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**TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST &
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week's
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Teens across nation to witness

Youth to take 'Time to Tell'

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Youth groups across the nation, including those in Tennessee, are preparing to share their faith in God with their friends and classmates. During April 7-13 teens will participate in "Time to Tell," a Southern Baptist emphasis, reported Jay Austin of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board Ministries.

The 30,000 teens who attended last month's Youth Evangelism Conference have been preparing for the week since the conference.

"Time to Tell" is part of a continuing effort by Baptist youth across the nation. Youth have gathered around school flag poles to pray for their teachers, government, friends, and schools as a part of "See You at The Pole." They have signed pledge cards committing to abstinence until marriage as they participated in "True Love Waits Goes to Campus," noted Austin.

"Now is the 'Time to Tell,'" he said. "Youth and youth groups are being challenged to step out of their comfort zones, in the authority and power of the Holy Spirit and unashamedly share



DISCUSSING 'TIME TO TELL' with some youth is Jay Austin, second from left, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff. Joining the discussion from Judson Church, Nashville, are, from left, Tim Drinkwine; Kristen Conniff; Melvin Swafford, minister of students; Kayde Conniff; Sara Hardin; and Chauncey Scates. — Photo by Connie Davis

their faith," he said.

Austin noted that more than 3 million people in Tennessee don't have a relationship with God. And youth can play a major role in changing the lives of these people, he said.

He challenged teens before April 7 to write the names of 10 people who don't have a relationship with God. Then they should pray for those 10 people each day, praying that God will give

them an opportunity and the words to share their faith with them and that God will make these people receptive to the witness, said Austin.

Adults can have a role in "Time to Tell," also. They should challenge the youth and encourage them, he said. Adults could plan a special event during the week such as a Sunday School pizza party or a Friday night fellowship to support "Time to Tell." Youth could invite non-Christian friends to these events. A

speaker could be enlisted to present the plan of salvation to support the efforts of the youth.

Austin reminded Baptists that "Time to Tell" is not intended to replace a witnessing lifestyle. Instead, it is a focused challenge for one week.

For further information about "Time to Tell," and other evangelistic outreach training or opportunities, call the Evangelism Strategies Team of the TBC Executive Board Ministries at (615) 371-2077. *B&R*



Nashville talk radio show considers resurrection

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Just before Easter Nashville's only FM talk radio station, WTN - 99.7 F.M., broadcast an evening discussion of the resurrection of Jesus.

Invited to lead the March 27 discussion were Bill Choate, Baptist chaplain, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; A.J. Levine, Carpenter professor of New Testament, Vanderbilt University; and Gerd Ludemann, visiting professor of New Testament at the school.

The three guests held different views of Jesus and the resurrection. Levine, who is Jewish, explained that she has a high regard for the Scripture and the teachings of Jesus, but holds the belief that Jesus was not divine.

Ludemann, who is the author of several recent books on the resurrection of Jesus, agreed with Levine that Jesus was a great teacher. He also noted that the resurrection stories are a result of people's subjective

visions of Jesus, stemming from their psychological need to retain Jesus in their lives.

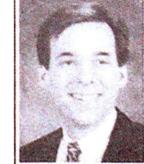
The discussion which was generated among the guest panelists, host, and callers was eclectic. Callers' views ranged from people who defended the King James Version as being the only true translation to those who were familiar with the newly-discovered gnostic texts of the Middle East, which are considered by many academics as the writings of early Christians.

The experience, said Choate, who has led Baptist ministries on the campus for eight years, was a good one. "We ought to be having these kinds of discussions. I don't have the luxury of talking just with people I agree with in campus ministry."

The other guest panelists, he pointed out, are teaching students and reaching people who read their books. "We need to be able to engage them in some sort of thoughtful way," he added.

In recent years the press has begun to rediscover religion, Choate observed. The

new openness of the media to discuss religion is an opportunity, he said. It is being appropriated by non-Christian groups and it should be employed by Christians.



CHOATE

Just as the academic world and the press are discussing Ludemann's books, one of which was published by Westminster John Knox Press, so should Christians and Baptists, he said.

Choate admitted "talk shows are not a good place to thoroughly discuss biblical issues." His approach was to share concisely what he believed. He didn't quote a lot of Bible verses, he noted, because of the knowledge of the other two guests of the Scripture and their approach to it.

However his purpose was clear. "I engaged in the discussion not because I agreed with them, but because I disagreed with them. I'm not conceding anything by having a discussion with them." *B&R*

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Tennessean shares Jesus through 'Online Chapel'

By Sean Taylor
For Baptist Press

ADAMS — "Can anyone help me?"

The question appeared on Bill Tober's computer monitor as he surfed the Internet Relay Chat boards. He checked his watch. It was almost 2 a.m., when most ministers would be in bed. After a quick yawn, he typed his response to the 16-year-old girl who had sent the request.

She then told Tober her father had just died of a heart attack, "and I thought, 'What's she doing on the Internet? But she said she didn't have any friends or anybody to talk to. She asked, 'Is Daddy going to heaven?' And I said, 'Well, I don't know that answer, but I can get someone who can help you.' She said, 'I wish you would.'"

While continuing the on-line chat, Tober raced through his database of churches to find the phone number of a pastor in her town. Between typing and reading, he phoned the

pastor of a Southern Baptist church near her and, before the Internet conversation was finished, that pastor was knocking at the girl's door. "As it turned out," Tober said, "he did the funeral, and that girl and her mother are now members in his church."

Tober, of Adams, a retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain, is the senior chaplain of the Online Chapel, an Internet-based counseling ministry that does most of its work between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., Central time. According to Tober, the chapel began because he was an Internet hobbyist who had too much time on his hands after retirement.

"I saw these IRC boards for what they really were, which was not a pretty picture," he said, "and I felt that there needed to be some kind of Christian presence on them."

After contacting people in the Undernet, one of the largest chat systems, Tober found they liked the idea but hadn't been able to find anyone who was willing to organize

and lead it.

"It was originally just going to be a chat room," Tober said, "but when people saw that there was someone nicknamed 'Chaplain' in there, they tried to get some help. Then we found other ministers who were interested in doing something like this but weren't sure how to go about it. So I developed a training program, and I contacted the state (Baptist) convention here in Tennessee and the interfaith witness department at the Home Mission Board (for materials)."

Currently the chapel has six chaplains who regularly monitor the IRC channels, and except for about four hours, the chapel is staffed all day. The chaplains handle such tasks as marriage counseling, parent-child relationship counseling, and coordinating Bible studies and prayer groups.

"Much of our work involves cultivational evangelism," Tober said. "We simply build friendly relationships with folks, including those involved in the occult and alternative

lifestyles. Over time, they ask questions and we remain ready to answer them in a non-threatening way. I used to have this thing that witches were going to hell and the whole nine yards ... They don't believe that, and I would do nothing but start an argument. If you can get them to like you, there's your stepping stone to Jesus."

It's a stepping stone that's getting a lot of traffic. At least eight new Christians have met Christ in Tober's corner of cyberspace in spite of the pitfalls of getting knocked off-line at critical moments.

He is excited about the potential for on-line ministry and hopes eventually to host regular seminars and conferences on-line. "It's untried ground," he said, "and I can see some exciting things coming out of it. The Bible says to go into all the world; it doesn't say to make the people come to you."

The Online Chapel's home page can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~billtober/chapel.html>. ■

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Partnership Prayer Requests

April

2 — Pray for the new converts in the South Zone of Costa Rica who responded to God's call during recent revival services and for the completion of the chapel at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Radosc in time for their first graduation service in May.

3 — Pray for the pastor search committee of Armstrong Avenue Church in Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada.

4 — Pray for András Herjeczki of Lincoln Park, Mich., who is pastor of the First Hungarian Church, and that the congregation finds a suitable place to relocate since they are unable to meet building expenses.

5 — Pray for the Tennessee medical team that will work May 31-June 8 with national doctors in the South Zone of Costa Rica.

6 — Pray for the church in Elblag, Poland, which is in need of volunteers to conduct lectures in high schools and do music concerts.

7 — Pray for Jo Acrae of Friendship Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, who was recently appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to develop a school for the deaf in a north Africa country.

8 — Pray for Tom Martin, a church planter strategist in Auburn, Mich.

History book approved for stewardship agency

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In their final item of business, Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission members approved March 20 an expenditure of up to \$20,000 to publish a history of the agency, which will close June 19.

The commission, created at the 1960 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is one of seven SBC agencies to be dissolved or merged in the convention-wide restructuring approved at the 1995 and 1996 SBC annual meetings to reduce the number of agencies from 19 to 12.

No history of the Stewardship Commission has been previously written, and such a book would close the agency "in a commendable way," said commissioner chairman Charles Sullivan, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Stewardship Commission President Ronald Chandler, in his report at the 30-member board's final meeting, projected the agency will have a minimum balance of \$250,000 when it closes at the conclusion of the June 17-19 SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

"This amount, when invested, should cover all of the Stewardship Commission's liabilities for retirees and other staff," not counting, how-

ever, an estimated \$322,000 for a special staff severance package commissioners approved at their March 1996 meeting, Chandler said.

Specific projections of assets, according to Chandler, include \$597,513 in reserve funds as of June 19 and a cash balance of \$22,000.

Chandler observed the commission "has made a difference in our denominational life which few have recognized (and) almost none have acknowledged. ... I am confident that the words, 'well done thou good and faithful servant,' are recorded next to our name somewhere in heaven."

Recapping the employment status of staff members, Chandler said he will work under a one-year contract with the Baptist Sunday School Board, which is assuming the agency's stewardship education and capital fund-raising responsibilities, as a consultant as will agency staffer Carl Hoffman.

Staffers James Powell and James Austin will join the staff of the SBC Executive Committee while accountant Lana Kimbro will join the Christian Life Commission staff. Three employees are retiring — Charles High, Barbara Conner, and Pat Vick. Still seeking employment are Dwayne Fischer, Ernest Standifler, Lee Davis, Ginger Moore, and Judith Moore. ■

TBC provides leadership training for small churches

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Spring Small Church Leadership Training for Sunday School and Church Media Library workers will be offered during April to provide practical, helpful teaching methods and resources for quality Bible study and to assist in beginning or strengthening church media libraries.

Leaders will include staff members from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Locations and dates are:
April 14 — Bulls Gap Church, Bulls Gap; Pleasant Hill Church, Rives

April 15 — Lakeview Church, Caryville; Pomona Church, Dickson

April 17 — Oaklawn Church, Crossville; Allen

Church, Brownsville
April 18 — First Church, Whitwell; Rock Springs Church, Columbia

The leadership training conferences at each location will be held from 7-9 p.m., local time. The leadership training is sponsored by the TBC Christian Growth Development Group. For more information, call the TBC at (615) 371-2054 or your associational office. ■

WMU pilot program for needy gets positive review

By Amanda Phifer
For Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — There is general agreement the government-sponsored welfare system does not work. The question is: What does?

After participating in a one-year pilot program, a group of South Carolina Baptist women would answer: Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union.

CWJC is a locally implemented, locally funded program to help women in or at risk of poverty become self-sufficient, by providing a Christian context in which they are equipped for life and employment. The holistic thrust seeks to minister to the total woman: the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual.

CWJC offers Southern Baptists a great avenue "to change people's lives," said Elizabeth Ford, who left a full-time job last November to do CWJC full time, without pay. "God has affirmed this ministry every direction we've turned."

CWJC is the brainchild of the national Woman's Missionary Union. In South Carolina, a WMU task force developed and wrote training materials for three pilot programs carried out during 1996 and some of 1995.

The program has 10 key elements: a mentor for every client; covenants between every client and mentor; Bible study; resource and community networking; client needs assessment and community needs assessment; a state advocacy council; training/certification; evaluation; locally funded; and registered with the state WMU. Other than those key elements, there are few hard-and-fast rules about CWJC, leaving the individual woman free to minister to the needs of the individual client.

CWJC is designed for one woman — the mentor — to work with one woman — the client. This can happen as a personal ministry, or it can be part of a church or association-wide ministry. Nancy Brown, a member of Kathwood Church, Columbia, is ministering by herself to one woman. Ford, on the other hand, is a project coordinator for York Association's CWJC, which has 25 clients, each with her own mentor. Mildred Brown, a member of Shandon Church, Columbia, is doing CWJC through her church.

"One of the strengths of the program, and the reason government agencies are approaching York Association's CWJC," Ford said, "is the client-mentor relationship.

"They see that our mentors are going to stay with their clients from beginning to end," she said. Also, each mentor and project coordinator is trained by the state WMU.

Once a mentor has been trained, has been assigned a client, and both have signed their covenants, they get to work. The client is required to attend a weekly Bible study. The mentor works to provide whatever resources the client needs — help with child care, interviewing skills, budgeting skills, education, transportation, clothes and/or food, or some financial assistance.

"There hasn't been a need expressed that hasn't been met," Ford said. York Association's CWJC is hoping to establish a warehouse for donated items. Several individuals have donated medical, dental, and optometry services to some clients. Two volunteer construction groups, including Brotherhood Builders, are providing apartment buildings to house up to six families in the program. A computer was donated to help Ford.

"Transportation is one of the largest hurdles," she said, "because the Rock Hill area doesn't have a public transit system. When we mentioned this problem in our associational newsletter, we had four

people donate used cars to the program." CWJC loans the cars to the women most in need of them. When a woman gets back on her feet and is able to purchase her own vehicle, she returns the car so others can use it.

An individual who works at the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, and therefore knows how the welfare system works, found out about CWJC and sent the association a check for \$3,000. Ford said other denominations and churches are wanting to help as well.

Three York Association clients are close to self-sufficiency. One client is already self-sufficient and plans to become a mentor herself.

The results of Christian Women's Job Corps? First, organizers say, is the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and leadership growth of both clients and mentors; second, self-sufficient women and children delivered from the poverty cycle; third, a positive, society-changing ministry of the church based on Jesus' command to treat the "least of these" as they would Jesus himself.

"This gives me more of a heart like Christ would have," Ford said. "To see a woman change before your eyes, grow

spiritually, get an education, stand on her own — it's like watching a flower bloom.

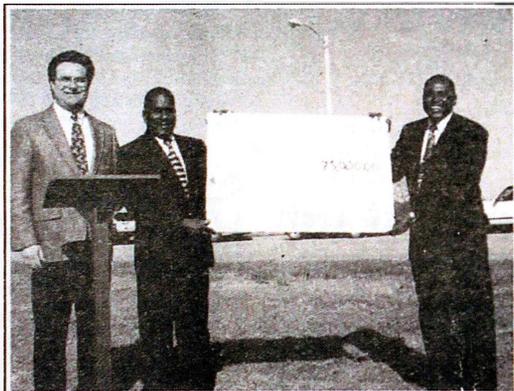
"I think one of the things wrong with our churches is that we've left this work up to the government," she added. "We've seen the few who abuse the system — the bad guys — and we've lumped the good in with the bad. These clients want desperately to get out of the system. They really don't want to be on the welfare cycle."

While Ford's observations may be true for her clients, some do not have that desire. Brown said her experience with her client, a single mother of two, has been rewarding, but frustrating.

"I've seen her accomplish things, get job skills she didn't have before, skills that can get her out of poverty," said Brown, who helped her client get a nursing assistant's job through donations from Baptist Medical Center, where Brown works.

"But many of the clients are stubborn," Brown said. "The only reason some of them are still in poverty is because of their decision-making. We've helped them gain the skills to get out of welfare, but we can't make them take good job offers; they have to make their own decisions." ■

Breaking ground for God's work in Union City



Members of Greater Hope Church, Union City, below, broke ground March 16 for a new church building with some of its friends from local churches. Greater Hope is sponsored by Sunswept Church, Union City, with the support of Beulah Association and many local churches in the association. In photo to left, Beulah Association Director of Missions Jerry Essary, left, presented a check for \$25,000 from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to help in the building effort. Accepting the check were Henry Lewis, center, chairman of the building committee and Pastor Robert Ndonga. — Photos courtesy of the Union City Daily Messenger



Heath honored in Cleveland

For Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Bradley Association held Eunice Heath Appreciation Day March 23 to honor Heath for 37 years of service to Hamilton and Bradley Associations as director of weekday ministries.

Heath retired Dec. 31. She is still serving Blythe Avenue Mission Center, a Baptist center in Cleveland, in an interim position.

Heath was given a gift of

money, book of letters, a plaque from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and a tree was planted at the center where she has worked for the past 16 years.

Leaders of the appreciation day were Malcolm Jones, former interim director of missions; Mike Rogers, director of missions; Dan Dockery, moderator and pastor, Georgetown Church, Georgetown; and Allan Lovelace, pastor at the center. ■

Brentwood hosts Renovare conference

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Richard J. Foster, internationally-known leader in spiritual renewal, will conduct a regional Renovare conference May 2-3 at Brentwood Church here.

Using the theme Renovare, which is Latin for "to make new," Foster and his team will focus on traditions which Christians can balance in their spiritual lives. These are prayer, virtue, empowerment, compassion, and the Word of God.

Foster, of Denver, Colo., is

the author of *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home and Celebration of Discipline*.

Also on the program will be Roger Fredrikson of Sioux Falls, S.D., author of *God Loves the Dandelions and The Church That Refused to Die*.

Cost for the two-day conference, which includes notebook and meals is \$35. For those who register before April 15 the cost is \$30.

For information and registration, call Brentwood Church at (615) 373-2992, ext. 57. ■

Harrison-Chilhowee Academy emphasizes purity

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — In February, Harrison-Chilhowee Academy held a week of activities em-

phasizing sexual abstinence for its students in grades 7-12. The students were glad for the information.

Amber Miner of Knoxville,

who is in grade 9, said, "I just think it made people a lot more knowledgeable about decisions they have to make." Another student reacted to the information he received. "I learned a lot of things I didn't know that will help me make decisions in the future," said Ricardo Hong of Argentina, who is in grade 10. Finally, Paul Kwak of Argentina, who is in grade 9, thought the warnings presented were appropriate. "It taught us we must be very careful about these things," he explained.

The purpose of the activities, planned by Steve Sharp, dean of students; Laurie Sanford, guidance counselor; and John Stair, chaplain; were to encourage students to make

wise choices concerning relationships and to seek God's best for their futures.

Speakers included Mary Shafer of Bethany Christian Services of Knoxville, which provides counseling and adoption services to women with unwanted pregnancies. Shafer told the teens that adoption is always a better response to unwanted pregnancies than abortion.

Don and Janie Wilson of Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, spoke on health relationships. Humberto Rodriguez, an obstetrician/gynecologist who is a member of Calvary Church, Knoxville, and Elaine Rector, a nurse who is a member of Gillespie Avenue Church, Knoxville, spoke on sexual development and the

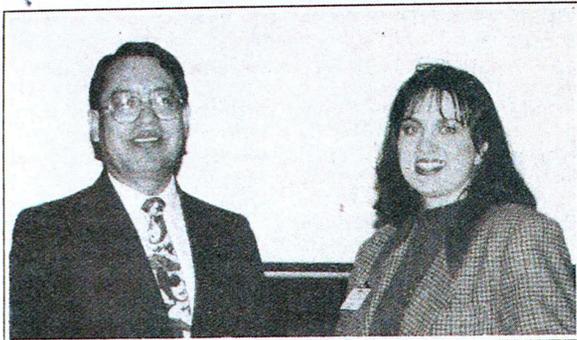


Tennessee features

physiological and emotional problems associated with premature sexual activity.

Nurses who are members of the organization, "Nurses for Life," also led an activity. They divided the students into gender groups and led frank discussions of male/female differences, sexual issues, and sexually transmitted diseases, all from a Christian perspective.

Finally, Laurie Sanford of the school spoke on biblical relations. ■



BAPTIST HEALTH CARE workers Humberto Rodriguez and Elaine Rector of Knoxville speak to students at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

Red Bank leads way in providing scholarships at Carson-Newman

For Baptist and Reflector

EDITOR'S NOTE — The accompanying story is the second in a series which will run in the *Baptist and Reflector* in support of the Tennessee Baptist Scholarship Endowment Campaign.

JEFFERSON CITY — In 1983 members of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, gave a vote of confidence to their young people.

To show their strong belief in the worthiness of investing in their future, members voted to include an endowment scholarship fund in the church's annual budget.

Through a scholarship endowment fund with Carson-Newman College, Red Bank Church helps provide a Christian higher education to young people from their congregation and community.

In January, Carson-Newman College, along with Belmont University (middle) and Union University (west) kicked off a three-year campaign to raise a total of \$30 million, \$10 million each in their assigned geographic regions. The campaign ends Dec. 31, 1999.

The schools hope to find churches willing to do what members of Red Bank Church did 14 years ago — invest in the future of their young people.

"The initiation of this campaign is a significant moment in the partnership between East Tennessee churches and Carson-Newman College, the outcome of which will impact students, churches, families, and communities across this country and the world for generations to come," said Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox.

In East Tennessee, Red Bank Church is taking a leadership position once again because of the church's commitment to providing the highest level of Christian higher education.

By the year 2000, Red Bank hopes to add an additional \$200,000 to its current endowment fund. Red Bank Pastor Fred Steelman has been chosen to serve as East Tennessee division chairperson of the endowment campaign.

To date, the church has awarded \$162,700 to 44 Carson-Newman students. Since their first year, Red Bank has increased their scholarships from \$5,500 to \$21,000.

"Each day I am reminded of how Red Bank's financial support has made a difference in my life," said Diana Power, a sophomore at Carson-Newman.



endowment campaign

"It is because of the members' constant love and support that I am where I am today," she affirmed.

"I have personally seen the impact that the Scholarship Endowment Campaign has made on the lives of young people from our church and across East Tennessee," Steelman said.

"The funds available to the young people from our church have and will continue to allow them to attend a Christian college and help foster a life of personal growth in their vocations and as servant leaders in their church community."

To learn more about starting or adding to a church scholarship endowment fund at Carson-Newman College, call the church relations office at (423) 471-3245. Questions and interest also may be directed to Fred Kendall at Belmont University (615) 460-6435 or Paul Veazey, Union University (901) 661-5217. ■

Volunteers serve in Israel

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Eight volunteers from four different churches in Concord Association worked 12 days in Israel recently, doing construction work at a Baptist retreat/camp center near Petah Tikva.

The retreat/camp center is the Baptist Village, an 80-acre complex which hosts people from the divided country, both Arabs and Jews. The village also hosts English-speaking groups and hopes to host Russian groups, the Tennesseeans reported.

The Baptist Village will minister to over 4,000 each summer. The staff is made up of Baptists who are long-term volunteers.

The village also is the site of an international congregation, which draws people from 20 different countries. The congregation worships on shabbat or Saturday, the volunteers noted.

The workers completed almost all of their assignment while in Israel. Volunteers included John and Dorothy Seals, Riverdale Church, Murfreesboro; Bennie and Maei Edwards and Henry and Betty Smith, Fellowship Church, Mt. Juliet; Ross Maroney, pastor, Stones River Church, Murfreesboro; and Lee Ford, pastor, Taylors Chapel, Murfreesboro. *B&R*

Foundation aids small church

For Baptist and Reflector

RIPLEY — When Mrs. James Porter died she left Durhamville Church, a small rural congregation near Ripley in Big Hatchie Association, a sizeable bequest.

Church members struggled with how to be good stewards of the funds. Some needed repairs were made to the church and they wanted to do something to ensure the cemetery would be properly maintained.

At the suggestion of Ray Jones, director of missions for Big Hatchie Association, the church contacted the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and Foundation President Bo Childs visited the Durhamville congregation.

After meeting with them he suggested the church create a



LOOKING OVER documents with Bo Childs, right, of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation are members of Durhamville Church. From left, Thomas Neal, moderator; W.L. Elder, deacon; and Wanda Faye Hill, treasurer.

Perpetual Cemetery Fund using the Foundation to manage the funds and send the church income from the fund semi-annually.

Church members voted to follow his advice and invested their funds with the Foundation. ■

Orientation set for new staff May 12-13

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — All church staff who are new to Tennessee, or are now serving a Tennessee Baptist church for the first time, are invited to attend an orientation meeting at the Baptist Center May 12-13.

Travel expenses and accommodations will be provided.

To receive specific information regarding the New Church Staff Orientation, call the executive office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2090. ■

Standing up for national morality

Moral issues sometimes are hard to confront. We know about them, they wrench at our souls, interrupt our lives, and often place us at the most improbable crossroads.

But some issues, some ideals, are so plain that we have difficulty in sidestepping them.

Some moral issues are center stage today. They are on the "front burner." Think about some of these — what can individual Christians do, what can churches do about them?

■ **Gambling:** Is the proposed lottery a moral issue worth standing for? To those who propose and support a state-sponsored lottery, there is no moral issue. For those who want to gamble on the long odds, let them do it, they say. But gambling is morally wrong!

Somehow, proponents never get around to telling about the down side of gambling. Those people who squander money meant for food and other necessities, to them gambling has become a necessary obsession.

■ **Abortion of human life:** No other moral question facing our America has as many ramifications. Quarrels and debates about abortion are constant, ongoing. But put in the simplest terms, willful abortion of a human life is morally wrong. In one sense, the age-old argument of the rebellious teenager is correct, no one asked to be born.

The gift of life is the most precious gift of the Lord. Each person's conscience influences actions, but at the heart of the question — abortion is wrong.

■ **Family life:** We have a long list here — marriage, divorce, child abuse, Christian values, work ethic, caring for the extended family, the blended family, the dysfunctional family, the church family, the church caring for the family, and so on. Christians believe that God ordained marriage as the only way for couples to live together. As in abortion, put in the simplest terms, divorce is wrong — but there are arguable reasons. Homosexuality is wrong, and that's not a human decision — it is what God says. Quibbling about it doesn't make it right or acceptable. Yes, we know that sometimes families have to make the best of these situations, and it hurts.

No state government, no "church" decision can make it right, when the Bible says it isn't.

■ **Political fund raising:** Whether done by the President, members of Congress, or a county council member, breaking the moral and/or written law of raising money for political purposes is wrong. It is at the heart of the greed and hunger for power. It is an indication of the end justifying the means. We must have strong, unbiased, strict regulations and stinging penalties for those who bend or break them. And the watchdogs should not come from the legislative or executive branch of government.

■ **Politics in general:** While we're at it, let's agree that the political arena in America is sadly lacking in trustworthiness. It's not "We the People" who have blundered away from the desire or need for a strong and reliable system. But we are guilty in that we have not insisted that our politicians operate with

Christian ethics.

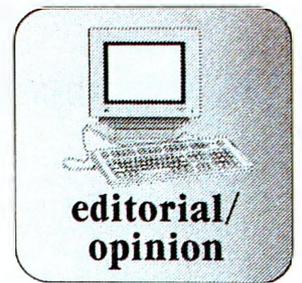
No nation is any stronger, any more moral, than its political system. We have to clean it up or clean it out. The system does not belong to the politicians — as many of them seem to think. It belongs to "We the People." But when those whom we elect and want to trust decided on their salaries — by themselves, and flippantly choose to twist the law without fear of punishment, they are saying that the system belongs to them.

It is no wonder that there has been an unprecedented number of congressmen and senators who decided to give it up. "We the People" must do something about the situation.

■ **What then must be done?** First, "We the People" must not shirk our duty in these and other wrongs. Left to those who are abusing moral and Christian law, things will never change.

Christ taught those early disciples to obey the laws and honor the leaders. Can we do the same? Yes, we can. But first we must insist — through the powers of prayer, the ballot box, and persistent persuasion — that our country return to the moral values which have made us strong, and can give us a rebirth.

We don't need to be concerned about leading the world. We need to be concerned about enforcing the laws we have, and strengthening every bit of moral fiber that God provides. It is up to us, the People. **B&R**



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Cleo: "Did you ever have a 'blind' date?"

Clara: "Only once. He turned out to be a nerd."

Cleo: "It must have been really bad, huh?"

Clara: "It was terrible. I married him."

Take this truth

First of all, don't knock the nerd. Some of them are geniuses in the making. Help them develop. Second, don't be so desperate for a "mate" that you are not willing to wait. In fact, be that way about everything. In other words, have patience!

Memorize this Scripture

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he ... heard my cry. — Psalm 40: 1

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to develop patience and to be willing, not only to do your will but also to accept your time schedule. ■

— Comments may be addressed to Fred Wood at 726 Forest Lake Drive, Memphis, or (901) 685-6849.



WOOD

Heavenly sight — not a plane, not a bird, it's a comet

Dawn, the first light of day just before sunrise. These are ethereal moments of time, filled with awe and splendor.

I had seen again the heavenly traveler, Hale-Bopp comet, the night before, and I had seen the moon eclipse.

It was dawn now and I raced toward the horizon, away from the lights and to the crest of a hill. There it was, streaking for Earth's eastern curve.

And as I saw the rosy glow of Hale-Bopp in that dawn light, I knew it equalled or surpassed the silver sliver of the night before.

Well, as I soaked up those minutes of wonder, I remembered that this one won't return for 2,500 to 4,000 years. Somehow, I don't think I'll be here.

No Bible verse is trite, and we see the validity of those often-quoted ones when God expresses his glory to us in bright examples.

It occurred to me that "The heavens de-

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

clare the glory of God" and "This is the day the Lord has made," are timely and accurate.

We are no longer ignorant of the identity of God's rare and dazzling displays.

Because of astronomical technology, we know about meteors, lunar and solar eclipses, sun spots, mountains on the moon — and comets.

So when these marvels are visible to us, we don't need to be frightened or expect calamity. Instead, we need to be awestruck at God's amazing creativity.

We have learned recently that there are comet watchers in this world. Yes, there are some folks who stare at the sky regularly, hoping to see something moving out there, something that has never been spotted before.



ALLEN

Comet watchers, star gazers, planet searchers, they have a keen sense of discovery. Yes indeed, there are comet watchers.

I have seen comets on four occasions, and all were things of beauty. Our latest visible comet, Hale-Bopp, is the brightest and will still be visible for a couple of weeks.

Most of us have seen Hale-Bopp. Two men from different vantage points, put the comet on the sky map. They tracked it individually, and so it was named for them.

But before it was Hale-Bopp, it was seen hundreds of years ago, and named by an unknown sky-watcher. Who knows how many names it has? Who knows how long it has explored the galaxy?

But this is for certain — God has its name and he set in motion the physical laws that enabled you and me to see this ethereal traveler in 1997 A. D. ■

Hymns that Baptists sing: here are two

Hymns we sing

— by Wm. J. Reynolds, Southwestern Seminary

Worthy of Worship — Here is affirmation that God, the ultimate source of power and goodness, is worthy of our highest praise and devotion. The Rock of our salvation has made heaven and earth. God the Creator and God the Redeemer are one and the same, and worthy of our highest praise.

Terry W. York is the author of the words and Mark Blankenship composed the music in 1988, as a part of an Easter musical, *Praise the Risen Savior*. It is based on Revelation 4:11, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power."

Now associate minister, Park Cities Church, Dallas, York is a graduate of California Baptist College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He came to the Baptist Sunday School

Board in 1984 and served as *Hymnal Project Coordinator for The Baptist Hymnal, 1991*. Five of his hymns are in the hymnal. Blankenship is a Southern Baptist pastor's son. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Texas.

Since 1995 he has been head of the Church Music Department of the BSSB, Nashville. His compositions number more than 250.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus — Joseph Scriven was ill in his white frame cottage in Port Hope, Canada. A visiting friend saw a handwritten poem on the table.

He asked Scriven whether he had written it, and the elderly man said, "The Lord and I did it between us."

A native of Ireland, Scriven was educated at Trinity College in Dublin. His father was a captain in the Royal Marines, and he dreamed of a military career.

Poor health changed his plans. In 1844 when he was 25, he went to Canada. There he became a tutor to the Pengeley family at Rice Lake.

He devoted his spare time to performing menial work for those who were physically handicapped and poor.

When his second fiancée also died suddenly, he wrote his mother in Ireland a beautiful poem which we know as this hymn text. It was written in his own grief, but meant to comfort his mother. ■

TBC staff members to comment on SS lessons

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Three members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff are writing commentaries on the Sunday School lesson series which appear in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Larry Kirk, group leader, Evangelism/Missions Strategies, will write on the Family Bible Series. Kirk, who has served on the TBC staff for nine years, also has served as pastor of Liberty Grove Church, Jackson; First Church, Cumby, Texas; and Days Church, Lake Cormorant, Miss. Additionally, he is a chaplain in the Tennessee Air National Guard, holding the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Kirk is a graduate of Memphis State University, Memphis; and Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Tim Holcomb, who will be discussing the Explore the Bible Series, is group leader, Christian Development Growth Group. He has served on the staff for six months.

Holcomb formerly was associate pastor/education, South Main Church, Houston, Texas. He also has served at the Baptist Sunday School Board and on the staff of several other churches.

Holcomb is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.



HOLCOMB



KIRK



RICKMAN

Gary Rickman, group leader, Church Staff Leadership, has served on the TBC staff for five years and will comment on the Life and Work Series.

Formerly Rickman was pastor of Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga for eight years. He has served as pastor of several other churches.

Rickman is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and holds a doctor's degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. *B&R*

Wilson County Association calls Pearson as new DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

Michael L. Pearson, director of missions, Clinton Association, for eight years, has been called as DOM of Wilson County Association.

Pearson also has served as director of missions of New Salem Association from 1982-88. And he was a pastor at Salem Church, Liberty; North Hills Church, Knoxville; Ramsey Heights Church, Knoxville; and Old Chilhowee Church, Seymour.

He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Maryville College, Maryville.

Pearson and his wife,

Elaine, and daughter, Jenice, were honored by Clinton Association with a reception at Calvary Church, Oak Ridge.

Jenice will serve a two-year mission term in the Philippines beginning in July.

Pearson was given gifts and a plaque. Also the Brotherhood of Clin-

ton Association honored Pearson with gifts and a certificate. As DOM, Pearson led Clinton Association to be the first site for the Brotherhood World Changers program. *B&R*



PEARSON

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Woodmont Baptist Church Women's Conference
Saturday, April 19; 8:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Fee - \$15 (Fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch.)
For registration, call (615) 297-5303.
Eight seminar topics including "Successful Families, What's the Key?" "Inner Peace for Today's Working Woman," and "Thank God for Second Chances."

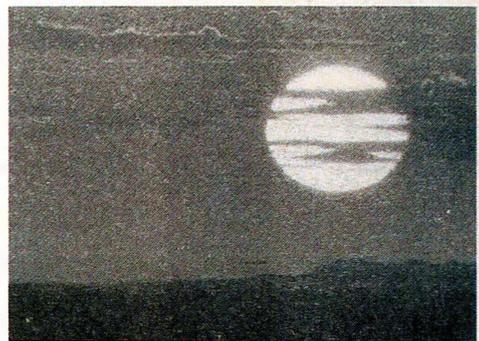
ALAN
Keynote speaker, Debbie Alan, is the former co-host of "Talk of the Town," a top-rated Nashville talk show. She will share her experiences as she presents "Who the Work Thinks We Are vs. Who God Thinks We Are."

ROSENBERGER
Christian artist, Gracie Rosenberger, has undergone surgery over 50 times after injuries sustained in 1983 car accident. She will perform and share her inspirational music and incredible story.

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Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Giver of life

By Gary Rickman

Focal Passage — John 3:1-16

John promised the Holy Spirit would be a source of strength and comfort for believers. This quarter's Bible study is based on New Testament passages that will help adults recognize the Holy Spirit's role in giving them new life, in serving as counselor to them in difficult times, as being Jesus' agent in the world, and as the source of power when they are witnessing to others.

In today's society, when we have so much, it seems adults at every stage of life experience times when they feel life is meaningless. This was apparently the same circumstance for Nicodemus. Here's a ruler of the Jews, from the most religious group of his faith, a trained theologian and teacher, a man of some wealth, who came to Jesus because he, too, was filled with emptiness.

Let's not condemn Nicodemus for coming to Jesus by night. It is a wonder that with his background, he would come to Jesus at all. The rabbis believed the best time to study the law and discuss theology was at night when a man was undisturbed.

In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus there are recorded three exchanges of dialogue. In the first exchange (vv. 2-3), Nicodemus' opening words were a model of diplomacy as he compliments Jesus. Jesus ignored the compliments and confronted Nicodemus with the truth of how anyone can find true meaning in life. There is always urgency in this message of truth.

The word translated "again" in verse three can mean either "a second time" or "from above." Both meanings are valid here. A person can be born again only if he or she is born from above by God's power. In calling for a new birth, Jesus was striking at the spiritual security that Nicodemus had in the fact that he was a good Pharisee.

In the second exchange (vv. 4-8), some assume Nicodemus misunderstood what Jesus was saying or was caustic with his remarks. It is more likely the question had two applications — a man reflecting on an awareness of the difficulties of extricating himself from years of well-fixed habits and an entanglement in the status quo of his beliefs.

Jesus answered by clarifying for Nicodemus what he meant in verse three, the new birth was not physical but spiritual.

In the third exchange (vv. 9-15), Nicodemus stayed true to his struggle with understanding this conversation with Jesus. Jesus reminds him that as a teacher of Israel, he should know this. There are two kinds of misunderstanding. There is the genuine inability to understand, and there is the failure to understand, which comes from an unwillingness to understand. The second type of misunderstanding is what Jesus was accusing Nicodemus of committing.

To help Nicodemus understand, Jesus used an Old Testament illustration from Numbers 21:4-9. The term "lifted up" is symbolic and literal. Jesus would be lifted up literally on the cross. Jesus' being lifted up also included his resurrection, his ascension, and his glorification in heaven.

In approaching Jesus, Nicodemus found meaning to life. He discovered he could only understand the truth and experience new life by the Holy Spirit's work. Like Nicodemus, you can also find meaning and purpose for your life as the Holy Spirit leads you to real faith in Jesus. ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

Commanded to write

By Larry Kirk

Focal Passage — Revelation 1:4-15

Perhaps no other book in the Bible is more revered and more feared than Revelation. At the mention of the word — Revelation — facial expressions range from a wide-eyed, excited smile to a foggy, hazy stare.

For eight weeks, we will focus upon portions of this fascinating book.

The title in the Greek text — Apokalupsis — means an unveiling, a disclosure of that which was previously hidden. But for many people this book is still a hidden secret. The symbols and images cause many to ask, "Who can understand the meaning of this book?" In the introduction, God declares a blessing upon all who read, hear, and keep the prophecy of this book. God would never promise an empty blessing by asking us to keep something we cannot understand.

The revelation of Jesus Christ

I often have heard the term, "John the Revelator." It is a catchy title but John had nothing to reveal. The word of God was not the result of some great inspiration from a faithful servant. It came as a command from God. It was an unveiling of Jesus Christ, "the

Family Bible Lesson

one who is, and who was, and who is to come" (v. 4). It was the revelation of God's own son, "the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth ... who washed us from our sins in his own blood" (v. 5). John was the human writer, but he was not the "revelator."

John's call and vision of the son of man

John does not identify himself as an apostle. He claims to be a "brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ" (v.

9). In humility John received the call and vision while on the Isle of Patmos, a rocky island off the coast of Asia Minor. The Romans used this place for the exile of people guilty of certain crimes.

Tradition has John arrested under the persecution of Domitian, and exiled to this island, but the language of the Greek text does not mandate this view. John could have been there as a missionary to those who so desperately needed the word of God. I favor the traditional approach but the latter thought warms my heart as I think about God's compassion for all people everywhere and the commitment that godly people make for the kingdom's sake.

John was not at ease in Zion, but he refused to miss the opportunity afforded him by God. He would be faithful regardless of the circumstances.

In the midst of this faithfulness, while in the Spirit on the Lord's day, John heard a voice (v. 10) and turning to see the voice, he encountered the risen Lord. The description of our Lord that follows would have caused any one of us to do what John did. He fell at Christ's feet as "dead."

Then came the word of restoration — "fear not," followed by the command to write "the things which thou hast seen" (v. 19). He explained that the seven stars were the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands were the seven churches.

This vision would assure God's people that he indeed was standing with them in the midst of persecution. They could be assured that the final victory belonged to the same Lord who had defeated death. Meanwhile, the believers were (and are) to remain faithful unto death. ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



Bible study
for April 6

God chooses to create

By Tim Holcomb

Focal Passage — Genesis 1:1-5, 31:2-1, 15-17

Last week as the sun set over the pond behind my house, in brilliant oranges and red, it was glorious! The next night the comet Hale-Bopp was in clear sight. I was amazed. The following night a lunar eclipse, what a work of creation. All three events remind me of the vast, wonderful ability of our God to create. Our text for this week defines the beginning creative work of our majestic God.

In the opening chapter of the Bible, God's creative work is described. God is the one doing the work. The Scripture says, "God created; (the Spirit of) God was hovering;" God said "Let there be light." God called ...; God said, "Let there be expanse" ...; God made, God called the expanse sky ...; God said, "Let the water" ...; God called the dry ground. On and on we could go in these 19 verses of Genesis as God acts on the nothing, to turn it into his creation. God's activity of creating order from chaos is a powerful truth we can learn about God.

In verses 1:20-2:3, the plural of God — "Let us make man in our own image" has always given value to the creation. Even though God created all the creatures in the sea and all the animals of the sky, to

Explore the Bible Lesson

only one did he say "create in my image." Man has been given the image of God. What is that image? In this setting, God is Creator (with an upper case C). Could it be that the image of God in man is creator (with a lower case c). We are told in verse 28 ... "to fill the earth and subdue it." Rule over ... in God's grace we created to be active in the creations. These verses encourage us to learn, develop, and be open to the wonderful revelations that God would share with us about his creation. Eden was the setting for the creation. God was the first farmer. The beauty of Eden must have been a spectacular experience.

God gave man an occupation to "care for the garden." Since the Garden was God's, man's role was that of a steward; to take care and not let it run down. What a great assignment. With only one command, "don't eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil," take care of that assignment and enjoy everything else. What a wonderful opportunity. Throughout these verses God would pause his creative endeavors and speak it is good.

This refrain provides a marvelous indication of the nature of

God. He is able to do the work, look at it, and see its intrinsic value. That's how he views each of us, after we've been forgiven of our sins in Christ his son, the Creator through each plus continues to make the creation good.

So what? If you asked yourself this question about these verses today, what would be your response? Here are a few:

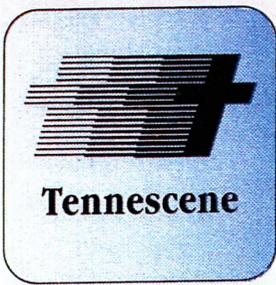
The creation is God's work. He brings order out of chaos. This is a very substantial part of his character.

The value he gives to man in the creation is serious ... created in his image. This does not give man license to become God, but gives God authority in man's life.

The creation establishes a specific relationship that man has in the created order, under God, man is a steward of the creation. This requires responsible behavior.

It is good. ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.





Tennescene

people

- Chapel Hill Church, Lexington, ordained **Bobby Butler**, **Tony Bowman**, **Frank McEarl**, and **Dee McPeak** as deacons March 16.
- Johnson Chapel, Sante Fe, ordained **Roger Ragsdale** as a deacon.
- Edgewood Church, Centerville, ordained **Mickey Bailey** as a deacon March 9.
- Finley Church, Finley, ordained **Don Crone**, **Gene Appleton**, and **Gary Nolan** as deacons March 16.
- **Avery Bell** and **Keith Pratt** were ordained as deacons March 16 at Beacon Church, Parsons.

leaders

- Buchanan Church, Buchanan, has called **Bill Turner** of Murray, Ky., as interim pastor.
- Union Church, Knoxville, has called **Doug O'Neil** of Rocky Branch Church, Walland, as minister of education/youth.
- **Mark Griffin** has been called as pastor of Oak Hill Church, Paris.
- Mt. Sinai Church, Buchanan, has called **Bobby Edmonson** as pastor.
- **Clara Williams**, missionary to Brazil, is in the states and can be reached at 648 Boone Lane, Jackson, 38301. She has served as a missionary since 1965.
- Eight volunteers from Western District Association worked March 20-24 with the Tennessee Disaster Relief Feeding Unit in Madisonville, Ky. They were **Thomas Winchester**, **Tony Crossnoe**, **Art Collum**, **Leroy** and **Kay Parish**, **Kirk Blackwood**, **Betty Smith**, and **Bill Smith**, director of missions.
- Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, has called **Joel Emerson** as associate pastor, effective March 16.
- **Joe Barnett** has been called by Beverly Hills Church, Memphis, as minister of senior adults.
- **Bob Woodham**, pastor,

Salem Springs Church, Murfreesboro, has resigned.

- **Dan Mallette**, pastor, Rucker Church, Murfreesboro, has resigned.
- Salem Church, Trenton, has called **Terry LaRue** as youth minister.
- Lavinia Church, Lavinia, has called **Buster Lackey** as youth minister.

■ **Aaron Shoaf** has been called as a youth minister of Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

■ **Clarence Stewart** of White House, retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff, has been called as interim pastor, Pleasant Hill Church, Orlinda.

■ **Orlinda Church**, Orlinda, has called **Larry Kirk** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board Ministries staff, as interim pastor.

■ **Harold Maples**, minister of music, Ridgeway Church, Memphis, for 27 years, will retire April 30. He has served as a minister for 49 years in churches in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. He served the



MAPLES

past six years on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. Maples plans to help lead revivals, music workshops, hold interim church staff positions, and home missions work.

■ **Paul Clark**, retired pastor, Calvary Church, Jackson, who received a heart transplant 10 years ago after a long illness, will celebrate "10 years of extended life" April 13 at the church from 2-4 p.m.

■ **Robert Burns** has been called as pastor of First Church, Saltillo.

■ Southside Church, Dyersburg, has called **Robbie Smith** as youth and activities director.

■ Roellen Church, Dyersburg, ordained its new pastor, **Todd DeLaney**, March 16.

■ Mount Vernon Church, Halls, has called **Sam Webb** as pastor, effective March 2.

■ Wilhite Church, Cookeville, has called **Mitch Thrower** as youth minister, effective March 1.

■ First Church, Lobelville, has called **Ronnie Brewer** as interim pastor.

■ Bellevue Church, Nashville, has called **Retbecca Marshall** as director of The Back

Door, a program for children, effective March 6. She is a member of Hermitage Hills Church, Nashville. Marshall has served churches in Madison and in Huntsville, Ala., in the area of child care.

■ **Garry S. Burkacki**, pastor, Beverly Hills Church, Memphis, was honored by the church for serving 20 years in the ministry March 23.

■ **Terry Wilkerson**, evangelist based in Lebanon, has been called as pastor of Round Lick Church, Watertown, effective Feb. 16.

■ **Don Aycock**, director of pastoral care, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, is one of several leaders of an American Christian Writers Impact Day May 31 in Memphis. Aycock is the author of 13 books which have been published by Baker House, Broadman/Holman Publishers, Zondervan, and Bridge. He also was an editor for the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. The conference will be held at First Church, Memphis. For more information, call (800) 21-WRITE.

■ **Robert LeMay**, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Springfield, will retire April 6. He and his wife, Joan, will be honored on that day at Bethlehem Christian Life Center from noon - 3 p.m. Activities include a luncheon.

■ Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol, will honor **Joe Hudson**, who has served as pastor for 10 years, and his wife, Raye Ann, on April 6.

associations

■ The Children's/Youth Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament of **Robertson County Association** will be April 20 at Barren Plains Church, Springfield.

■ **Beech River Association's** Woman's Missionary Union, including Women On Mission, Acteens, and GAs, will gather for the WMU annual meeting April 8 at Union Church, Lexington.

■ **Dyer Association** will hold a Legal Issues Workshop April 3 led by Ivy Scarborough, a Jackson attorney and columnist for the *Baptist and Reflector*. For more information, call (800) 290-0925.

■ **Chilhowee Association** will hold its 1997 Children's/Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers Tournament April 6 at Madison Avenue

Church, Maryville,

■ A Sonlight Crusade hosted by **Stone Association** will be held April 7-11 at Hyder-Burks Pavilion in Cookeville. Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson, will speak and Fred Guilbert will lead the music. The choir and orchestra of Central Church will perform on April 7 and 11.

■ **Western District Association** has delivered its second load of supplies to help victims of tornados and flooding. Items such as sheets, towels, paper products, food, and personal items were collected recently for residents of Dyer County, but Dyer Association referred the association to the needs in Hopkinsville, Ky. The delivery was made March 25.

■ A 1997 Spring Preaching Conference will be held by **Beulah Association** April 26 at New Corcord Church, Kenton. Speakers will be ministers of the association and Ray Gilder of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff. For more information, call (901) 885-2151.

■ **Maury Association** will hold its 1997 Associational Children's Bible Drill April 13 at First Church, Spring Hill.

■ **Cumberland Plateau Association** is supporting a David Ring Rally April 21 at Cumberland County High School Gym at 7 p.m. Ring, who is an evangelist, will speak.

■ **Nashville Association** will host a People Sharing Jesus Conference April 25-26 at Judson Church, Nashville.

churches

■ **First Church, Old Hickory**, will hold revival April 18-20. Gray Allison will speak.

■ **First Church, Middleton**, will hold revival April 13-17. Paul Brown will speak.

■ A spiritual emphasis weekend will be hosted by **Central Church, Fountain City**, April 4-6. Marvin Cameron, pastor, West Hills Church, Knoxville, will speak and Tim Timmons, minister of music, Calvary Church, Lufkin, Texas, will lead music. The theme of the event is "Finding Your Connection." For more information, call (423) 688-2421.

■ **West Jackson Church, Jackson**, will hold revival April 6-9. Bob Pitman will speak.

■ **Liberty Church, Columbia**, dedicated its new building March 30. Addis Potts spoke.

■ **Beacon Church, Parsons**, will hold a youth revival April 17-19. Nicky McMinn will speak.

■ **Rogers Creek Church, Athens**, will hold revival April 20-23. Gary King, pastor, Mount Harmony Church, Riceville, will speak.

■ **Washington Avenue Church, Cookeville**, sent a team to Romania recently. Seven of its members were joined by three members of Northside Church, Murfreesboro, to form the team. The Tennesseans saw about 75 people make professions of faith while there. Members will go in May to help build a church building in Baloc.

■ **Mooreville Pike Church, Columbia**, will hold revival the week of April 15. Gilley Andrews will speak.

■ **First Church, Martin**, sent a team of six men to Poland March 7-17 to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership. Members led theology and business seminars and worked with students.

■ **Second Church, Union City**, will hold revival April 20-23. John Adams, interim pastor, who is on the staff of Union University, Jackson, will speak and Barry Keathley will lead the music.

■ **Inglewood Church, Nashville**, will hold revival April 13-15. Conyer Walker of Bruceton will speak and Brian Arner of Tampa Bay, Fla., will lead the music.

■ **Bible Hill Church, Parsons**, dedicated its new addition March 8 and held an open house March 9. The church is holding revival March 31 - April 4. Don Franks is speaking.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Wildersville**, will hold revival April 11-13. Lewis Screws will speak.

■ **Sand Ridge Church, Lexington**, will hold revival April 27 - May 2. Todd Brady will speak.

■ **Southside Church, Parsons**, will hold revival April 14-18. Don Jones will speak.

■ **First Church, Bolivar**, will hold revival April 20-23. Doug Beggs will speak and Ricky Clark will lead the music.

■ College students of **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, served in Poland March 21-29 to support the Tennessee/Poland Baptist Partnership. A basketball team and band served.



teaching