at the possibility of delivering a master of theology degree on the Internet as part of a plan to computerize the seminary, according to President William O. Crews.

Crews told a joint meeting of state Baptist convention executive directors and state paper editors Feb. 10 in San Francisco that for the seminary to "not only survive in the 21st century, but actually

thrive," it must be accountable to the churches, available to the churches, and have adaptability to the needs of the churches.

In that vein, Crews said the seminary recently advertised in the California Baptist newspaper seeking by students in the delivery of a master of theology degree from Golden Gate on the Internet, an electronic information system accessible by computers worldwide and rapidly becoming an integral part of the information age.

The seminary plans to develop "lifelong learning partnership with our graduates and the churches," Crews said. ■

RTVC radio host nominated for Grammy awards

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Bill Mack has been nominated for two Grammy awards — Country Song of the Year and Song of the Year. He will be in New York City Feb. 26 for the Grammy Awards show at Madison Square Garden, which will be aired on the CBS television network from 8-11 p.m., Eastern time.

Mack was nominated for a song he wrote in the late '50s titled "Blue." Sung by 14-year-old LeAnn Rimes of Garland, Texas, the song went to number one of the sales charts the first week of release in the summer of last year.

Mack is host of both the radio and television versions of "Country Crossroads," which are produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He has hosted the radio version for 24 years. ■

Volunteerism through Home Mission Board marks 5 percent increase in '96

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. —

The number of Southern Baptists serving through Home Mission Board opportunities increased in 1996.

An estimated 85,386 volunteers served in Christian ministries through the agency last year, a 5 percent hike from 1995.

Youth volunteers comprised the largest category, with 38,351 individuals.

College volunteers increased to 5,185 individuals,

up 1,440 compared to 1995. Mission Service Corps volunteers grew by 90 to a total of 2,283.



More than 28,500 adults served last year in short-term volunteer projects coordinated through the Home Mission Board. Volunteers coordinated through the agency's evangelism section and language church starting division totaled approximately 11,000.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call 1 (800) HMB-VOLS. ■

Baptist college softball team goes 'to prison'

Baptist Press

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. — As many American college students begin planning their spring break on the sunny beaches of Florida, the Campbellsville University Lady Tigers softball team will be spending its time playing teams at three women's prisons in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana.

First-year head coach Sarah Hillyer voiced excitement for the venture, noting after the games "our girls will be taking the opportunity to share Christ with the prisoners."

"I thank the Lord that we at Campbellsville University have the freedom and privilege

to take the Gospel to hurting people," Hillyer said.

Campbellsville is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■

Visionary Texas Baptist dies

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Olen Mile, 90, former president of Texas Baptist Men who founded a statewide volunteer retiree church construction group, died Jan. 30 in Dallas.

Miles began working with other retirees on building projects in the Rio Grande Valley and Minnesota after he retired in 1971.

During his tenure as leader of the TBM Retiree Builders, the volunteers built more than 350 churches "for the glory of God." ■

78-year-old's ministry tops 60,000 cards, 15,000 calls

Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, Ky. — Velma Sissom's health may be failing, but her desire to reach out and touch people in need is as strong as ever.

Every week for almost half a century, the 78-year-old member of Grant's Lick Church has sent 30 to 40 cards and letters to church members, friends, and even strangers on behalf of the Kentucky church, said pastor Paul Broyles. Most who receive cards are ill or have suffered the loss of a loved one, he said.

Sissom's records show she has mailed more than 60,000 cards and made more than 15,000 phone calls since she began the ministry in 1948, Broyles said.

She has an "amazing information network," Broyles said. Many people have lived in the area for 70 to 80 years and "she knows them all," Broyles said.

A move to the Baptist Convalescent Center in Newport, Ky., three years ago didn't stop Sissom. Although she is confined to a wheelchair because of complications from diabetes

and is no longer able to write, her ministry continues with the help of family and friends.

Each Monday, her children take turns bringing her the Grant's Lick church bulletin, Sunday order of worship, and weekly praise and prayer list. Grant's Lick Church provides greeting cards and postage.

Each Tuesday, Betty Steele, a longtime friend and member of First Church, Newport, spends about two hours helping Sissom prepare and address the cards for mailing.

"God loves you, and so do we. Grant's Lick Baptist Church" is the message Sissom wants on most of the cards, Steele said. Sissom requests a customized message on a few cards, Steele said.

In spite of her physical limitations, Sissom still is able to stuff each envelope with a card, a church bulletin, and a Gospel tract, Steele said.

In a time when it is easy for people "to get separated from the church almost overnight," Sissom "more than anything else helps keep people connected to the church," Broyles said. ■

Challengers urged to go 'full force'

Baptist Press

GATLINBURG — Five hundred, and fifty Challengers and leaders from 14 states were motivated to take their faith and impact their world with "full force" for God during a three-day National Challengers Rally held last week here.

Challengers is the missions education and ministry action program for Southern Baptist young men in grades seven through 12, administered by the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

The special guest for the rally was Bruce Crevier, current Guinness world record holder for simultaneously spinning basketballs — 18 at current count.

"Young men who know Jesus Christ today have to stand

for truth. There is so much garbage out there with pornography, drugs, and television. A like often sounds like the truth and the truth seldom sounds like a lie. I'm here to tell you the truth. You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you. The only way I could ever spin 18 basketballs is because Jesus helped me do it," he said.

Tennessee evangelist Brady Weldon, who also serves as associate pastor of Southside Church, Martin, energized the Challengers with a commissioning service in the final session of the rally. There were 25 professions of Christ during the rally and 15 young men dedicated themselves to full-time missions or ministry service. "You've got to stand up for God right where you are," Weldon reminded the group. ■