

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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April 16, 1997

this week's news

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Team checks partnership with Brazilian group

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

RIO DE JANEIRO — A survey team of five Tennessee Baptists visited this major city of Brazil April 2-8 to study a partnership mission possibility.

The team met with Carioca Baptist Convention leaders in a preliminary study.

Making the trip were three members of the Executive Board: Herbert Higdon, retired pastor, Jackson, and Tennessee Baptist Convention president;

Gene Cotey, retired pastor, Murfreesboro, and Executive Board president; and Bill Northcott, pastor of First Church, Covington, and chairman of the Executive Committee; Terry Sharp, Partnership Missions specialist; and Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor.

David Campbell, Foreign Mission Board's volunteer missions representative for Brazil and the Caribbean, accompanied the team.

The Carioca Convention is comprised of 378 churches in

12 associations and relates to the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

Most of the Carioca Convention churches are in Rio de Janeiro, where the city population is 7 million.

If the survey team makes a positive recommendation to the Executive Board at its May 6 meeting in Brentwood, the board could make a partnership recommendation to TBC messengers in November.

Brazilian Baptists have several denominational agencies located in Rio, including the South Brazil Seminary with more than 1,000 students, the Institute of Religious Education with 570 students, and the World Mission Board with 336 missionaries in 42 fields of service.

The Home Mission Board claims 332 missionaries serving on the home field.

Moreover, the Carioca Convention has its own pastors' conference, musicians organization, mens' organization, Woman's Missionary Union, and Social Work Board.

The survey team met with several Carioca Convention



PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS specialist Terry Sharp, left, discusses a possible joint mission with Oscar Belardin, Carioca Convention executive; and Herbert Higdon, Tennessee Baptist Convention president. Sharp and Higdon were part of a survey team that traveled to Rio de Janeiro.

leaders and Southern Baptist missionaries for discussion and preliminary planning.

Oscar Belardin de Amorim Pimental, general secretary for Carioca, said the convention already has been praying and working toward a partnership with Tennessee Baptists.

Currently the TBC has missions partnerships with Canada, Poland, Costa Rica, and Michigan.

The three-year partnership with Polish Baptists expires this December. Costa Rica has two more years, and Michigan is an ongoing partner. Tennessee may continue with some projects in Canada on an individual basis. That partnership also is in its third year.

Next week's *Baptist and Reflector* will have extensive coverage of the Rio de Janeiro survey and meetings. *B&R*

LaFollette church celebrates bicentennial

For Baptist and Reflector

LAFOLLETTE — Just two years after Tennessee became a state, a small country church here came into being.

Formed in 1797, Glade Springs Church in the Fincastle community of LaFollette is the oldest church in Campbell County Association.

On Sunday, April 6, the congregation

of Glade Springs gathered to begin a series of 200th anniversary celebrations.

Pastor Don Reynolds noted the church has a great spiritual heritage. It hosted the first meeting of Northern Association when it was organized and later become part of Campbell County Association when it was formed in 1908.

The church is compiling a bicentennial journal this year, filled with articles

and photos related to the church's past and present. Part of the lead-off event for the bicentennial celebration included a three-day revival April 7-9 with Robert E. Harris of Asheville, N.C., "the circuit rider preacher."

The church was presented a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. ■



THE SHARP FAMILY were among those at Glade Springs Church who dressed in old-fashioned attire. From left are Vicky, Wesley, Jerry, and Katie.



PASTOR DON REYNOLDS, third from left, holds a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society commemorating the 200th anniversary of Glade Springs Church. With him are deacons, from left, Jessie Longmire, Tommy Overton, Clifford Caddell, Gary H. West, Jack Lynch, and Mac H. Ivey.

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FMB trustees approve restructure principles

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Seeking to accelerate worldwide advance, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees and administrators agreed on key changes to guide a massive revitalization of the agency's overseas operations.

During their April 7-9 meeting here, trustees decided to divide the world into 14 regions designed "for growth and kingdom impact," installing "visionary" leadership in each region. The board hopes to begin implementing the new structure by July 1 and have most of it in place by the end of the year. A list of the 14 regions and countries will be printed in an upcoming issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

The restructure will coincide with the agency's name change — to International Mission Board — scheduled to take effect during the June 17-19 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

One of the restructure's key components calls for integrating Cooperative Services International's work into all 14 regions and, "as appropriate," using its approaches to unreached people groups in each region.

CSI is the FMB's humanitar-

ian arm, which has worked in areas of the world where traditional missionary methods were unwelcome. Under the new plan, most regions will have their own CSI-type components.

Citing sensitive personnel and security issues, trustees convened an executive session for one hour April 8. Then, after a public discussion the next day, they voted to approve a document titled, "New Directions for International Mission Board, SBC."

That document included appendixes outlining geographical boundaries of the 14 regions, job descriptions for regional leadership, and a job description for an associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization who will guide the CSI-type components.

Trustees also authorized the Overseas Restructure Task Force, composed of trustee officers, some trustee committee chairmen, and the board's Senior Executive Team, to serve as a search committee. It would nominate regional leaders for election by the board and interview prospective candidates for associate regional leaders, field administrative associates, and field strategy associates.

The plan calls for the current 10 area directors who oversee work in nine geographical areas

and CSI to vacate their positions during the transition. Each will be considered for reassignment to any of the new positions, but to be named to one, each must be nominated by the task force.

FMB President Jerry Rankin and other task force members said they have assigned no names of leaders to the new regions and intend to enter the selection process with an open mind until all candidates have been screened.

Under the plan, all new regional leadership will be missionaries. Now, area directors are considered as "Richmond staff" and are guided by a different set of policies than missionaries. All current area directors have served as missionaries, and only one was not a missionary at the time of election to that post.

Because of salary differences between missionaries and Richmond staff, the task force is looking at transition options over a three-to-four-year period for current area directors whose future salaries as missionaries would be lower. Details on that aspect of the plan are sketchy.

Over and over during the three-day meeting, Rankin emphasized the purpose of the revitalization is to mobilize the board to focus on bringing all

the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

The restructure is not a criticism of the way the board has operated in the past but instead is a response to a rapidly changing world situation, Rankin said. Doors to countries that once seemed totally off limits have now either been opened wide or cracked significantly, he said.

Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations, said the new approach calls for the board to stop "judging itself by itself" and, instead, to view its missions efforts in a global context. He said this approach, for instance, calls for measuring baptisms and church starts not by how many were recorded in comparison to other years but by the wider context of how much is needed to win the world for Christ.

In other actions, trustees:

(1) approved spending \$6.4 million for building renovation and improvement to the agency's Richmond facilities.

(2) approved a new charter for the agency, which will legally change its name to the International Mission Board.

(3) re-elected current officers for a second one-year term, including Tennessee pastor Bill Blanchard of First Church, Soddy-Daisy as chairman. ■

Church in media spotlight after closing day-care center

Baptist Press

BERRYVILLE, Ark. — Why would a Southern Baptist church vote to abruptly shut down its day-care center following 11 years of operation? There's more to it than recent media reports indicate, according to Clyde Gray, pastor of First Church here.

The congregation's actions have been reported by numerous media outlets across the nation, including "Good Morning America."

It is accurate that the day-care board had notified parents in February that the church planned to close the center in May due to philosophical concerns over enabling mothers to work outside the home. Gray added, however, the church's unanimous decision last month to immediately shut down the center was due to "an unmanageably volatile situation" sparked by disgruntled day-care workers and parents.

The announcement in February created

an uproar which "was giving us a real black eye in the community," Gray said. That created the need to close the operation immediately. The church refunded a week's tuition to each family and provided \$50 per family to compensate for a day's lost wages.

Gray said church members decided "operating a day care was sending a mixed signal with home and family values. We want to be conscientious about the message that we're sending out," he said. ■

Brainerd members respond to Chattanooga disaster

For Baptist and Reflector

Chattanooga area.

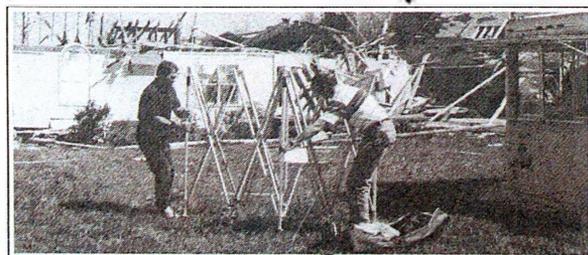
CHATTANOOGA — Members of Brainerd Church here responded quickly to the needs of families devastated by the tornado that struck the city the day before Easter. The tornado caused more than \$60 million in damages in the

Brainerd members were mobilized to respond quickly. Members were up before sunrise the morning after the tornado struck making sandwiches for distribution through the Salvation Army. "I was so pleased to see so many people ready to help out," said Debbie

Robertson, who is in charge of food services at Brainerd. After the food was prepared, members helped the Salvation Army set up food sites and tents. They also worked to care for the people who were suddenly homeless.

Members also helped in other ways by using chain saws to cut up fallen trees, putting tarps on damaged roofs, picking up debris, etc. Minister of Music Lloyd Sutton led a group of youth from house to house making sure that church families and others in the neighborhood were cared for.

The home of Pastor Bill Bond's parents was severely damaged in the storm. They are well, however, as they were out of town. Most of their belongings were saved. ■



BRAINERD CHURCH deacons Paul Williams and Rob Robertson help set up a Salvation Army tent in front of tornado wreckage.

Day of prayer focuses on Libya

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists have set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 16 to pray for the Arabs of Libya, a people group that makes up nearly the entire population of the controversial nation in North Africa.

This year's Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the nearly 4.5 million people in Libya. Only a few Libyans living inside the country or abroad are known Christians.

A resource kit is available to support the prayer emphasis. Call 1 (800) 866-3621 to order. ■

CP: Steel, glue, all of that; and love

Cooperation is the key to most work that is accomplished for good in this world.

There are few things that can be done alone. As a Baptist body, Tennessee Baptists have the privilege, opportunity, and need to stand together in a cooperative spirit.

This is especially true when we consider the widespread ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

We have the best method for undergirding the Lord's work through the TBC. It's called the Cooperative Program. Sunday, April 20, is the suggested calendar date for Cooperative Program Day.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Tennessee Baptists, through their generous and regular giving at their churches, join and support the cooperative work of thousands of people.

The stated primary reason for organizing the SBC in 1845 was: "...for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination of Christians for the propagation of the Gospel."

Just three years from the year 2000, Baptists have chosen the theme, *Share Christ's Love. And the theme is appropriate for April 20, Cooperative Program Sunday.*

The CP has enabled each church to join other churches in fulfilling the church mission. It has enabled the churches to financially assist state, national, and world missions. It has provided a way for churches to be involved in global evangelism.

The Cooperative Program has made every giver a missionary, as we support missionaries around the world and at home. The CP gives every cooperating church an economical and efficient channel for giving to missions.

Through support of the CP we help fulfill the Great Commission of Christ as in Matthew 28:19-20. This is the main focus of the Cooperative Program. Every supporter of the CP experiences commitment.

Since 1925, the CP has helped stimulate the interest of churches and individuals in prayer, giving, and

going. It has increased awareness and interest in the volunteer program.

CP Day, April 20, is an opportunity to involve God's people in the world mission of Christ. The Bible teaches that God blesses those who give generously and joyfully. Churches are blessed also. **B&R**



Don't gamble with future of young people

Lotteries are not good for people. Crime always follows lotteries. If you oppose gambling in any form, you will want to contact your local state senator and representative. Be frank with them. Share your heart.

The Tennessee legislative session is running out of time for action. The current General Assembly session began early in January, and thus far little has been said about a state-sponsored lottery.

We all know that silence does not mean the gambling forces have forgotten or despaired. It means that they are probably planning an eleven hour play to catch gambling foes off guard. It worked last year, as the State Senate slipped a measure through at the last minute that barely passed.

So the next few weeks in the General Assembly be crucial. Those who care about the moral welfare of Tennessee need act now. Stand up and be counted!

It has been ruled that approval of a lottery will open the door for all kinds of gambling. No matter how glossy and well-intended the words sound, gambling is still gambling. For every person that wins a prize — thousands spend millions of dollars and get nothing in return but empty pocketbooks and perhaps hungry children.

Make your appeal personal. Call your senator or representative personally. Write a personal letter. Let them know you are standing for morality.

The lottery is a scourge on the soul of the people who pay the bills. In the long run, no one benefits except those who run the lottery.

Don't let smooth, sugary political words lure you into believing that the motive is to provide money for education. Who wants to get an education with money spent for lottery tickets. It is a dirty scheme, not worthy of support. No laundering can clean it. **B&R**

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

The man brought his old car to the mechanic for the seventh time. "Now that you have inspected it, what can you do for it?" he asked the repairman.

Mechanic: "Maybe you should ask your pastor to hold a memorial service."

Take this truth

When is "enough"? Not just in automobiles, but in all areas of life! In America we have an attitude which is erroneous. If a little of something is good, more is better.

Another course of action is similar. If you are comfortable with something, stick with it to the end. We must use common sense.

WOOD

Memorize this Scripture

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose ... a time to keep, and a time to cast away — Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6.

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be not the first by whom the new is tried and also not the last by whom the old is laid aside. ■

This priceless tool costs less than a postage stamp

Someone said that people without news or information, often make decisions without being equipped, try to handle problems for which they are not prepared, and travel where there is no map.

That puts the people in a tough situation. It's an enigma, a dilemma, a question that begs for an appropriate answer.

A *Baptist and Reflector* subscription can help, for 16 cents per week.

Let's say that a newspaper with insufficient support sometimes has to make decisions without being equipped.

The newspaper staff may have to handle problems for which they are not prepared. And, yes, they may have to travel down roads for which they have no map.

Historically, as a whole, Baptist state papers have not always had the kind of support they have needed or deserved.

There are various kinds of support. Subscribing to the paper is the best support a person or a church can provide. For

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

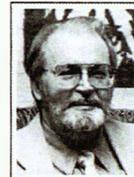
a church to have to make decisions without sufficient information — means the decision-making process is hindered.

The *B&R* tries to provide information on every important matter of concern to Tennessee Baptists. Support is given to all the ministries of the Executive Board — and more.

The information is there, the news is there, and in-depth features are there. Interpretive editorials and news articles also try to help readers with adequate news.

No one likes to handle problems for which they are not prepared. Just look at a parent or grandparent trying to cope with a situation about which they "don't have a clue."

The *B&R*, we realize, is not comparable to your favorite psychologist or mediator.



ALLEN

And we have made a pledge to strengthen family values, moral values, the best of what God offers to his people.

On the third point, there is very little we can do when someone marches off the map. But we can supply a "map" that will keep the reader informed about Baptist life and work, and that will enable the reader to be a knowledgeable participant in the work of the church, association, and convention. We can help a reader become an informed Baptist. We are avid supporters of evangelism and missions. We supply a constant flow of information about partnership missions, evangelism needs and revival successes, and missions in general.

So we are asking Tennessee Baptists to support their paper, with subscriptions. Pastors, churches, why not budget for your resident families to receive the *B&R*?

Leading spiritual development of children

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Recently I asked a class in Spiritual Aspects of Healing — when does spiritual development begin? Some were astounded that I thought it began in children before the parents get married.

I suggest to youth today that they are forming the spiritual development of their children. I say to parents of youth that they are forming the spiritual development of their grandchildren right now.

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

Much research today suggests that medical science has come to understand that spiritual and emotional development begins before birth

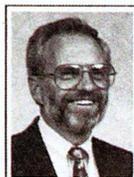
In a book by R. McDonald called *Memo-ry Healing: God Renewing the Mind*, he makes a good point in saying he has traced some of his patients' spiritual and emotional problems to experiences they shared with their mothers before birth. If the child can experience interaction with its mother, certainly it also can experience interaction with God.

The way the mother interacts with God will affect the way the child does that. This view is supported by a prominent medical journal article dealing with unwanted pregnancies. The emotional at-

titude of the mother has been shown to affect the child.

Father and mother affect the child by stability or lack of it in the home. This is the direct result of their own spiritual and emotional development. For this reason, parents cannot wait until they decide to have children. Like it or not, we are constantly making preparation.

The church also participates in this process by providing or failing to provide the resources and training which will enhance the couples' ability to provide the right environment. The Sunday School Board provides excellent resources that churches can use to help young couples prepare for development of the next generation. ■



BARKLEY

New building to expand ministry in Watauga

By Joe Ledford
For Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — Construction is about to begin here for a new building for the rapidly-expanding Hale Community Ministries, an evangelistic outreach of Watauga Association in Carter and Johnson counties.

Hale Community Ministries distributes food and clothing, conducts Bible clubs for children, and provides other ministries for people at their points of needs, all for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In a 1991 survey of the community, some members of the association were surprised by one answer. People who were asked, "Where would you turn in time of trouble?" consistently listed social agencies and government ahead of the church, said Bob Polk, director of missions for Watauga Association.

In strategy and goal-setting sessions, association planners determined to change that perception — to help people see

church members as people who care, Polk said.

The survey also revealed a need among church members for local missions projects. People who couldn't travel to far away places wanted missions opportunities they could participate in, Polk said.

It seemed clear to Polk and others that the association should begin a local ministry to people who needed help. Thus was born Hale Community Ministries, named for Gertrude Hale, a pioneering missionary in Watauga Association.

Becky Brumitt became the director of the ministry, at first as an unpaid volunteer. "We didn't have a lot to give her then except a dream," he recalled.

One thing the council was sure of was that no one should be turned away. "We decided at the beginning that we would not judge whether anyone needed the help or not," Polk said.

In August 1993, Brumitt and other volunteers made flyers and distributed them in Elizabethton, advertising their first food distribution. Seventeen people received food the first month, and in the second month it doubled to 35.

By October 60 families were receiving food each month and



BECKY BRUMITT, far right, and others from Watauga Association watch children from the South Hills Big A Club break ground for Hale Community Ministries.

clothing was being distributed. A Bible study was started.

In the first six months, HCM fed 635 people in 200 families, and gave out clothing, fire wood, Christmas and Thanksgiving meals, and Christmas gifts. More volunteers from local churches came forward to help. A food distribution began in Johnson County. Pastors provided spiritual counseling for clients. Four professions of faith were recorded.

By the end of the first year, more than 1,000 people from 325 families had received assistance in Carter and Johnson

counties, from about 400 volunteer workers.

In September 1994, two Big A Clubs started in federal housing communities. Two other clubs have been formed recently. About 200 children attend the Bible clubs each week.

In 1996, more than 27 tons of food was distributed to clients. HCM volunteers made contact with 3,019 families in 1996. About 7,600 people — an average of 635 each month — received food. More than 4,200 articles of clothing were given away.

As the ministry grew, the activities quickly became too



Tennessee features

much for the tiny building that had been donated by First Church, Elizabethton.

In 1994, the association began exploring possibilities for a new building on the existing property, but before the first meeting could be held, a vacant lot became available across the street from one of the housing communities the ministry serves.

"I'll never forget driving up Arney Street and seeing that 'For Sale' sign," Polk said. "I knew that was it."

Brumitt says she anticipates more great things when the building is finished. "We are limited in the way God can effectively use Hale Community Ministries because of our limited space," she said.

"Our new building will let us develop relationships with people of all ages as we begin teen clubs, Bible studies, and other activities that target people groups we have not yet reached," added Brumitt, who is now on the association's staff. ■



POLK

Tennessee Baptists follow up on flood relief assistance



UNLOADING A TRAILER, above left, are Bob West, left, of First Church, Goodlettsville, and Don Davis, Two Rivers Church, Nashville. On the receiving end in the UPS trailer, which took the supplies to Arkansas, are Carl MacIn, left, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, and Ray Uldrich, First Church, Goodlettsville.



For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Arkansas, hard hit by recent floods, will receive two trailer loads of food and cleaning supplies donated through the efforts of Tennessee Baptists.

UPS trucks took the items to Arkadelphia and Little Rock at no cost. The food and supplies were donated by Tennessee Baptist churches and Nashville area businesses. The effort was coordinated by Tim Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Convention disaster relief coordinator. Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, served as the collection point.

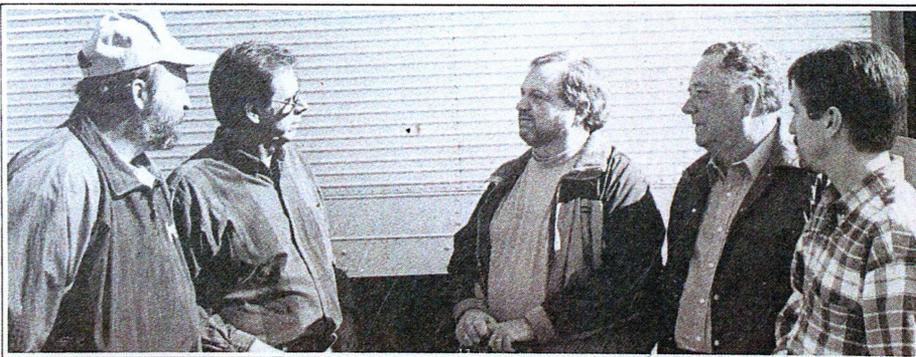
Tulip Grove member and Brotherhood director Steve York, owner of ABC Moving and Storage Co., stored the trailers until they could be sent out. Men from several area churches including Tulip Grove, Two Rivers, FBC, Goodlettsville, Alta Loma, Clearview, and Hickory Hollow helped reload the items onto the UPS trucks.

"We are grateful for the efforts of Tennessee Baptists and local businesses in responding to the needs of people in our neighboring state who have been devastated by the recent flooding," Bearden said. "We are especially grateful to Tulip Grove Church and Minister of Education Jack Lewis for their efforts in collecting these goods."

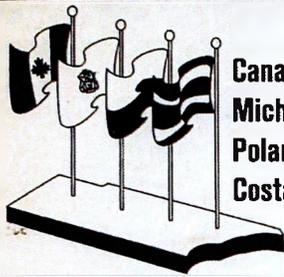
The effort followed up earlier relief work in Kentucky and northwest Tennessee, Bearden said.

The Tennessee Baptist disaster relief unit provided nearly 30,000 meals to flood victims in the Madisonville, Ky., community. In addition numerous Tennessee Baptists came to the aid of flood and tornado victims in Dyer and Obion counties in northwest Tennessee.

"While we never like to see these disaster situations, it is gratifying to know Tennessee Baptists care and will respond out of their love for Christ," Bearden said. ■



TBC BROTHERHOOD DISASTER RELIEF coordinator Tim Bearden, center, visits with members of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, who came to help reload trucks to be sent to Arkansas for flood relief. Tulip Grove served as the flood relief collection site in Middle Tennessee. From left are Steve York, Jack Lewis, minister of education, Bearden, Jim Inman, and Scott Etheridge.



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

Tennessee Baptists are touching the world in Poland, Canada, Costa Rica, and Michigan. We are truly living out our name as the Volunteer State.



SHARP

Many have already served during the winter months because partnership mission opportunities are now available year-round. In fact, Costa Rica was a rather nice place to be in January as I participated in the Spiritual Renewal Meeting. So don't just think of being involved in mission trips in the summer!

We have many wonderful opportunities still available for the spring and summer months. God is using Tennessee Baptists in an exciting way. Will you let him use you? Remember our partners are depending on us to "come over and help."

Answer the Macedonian Call and see for yourself what God can accomplish through volunteer missionaries just like you!

Terry

Churches sought for partnership

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

Simultaneous revivals set in Costa Rica

By Marcia Knox
TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team

Consider Costa Rica for your next Partnership/Volunteer Missions trip.

During Sept. 8-15, simultaneous evangelistic revivals will take place in many Costa Rica churches, according to Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions state missionary.

The groundwork for these simultaneous revivals was laid by the first mission group of the partnership which worked Jan. 11-19 in 14 teams. The effort unofficially resulted in 220 rededications and 88 lives saved, Sharp said.

For the upcoming revivals, 44 people are needed to staff 22 mission teams consisting of a preacher and a soloist.

Each Costa Rican church will receive a team of two people to help lead evangelistic crusades from Tuesday to Sunday. The volunteers will conduct worship services in the evening and door-to-door visitation in strategic locations during the day.

Depending on makeup of the teams and the needs of the churches, other ministry opportunities may exist such as working in economically disadvantaged areas, working with street children, and working with addicts.

If a team member speaks Spanish fluently, then that per-

son may be utilized for radio or television messages.

Skills needed for volunteers include preaching, personal witnessing skills, and creative ministry or music skills. Volunteers may bring tracts and written personal testimonies.

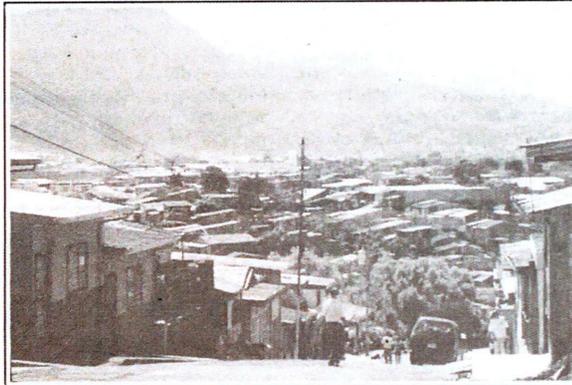
Sharp said volunteers can expect to enjoy the visit. He was overcome by the dramatic scenery which includes nine active volcanoes and surrounding lakes. "The people were very warm and hospitable. They are very caring people," Sharp said.

A recent volunteer, Mike Overcash, Tennessee Baptist Convention information systems specialist, said the country reminded him of Vietnam, referring to

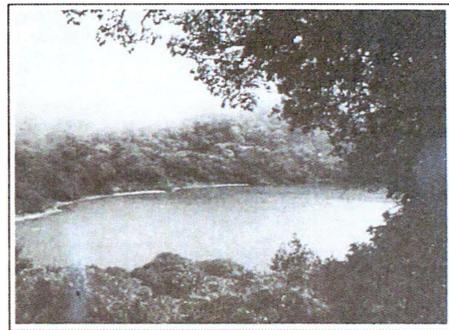
Costa Rica's mountains and lush foliage due to rainforests in the foothills and lowlands.

Overcash said Costa Rica is a land of contrasts like many countries

— See Simultaneous, page 8



VOLUNTEERS recently worked in this area of the city of San Jose.



THIS LAKE at the Poas Volcano was visited by Tennesseans working in Costa Rica. — Photos by Terry Sharp

Volunteers teach drug awareness in Costa Rica

by Wayman and Pat Jones
United Tennessee League

Two Tennessee volunteers recently returned from Costa Rica after teaching drug awareness programs as part of a partnership project.

Wayman Jones, president of the United Tennessee League (UTL), a drug education agency based in Nashville, and his wife, Pat Jones, UTL program director, traveled to Costa Rica, March 18-28, to undertake the project.

We were able to present drug education classes in produce sheds, community buildings, coffee plantations, and a Catholic school. We also were able to witness in prisons, community buildings, and public schools. We presented 17 drug programs in 10 days.

Upon arriving in Costa Rica, Southern Baptist missionary Ben Argil met us and drove us from San Jose to

Guapiles through a rain forest. The Argil family and another missionary family, the Keith Traverses, served as our hosts during the first part of our journey.

The drug education programs were well attended. The first class was in a room across the street from a school Ben Argil had scheduled. We talked to about 150 seventh and eight graders in each session five times that day.

A teacher from a Catholic school was present at one of the classes. She asked if we would teach at her school.

The invitation to the Catholic school was one of the many unexpected opportunities to the drug education programs that arose. In fact, the missionaries also were called upon to assist with drug awareness programs.

Besides the public and parochial schools, the programs also were presented in



STANDING with new friends made at a drug education program are Pat and Wayman Jones of United Tennessee League, based in Nashville.

many communities. One afternoon, we joined some missionaries and volunteers in leading a community awareness activity for a drug awareness program. We painted the faces of children and Susie Argil, Ben's wife, made balloon toys. Also three of us dressed as clowns went around the community

giving out tracts, balloons, and inviting people to attend a drug education program. About 100 attended that gathering, and many people had questions.

On a Sunday, we attended a church of Jamaican Baptists, and Wayman preached. Jamaica — See Volunteers, page 8

Costa Rica Projects

Sports

Project #: CR71997826
 Dates: June 14-23
 Location: Atlantic Zone
 Description: Sports — A team of 10 is needed to do sports/evangelism through basketball.

Project #: CR71997827
 Dates: July 11-19
 Location: Atlantic Zone
 Description: Sports — A team of 12 is needed to do evangelism through volleyball.

Special Services

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 in all areas.

Project #: CR71997831
 Dates: June 25-July 5
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Special Services — A team of 4 is needed to do programming for adult missionaries of the Costa Rica Mission during their annual mission meeting at the Baptist Camp.

Project #: CR71997807
 Dates: Aug. 1-30
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Special Services — A computer/network specialist is needed to examine all computer systems in the mission and Baptist Center.

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.

Music

Project #: CR71997801
 Dates: Dec. 13-22
 Location: San Jose
 Description: Music — A team of 30 is needed to do evangelistic Christmas concerts in churches and public places. The target is young people.

Canada Projects

Music

Project #: PM11997623
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Cochrane, Alberta
 Description: Music — A group of volunteers are needed to lead music, worship and choir workshop.

VBS

Project #: CA-10
 Dates: July 7-18
 Location: Edmonton
 Description: VBS — A team of 6 is needed to do outreach, preparation and VBS

Project #: CA-4
 Dates: July 14-18
 Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
 Description: VBS — New Life Chapel needs a team of 2-4 to help conduct a VBS for grades 1-6

Project #: CA-8
 Dates: July 19-26
 Location: Saskatchewan
 Description: VBS — Faith Church needs a team of 6 to do VBS for preschool children in mornings and for youth in evenings.

Camp

Project #: CA-5
 Dates: July 28-Aug. 1
 Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
 Description: Camp — New Life Chapel needs a team of 4-6 to do one week Bible camp for grades 1-6.

Project #: CA-6
 Dates: Aug. 4-8
 Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
 Description: Camp — New Life Chapel needs a team to do one week Bible Camp for youth grades 7-12.

Construction

Project #: PM31997605
 Dates: Open
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Construction — Volunteers are needed to purchase and renovate a bus for a mobile chapel.

Church Planting

Project #: PM11997636
 Dates: Open
 Location: Surrey, B.C.
 Description: Church Planting — A team is needed to plant a church. They will lead BYBC for Vietnamese children and support the church plant through prayer.

Project #: PM11997622
 Dates: Open
 Location: Vancouver, B.C.
 Description: Church Planting — A Tennessee church is needed to partner Gladstone Church in sponsoring a church plant for a Mandarin-Taiwanese congregation.

Project #: PM11997619
 Dates: Summer
 Location: North Kildonan
 Description: Church Planting — A team of volunteers is needed to start new church.

Special Services

Project #: CA-12
 Dates: Sept. 11-15
 Location: Prince Edward
 Description: Special Services — Community Church needs a team to train and equip Sunday School teachers, helpers, and prospective teachers.

Project #: CA-11
 Dates: Oct. 16-18
 Location: Vancouver
 Description: Special Services — A team of 4 is needed to do a Pastor's Wives retreat.

Poland Projects

Music

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.

ESL

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-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.

Evangelism

Project #: 11997428
 Dates: May 25 - June 1
 Location: Wroclaw

Description: Evangelism — A team of 20-25 is requested to do street evangelism during the World Catholic Congress.

Project #: 11997427
 Dates: July 7-13
 Location: Wroclaw
 Description: Evangelism — First Church, Wroclaw, needs a team of 10 to do evangelism outreach in 2 nearby towns. Team needs gifts in music, drama, puppets, etc.

Project #: 81
 Dates: Sept. 7-21
 Location: Katowice
 Description: Evangelism — The Katowice Church needs a team of 1-3 to train the church in organizing and conducting home Bible study groups. The church requests a pastor and one or two lay leaders in home Bible study.

Sports

Project #: 11997421
 Dates: June 2-9
 Location: Biialystok
 Description: Sports — A team of 6-8 is needed to play basketball, visit schools, play teams from Biialystok, and give testimonies.

Camp

Project #: 51
 Dates: July 5-21
 Location: Szczynio
 Description: Camp — Christian Church needs 2-4 men to do youth camp/canoing trip.

Project #: 11997413
 Dates: Aug. 4-8
 Location: Warsaw/Radosc
 Description: Camp — A team of 3-10 is needed to do a day camp for children in Poland. This includes teaching Bible stories, crafts, games, etc.

Construction

Project #: 11997431
 Dates: June 30-July 14
 Location: Wroclaw
 Description: Construction — A team of 6 is needed to do some light construction by painting a church lobby and repairing and painting an old barracks building.

Project #: 82
 Dates: July/August
 Location: Gdynia
 Description: Construction — The church at Gdynia needs a team to do renovation and repairs of its building. This work includes replacing windows and doors in the church.

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 #: 79
 Dates: July 2-12
 Location: Radom
 Description: Construction — The church at Radom needs a team of 5-10 to do reconstruction on a building to adapt into a family orphanage.

Project #: 11997412
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Koszalin
 Description: Construction — A team of 3-5 is needed to replace the windows in a church.

Project #: 11997422
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Poznan
 Description: Construction — A team of 4-6 is needed to do renovation of a church. This includes painting, repairing wood floors, and laying paving tiles for parking area.

Project #: PC-15
 Dates: Fall
 Location: Swientajno
 Description: Construction — A team of 12-15 is needed to help

with the construction of a new camp building.

Project #: 11997429
 Dates: Open
 Location: Szczynio
 Description: Construction — Christian Church needs team of 2-4 to do carpentry repair work and interior painting on church.

Michigan Projects Construction

Project #: N-2
 Dates: June 1-6
 Location: Cadillac
 Description: Construction — Evergreen Church needs a team of 4-10 to lay carpet and linoleum in sanctuary.

Project #: SC-3a-3e
 Dates: June 2-July 17
 Location: Battle Creek
 Description: Construction — New Life Church needs a team of 8 to do new construction on the church.

Project #: M-13a-c; M-13d-1
 Dates: July 7-Aug. 31
 Location: Clinton Township
 Description: Construction — Central Church needs volunteers to help with construction of their new sanctuary.

Project #: O-9h
 Dates: July 27-31
 Location: Clarkston
 Description: Construction — Oakland Woods Church needs a team of 7-8 to lay carpet and do detail and finish work on new building.

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 #: SC-4
 Dates: Open
 Location: Portage
 Description: Construction — A South Central Association mission church needs a team to do roofing and electrical work.

Project #: SE-1
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Monroe
 Description: Construction — Union Church needs a team of 6 to do brick and blocking a new all purpose building.

Camp

Project #: M-1
 Dates: June 15-Aug. 15
 Location: Roseville
 Description: Camp — Antioch Church needs 2 volunteers for church day camp.

Summer Missionary

Project #: M-4-M-12
 Dates: June 8-Aug. 17
 Location: Macomb Association
 Description: Summer Missionary — Each church needs a volunteer to do summer youth ministry work for 10 weeks.

Evangelism

Project #: UP-2
 Dates: July
 Location: Gwinn
 Description: Evangelism — A youth group has been requested to do evangelism, puppets, drama, and music in a local and neighboring Southern Baptist churches.

Project #: SW-2
 Dates: Open
 Location: Lawrence
 Description: Evangelism — Good Samaritan Church needs a team to do survey for a Spanish church.

Church Planting

Project #: O-3-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 witnessing. This work includes drama, music, skits, games and puppets.

Project #: G-1
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Burton
 Description: Church Planting — Several teams of 5-20 are requested to do church planting events including evangelism, VBS, puppets, and drama.

VBS/BYBC

Project #: SC-5
 Dates: June 23-27
 Location: Boore Creek
 Description: VBS/BYBC — Temple Church in Boore Creek needs a team of 10-15 to conduct VBS.

Project #: O-10
 Dates: July 21-25
 Location: Rochester Hills
 Description: VBS/BYBC — A team is needed to help with VBS and BYBC by identifying church prospects, sharing the Gospel, and helping form new small groups for adults.

Project #: B-1
 Dates: Open
 Location: Birch Run
 Description: BYBC — The Bay Area Association needs 5 or more volunteers for BYBC.

Tennessee Projects Construction

Project #: 91
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction — Brinkley Heights Church needs teams of 10-50 youth for one week to do community work such as cleaning vacant lots, painting and fixing up low-income housing, distributing meals, and BYBC. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 92
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Aloka
 Description: Construction — Gateway Church needs construction team of 10-12 to build addition onto church. Contact: Brad Whit, (901) 837-8087 or James Tanner, (901) 476-8344.

Project #: 93
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rossville
 Description: Construction — Gospel Light Church needs team of 15-20 youth/adults to help repair low-income homes. Contact: Les Sanders, (901) 853-8366.

Project #: 94
 Dates: Open
 Location: Jackson
 Description: Construction — Greater Hope Day Care needs team of 5-10 with carpentry skills to do light construction for one week. Contact: Richard C. Lee, (901) 423-6290.

Project #: 95
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction — Brinkley Heights Church needs teams of 10-15 youth to assist apartment management with clean-up and fix-up of apartments. Teams will also distribute meals and conduct BYBCs. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 96
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction — New Song Church needs team of 10

youth/adult to repair neighborhood homes. Contact: Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868.

Project #: 102
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rossville
 Description: Construction — Rossville Church needs team of 5-10 adults to put in driveway. Bring equipment. Contact: Ted Powers, (901) 877-3734.

Health Care

Project #: 103
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Health Care — Brinkley Heights Alliance needs team of 5-10 health care professionals or medical/dental students to conduct screenings for one week. Contact: Judy Jackson, (901) 372-2373.

BYBC/VBS

Project #: 104
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Memphis
 Description: BYBC — Brinkley Heights Church needs teams of 10-50 youth to do BYBCs in low-income housing area. Also help clean-up vacant lots, fix-up housing, and distribute meals. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 105
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Rossville
 Description: VBS — Gospel Light Church needs teams of 20-25 youth/adults to conduct VBS in morning. Also in afternoon teams will clean-up, paint-up and fix-up. Bring tools. Contact: Les Sanders, (901) 853-8366.

Project #: 106
 Dates: Year Round
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Evangelism — Individual needed to coordinate children's Bible clubs, Bible studies, and volunteer teams in Leahy's Trailer Park. Volunteers will work 2-3 days per week for 2-4 hours per day. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 107
 Dates: September to May
 Location: Memphis
 Description: BYBC — Team of up to 6 youth to do Big A Bible Clubs for Leahy's Trailer Park. Club will run one night a week for four consecutive weeks. Bring refreshments and materials for arts and crafts. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 108
 Dates: Open
 Location: Jackson
 Description: VBS — Up to 40 teams of 6-10 youth/adults needed to hold one week VBSs or BYBCs in apartment areas or housing projects for Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations. Contact: Carol Vaughan, (901) 668-5690.

Project #: 109
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: VBS — Monument of Love Church needs teams of 5-10 youth to do VBS classes, activities, arts, crafts, and other related duties for two weeks. Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643.

Project #: 110
 Dates: Summer
 Location: Memphis
 Description: BYBC — Teams of 10-15 youth are needed to do one-week BYBCs in low-income apartment complex, National Apartments. Teams will also help the apartment management with clean-up and fix-up and also distribute meals. Puppets and clowns skills are helpful. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 111
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: BYBC — New Song Church needs teams of 10 or more

— Continued on page 8



Poland

'Tag team' teaches English to Polish friends

By Jackie Ferguson
For *The Macedonian Call*

NASHVILLE — Poland! This was the last country on my mind until a parent mentioned it to me at a youth retreat for Forest Hills Church, Nashville.

I was reminded of Poland the next week when I saw a prayer request in the *Baptist and Reflector* for someone to teach English as a Second Language in Poland. I placed my name on the list.

The original request had asked for a team of five to six people. When the group left last August, it was Annie Byrd of Memphis and myself, a Wilson County elementary teacher. Byrd is a wife and mother of three small children.

We had been planning our classes since February by way of phone calls. This was not an easy task, since neither of us had taught others to speak English before.

As a sixth grade teacher, I sought out various resources. At the same time, Byrd deciphered her college grammar book to make worksheets to translate English to Polish and visa versa.

We realized that our customized curriculum coordinated well as we flew to Poland. What I lacked in my work, Byrd covered in her lessons. God blended our work before we even left the country.

The eight-hour flight to Poland gave us time to get acquainted. We were met by Tennessee/Poland volunteer missionary coordinators Charles and Barbara Layton, who took us to Zyradow, where we would work.

In the mornings, I tutored a shy six-year-old girl for 30 minutes. At 10 a.m., I taught the beginning class while Byrd taught the intermediate group.

Our favorite part of the class was snack time at 11 a.m. This gave us time to use our English in conversation while enjoying Polish cookies.

In addition to our written curriculum, we also used field trips to the courtyard and games to teach basic words. The students learned over 200 English words in two weeks, but I could only learn five Polish words. Recipes were also translated as a teaching lesson.

We toured the area in the afternoons. Some of the students would venture along

with us and show us their country. After each adventure, we visited a local restaurant.

The last class of the day was scheduled for 4 p.m. Byrd and I taught the class together, but later divided it into two classes of adults and youths. These classes were the biggest challenges of my teaching career.

We introduced vocabulary words from my crossword puzzle book, discussed credit cards, the banking system, government, schools, and our different views on religion. The students wanted to make use of their knowledge and have conversations to practice what they had learned. They had a hard time speaking grammatically, but grasped the tenses of verbs quickly.

I was greatly challenged by a local teacher. He and I would discuss the different tenses of English used in Britain and the United States. The English that Poles learn in school is based on British usage, and this made the learning of vowel sounds difficult also.

Sunday services were unique. We worshiped in a 150-year-old chapel on the outskirts of Zyradow. During the services, the members sang



ENJOYING a meal outside are, from left, Annie Byrd; Annetta, the team's translator; and Jackie Ferguson. Annetta is a student in Warsaw studying law.

and praised God in Polish. Though we participated through a translator, I felt the presence of God.

During our stay we also participated in revival services. Sometimes the class would stay for church. We invited each student to join us in the services. We gave our testimonies and were joined by many others. Ultimately, the barriers began to fall because two youth became believers before we left.

Since we left Poland many

friendships have been continued by mail and the internet. Our Polish friends ask questions concerning our religion and we discuss them in our letters. We pray daily for each and for their willingness to spread God's Word in their country.

Currently two projects calling for English as a second language are scheduled this year for Poland. For more information, contact Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1 (800) 558-2090. ■

Opportunities arise for basketball missions team from Belmont

By Betty Wiseman, associate professor, Belmont University
For *The Macedonian Call*

NASHVILLE — I was about to leave home to begin my third trip to Poland with some of Nashville's Belmont University basketball players, when the phone rang at 6 a.m. on Feb. 27.

"We just thought we'd try and get you before you leave," they said. "We want to tell you the doors are wide open to you and your team in Tarnow."

The call was from Barbara and Charles Layton in Warsaw, Poland. The Laytons coordinate volunteer projects for the Tennessee/Poland Partnership.

Their message was one more word of God's affirmation of this effort and what he had in store for us.

Upon our arrival, God opened doors to the entire city of Tarnow, a city of 150,000 people. We were invited to all the schools to visit, play basketball, conduct clinics, and share our faith.

Our team consisted of Holly McGee of Lexington, Ala.; Mitzi Blankenship of Lafayette; Andrea Wax of Tusculum, Ill.; Michael Couey of Murfreesboro; Jeremy Kees of Bowling Green, Ky.; Jared Karnes of Knoxville; and Jessica Matson, Leah Primm, Kerry West, Chris Goode, Kevin

Fields, and Joey Rhyne, all of Hendersonville.

We were privileged to witness for Christ before hundreds of young people. Radio and television stations carried our message to thousands more people. Open doors and open arms greeted us. It was obvious God had orchestrated this time of ministry and prepared the hearts of the people.

Irek Skoczen, pastor of the Tarnow Baptist church, led the way for our group. He has tireless energy, unwavering enthusiasm, and a servant's heart that touched us deeply. His visibility and communication skills with people were evident.

It was not only our mission to share Christ, but to make the Tarnow church more visible, so that Skoczen and the congregation could follow up on our efforts when we left Poland. He and his wife, Malvina, and daughters became a family to us.

The highlight of the trip came on Thursday night when young people packed the small Baptist church for an evangelistic service. Chairs were brought in and students lined the walls for the service. Even church members were asked to go to the basement and pray to make room for the youth.

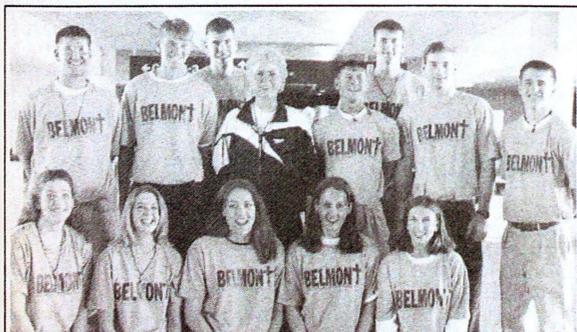
Our athletes shared what Christ meant in their lives and how young people could come to know Jesus in a personal way. For many Polish youth, this was their first time to visit a church of any kind.

Time didn't seem to be a factor as they stayed and stayed. Seeds were sown and follow up was planned by the congregation.

This experience in Poland humbled us as we watched

God at work in Poland and in our lives. As we said our good-byes, lots of tears were shed. I have experienced it many times. The players did not want to leave. There is more to do in Poland.

God had opened doors, used our gifts to witness, but he isn't through in Tarnow. The seeds were sown, and others will follow to nurture. God is still in control. I pray that the doors will remain open. ■



READY to leave are, from left, front row, Holly McGee, Mitzi Blankenship, Andrea Wax, Jessica Matson, Leah Primm; back row, Kerry West, Michael Couey, Jeremy Kees, Betty Wiseman, Kevin Fields, Chris Goode, Jared Karnes, and Joey Rhyne.

Changed by one Polish face

By Betty Wiseman

• We were concluding the service with communion. I was video taping some of it when her face stopped me.

She was old. Her hair was snow white. Her features were worn, but she had the face of an angel.

I watched as she took the cup, drank from it, and placed it back into the plate. She began to pray, verbally and, then, silently. Tears flowed down her cheeks as she put her face in her hands and wept.

I could not hold the camera any longer. I stopped.

I could hardly wait to get to her after the service. She greeted me with a smile, tears, and words flowing out in Polish. I tried to communicate with her with my tears, my gestures, my love.

A Polish student came to translate for her. She told me she was 90 years old. She had been through two world wars and lost all her family. She had spent time in the work camps during the World War II.

She said Jesus was the reason she was alive today. He had brought her through much pain, suffering, fear, and tragedy.

"Thank you for coming," she said. "Tell my people, tell my people about Jesus. He is our only hope."

Now I ask myself, What do people see when they look into my face? Does it show what Christ has done in my life? ■

Convention reorganization forms IMB and NAMB

For The Macedonian Call

June 1997 is a historic month for Southern Baptists. Following the June annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas, four convention agencies will become two.

The Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia; the Home Mission Board in Alpharetta, Georgia;

the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas; and the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, will embark on the new vision established in the restructuring process of the Southern Baptist Convention, approved by the SBC annual meetings of 1995 and 1996.

The vision of the restructuring action is entitled "Covenant for a New Century."

The Foreign Mission Board will become the International Mission Board (IMB) and the Home Mission Board, along with the Brotherhood Commission and the Radio and Television Commission, will become the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in June 1997.

"Our relationships with the new

SBC agencies will remain the same in the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team," said Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions team leader.

"We will continue to strive to send Tennessee volunteers wherever they are needed either on the home field or on the international field," Sharp

added. ■



More projects ...

— Continued from page 6

youth to do BYBCs in public housing community building in church neighborhood. In the afternoons, groups may also help in other types of projects or second BYBC at another location. Contact: Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868

Project #: 112
Dates: Summer
Location: Memphis
Description: BYBC — Shelby Association needs at least 10 teams of 10-30 youth to work with local churches doing Bible clubs in city parks. In the afternoons, teams will do community work projects such as clean-up, paint-up and fix-up. Clowns and puppet skills are helpful. Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617

Miscellaneous

Project #: 113
Dates: Year Round
Location: Memphis
Description: Clothing Ministry — Brinkley Heights Church needs individuals or team of youth to work in clothing room. Volunteers are needed for 1-2 days per month for 2 hours per day. Contact: Janie Hemminger, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: 114
Dates: Summer
Location: Memphis

Description: Counseling Ministry — Brinkley Heights Alliance needs individual or team of 6 to talk and pray with families at clothing and food ministry. Volunteers are needed 2-3 days per week for 2 hours per day. Contact: Sam Wilson, (901) 458-0617

Project #: 115
Dates: Sept.-April
Location: Memphis
Description: Tutorial Ministry — Brinkley Heights Alliance needs individuals (youth-high school/adults) to tutor grade school children on Thursdays for two hours. This is one-on-one tutoring. Contact: Jeanne Billington, (901) 372-7477.

Project #: 116
Dates: Summer
Location: Memphis
Description: Sports Clinic — Monument of Love Church and Shelby Association need teams of youth to conduct a sports clinic for one week. Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

Project #: 117
Dates: Summer
Location: Memphis
Description: Summer Camp — Monument of Love Church and Shelby Association need teams of 5-10 youth to lead, plan, and administer Summer Camp program/activities for one week to one month. Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

Team set for rapid response

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. ■

Shoebox project set for Costa Rica kids

For The Macedonian Call

Tennessee Baptists have an opportunity this Christmas to help children in Costa Rica through a Partnership/Volunteer Missions project, sponsored by the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.

The Costa Rica Christmas Shoebox Project is currently underway to collect and distribute boy and girl gift shoeboxes, filled with small gifts, to children in the Central America country through Southern Baptist missionaries.

A total of 4,000 boxes is needed for Costa Rica. Any excess over 4,000 will be distributed to boys and girls in other mission areas.

Shoebox contents include: wrapped hard candy, one box of markers or crayons, five decorative pencils, one Christian coloring book, stickers, one boy or girl toy, and a toothbrush. The pencils, coloring book, and stickers are to have no words on them. The boy or girl toy is not to be violence related.

Boxes are to be sent beginning June 1 and must be received by Aug. 1 at the state convention. The boxes must not be wrapped. They may be securely closed with rubberbands.

Label each box as either boy box or girl box and note ages such as 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Include \$2 with each box for shipping.

Mail completed boxes to: Partnership/Volunteer Missions, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37028 (UPS). ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

April

16 — Pray for Emmanuel Church, Midland, Mich., which is without a pastor.

17 — Praise God that the new work in Tukurrique, Costa Rica, is more stable. It is considering a new site.

18 — Pray for Szczytno Church in Poland. The church needs a team of two — four men to lead a youth camp.

19 — Pray for pastor Julio Ruiz who has been called to lead Primera Iglesia Bautista in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.

20 — Pray for Southwest Saganaw Chapel in Michigan, which is a new work.

21 — Pray for wisdom for the Argil and Travis missionary families as they try to unify the efforts of the congregation in San Rafael de Guapiles, Costa Rica.

22 — Pray for the Baptist Seminary in Warsaw/Radosc, Poland. The seminary needs three — 10 volunteers to lead a children's day camp in Radosc.

Simultaneous revivals set in Costa Rica

— Continued from page 5

in Central America. "There are employment opportunities that are not available in other countries in that part of the world," he added. "These employment opportunities mean many people come to Costa Rica to find work. Ample employment means more money is available. A higher economic level is enjoyed by a large portion of the population."

"However, at the other end of the economic picture, there is much poverty, especially in the inner city barrios and the country villages."

The economic contrast could stem from the dense population. Costa Rica has three million people in its small land mass. The country is about the land size of West Virginia.

Approximately 85 percent of the population consider themselves Catholic, although bare-

ly half of these are active in practicing their faith.

The Baptist work in Costa Rica was begun by Jamaican Baptists and is over 100 years old. Baptist Spanish work has existed for just over 50 years. There are over 3,500 Baptists in the country. The National Union of Baptist Churches is affiliated with approximately 24 churches and missions. Costa Rica has around 82 churches and missions that are Baptist.

Larry Kirk, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group leader and state missions specialist, also saw economic contrasts in the churches.

"Our team in Costa Rica had the privilege of sharing with two contrasting churches — one lower middle to middle class and one poor or lower income. This gave an exciting di-

mension (to our work) in that both churches had identical needs, but they were expressed differently."

Margaret Robbins of First Church, Byrdstown, who is church treasurer and Woman's Missionary Union missions program chairman, saw a sweet spirit among Baptists.

"We were blessed with good fellowship with our Tennessee partners and with national brothers and sisters. There was good planning by the TBC office, and an excellent spirit of love among everybody. I hope to convince others of the opportunity to be in the Lord's service in Costa Rica and also to use the power of prayer for others going."

"We were invited by the Costa Rica Baptist Union to do renewal in order to start a time of concentrated commitment," Sharp said. "Would you be willing to go and take part in the simultaneous revivals?" ■

Volunteers teach drug ...

— Continued from page 5

icans were brought to Costa Rica as slaves to build the railroad. They are now free. The people are very warm and friendly.

After arriving back home at the Argil's house, several people from San Jose who help lead the church at Guapiles arrived. Faces were painted and people were dressed as clowns, refreshments prepared, and people arrived. The congregation meets on the front porch of the Argil house. Keith preached.

Keith and Pam Travis taught a discipleship class for adults. Susie Argil and Pat lead a drug program for the children on the back porch of a neighbors' house, with the help of the clowns. Wayman and Ben talked to the youth.

We also worked with missionary Larry Hendricks and his family. Larry is a church planter in Cartago. We lead a program at Jesus Christ is Lord Baptist Church in Cartago. We also visited the village of Tukurrique where Larry and Mary Hendricks had started a church two years ago. The congregation meets in a rented house.

We walked around the village visiting with people and inviting them to the drug awareness program that night. We also handed out Gospel tracts. About 40 people came; all the seats were filled and children were sitting two to a chair. They responded well to the program with many questions.

Then it was time to say goodbye. Several neighbors came to say "gracias" and to pray for our safe return.

We had trained three missionaries to do drug education programs and another missionary will be trained by them.

The most exciting news was that three schools had contacted Ben Argil seeking information about the drug awareness programs. ■





Tennescene

associations

■ Churches in Central Association are holding the Warren County Impact Jay Strack Crusade April 20-24 at McMinnville Civic Center. Charles Billingsley will lead the music. For more information, call Philip Dougan, crusade chairman, at (615) 473-7522.

■ The Shelby Singers, a men's chorus made up of ministers of music of Baptist churches in Shelby Association, will perform May 1 at Second Church, Memphis, at 7:30 p.m. The program is entitled "Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs" and will be led by Wayne Randolph, associate minister: music and worship, Second Church.

■ A women's conference will be hosted by the Woman's Missionary Union of Nashville Association May 1 at Woodmont Church, Nashville, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting, entitled "Big Hand - Little Hand - A Celebration for Women,"

will feature a style show of world fashions by Girls in Action members; a pantomime group of Mill Creek Church, Nashville; Elizabeth Schoenecke, ventriloquist; Ginger Collier and Jennifer Leonard, missionaries; and Jim Freedman, director of missions of the association. For more information, call (615) 371-0704 or 377-9476.

churches

■ Center Grove Church, Tullahoma, held a church-growth revival March 16-19. To prepare Pastor David R. Wall led the congregation in class care groups, outreach, and to enroll people in Bible study. The revival services were led by Marvin Glass and emphasized a March 23 High Attendance Day. The goal was 130 and 129 participated. In addition, one person made a profession of faith for baptism and church membership.

■ Fountain Head Church, Portland, will hold revival April 27. Skip Youngcourt of New Johnsonville will speak.

■ First Church, Hunter, will hold revival April 20-23. Rick Coram, evangelist based in Ocala, Fla., will speak. For more information, call (423) 543-1381.

■ Charlotte Road Church, Nashville, will hold revival April 13-18. Harold

Mathena of Bethany, a former evangelism director for the Oklahoma Baptist Convention, will speak. Tommy Clawson, recording artist, will lead the music. Meals will be held during the week at 6 p.m. For more information, call (615) 356-5810.

■ Lakeview Church, Selmer, will present the musical, "God With Us," April 18 at 7 p.m. and April 20 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (901) 645-9777.

■ Greenvale Church, Church Hill, will host The Perrys of Dahlonga, Ga., April 20. They will be featured during the morning worship service which begins at 10:45 a.m.

■ The March 21-23 Easter production of Liberty Grove Church, Jackson, drew 1,100 during its three-night production. Five people made professions of faith, 25 rededicated their lives, and 98 pledged to be a faithful Christian. The production, "The Choice," also drew a comment by Paul Harvey on his national radio show.

■ Fowlkes Church, Dyersburg, will hold revival beginning April 20. Don McCulley will speak.

■ Southside Church, Dyersburg, will hold revival April 18-20. Jerry McDivitt will speak.

■ Unaka Avenue Church, Johnson City, will hold revival April 27-30. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ Milan Church, Maynardville, will hold revival May 4-10. Al Smith and Eddie Perry will speak and Jack E. George will lead the music.

■ First Church, Fishersville, will host a Spring Bible Conference April 18-20. Peter Lord of Titusville, Fla.,



PAUSING AT Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, during ceremonies honoring them are alumni Dal Shealy, left, of Kansas City, Mo., and Lee Conner Starnes of Waynesville, N.C., with Michael Carter, provost. Shealy, who is president and chief executive officer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a former C-N College coach who led the football team to win a national championship in 1972. Starnes, who owns a State Farm Insurance company, is involved with youth and recreation in the community and with missions efforts overseas. The men were honored for their outstanding professional and personal achievements.

will speak. For more information, call (901) 853-4253.

McGee as pastor.

deaths

■ Larry Hassel Glass, 50, bivocational pastor, Swan Creek Church, Hampshire, died March 24, of cancer. He died at his home in Leoma, Glass, who worked at Murray-Ohio Manufacturing Company in Lawrenceburg for 32 years, had served as pastor of churches in Lawrence County, Giles County, and Maury associations for 22 years. Glass was a charter member of MADD of Lawrence County and coached several ball teams in the area. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Winter Glass; two sons; and two daughters. Gifts in his memory should be made to Swan Creek Church Building Fund and Gideon International.

leaders

■ RoEllen Church, Dyersburg, has called Conrad Todd DeLaney as pastor. He was ordained March 16.

■ Silerton Church, Silerton, has called Clay Adams of Jackson as pastor.

■ Enon Church, Halls, has called Danny T. Cates Jr., as associate pastor in charge of children and youth.

■ Pleasant Ridge Church, Huntland, has called David

people

■ Pleasant Ridge Church, Huntland, has ordained Hal A. Bradford recently as a deacon.

■ Nina Ervin, secretary to the pastor and later administrative assistant at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, for 32 years, will be honored on her retirement. A reception for her will be held May 4 from 2-4 p.m.

the schools

■ Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, had a record number of students this year participate in missions projects during spring break through the Baptist Student Union. This year 203 participated. They worked in Tennessee at Jefferson City, Franklin, Chattanooga, and Nashville, and in New Orleans, La.; Panama City, Fla.; and Virginia Beach, Va.

■ Belmont University, Nashville, has named James Michael Clapper as dean for the Schools of Business, which include the Massey Graduate School of Business, the undergraduate School of Business, and the Mike Curb Music Business Program. Clapper, who is a faculty member of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., will begin his work May 1.

Executive Board Position Opening

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is accepting applications for the position of Computer Systems Manager. Responsibilities include Administration of Novell 4.1 Network, Microsoft Office Support, and Access Programming. Information concerning this position may be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position.

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MINISTER OF MUSIC & YOUTH: First Baptist Church, Parsons, is searching for a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Interested and qualified individuals may submit resume to: FBC, P.O. Box 69, 210 Tennessee Avenue South, Parsons, TN 38363, Attn: Damon Mays.

Position

Full-time minister to youth. First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla. Please submit detailed resume to FBC, P.O. Box 1928, Shawnee, OK 74802-1928.

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Event held for women in prisons

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Nashville Association is holding an *Experiencing God* Weekend April 25-27 at the Tennessee Prison for Women. The event will introduce women in the institution to the study, reported Linda Knott, associational prison coordinator of First Church, Donelson.

Leading the weekend will be 35 women, most of whom are members of Baptist churches in Nashville Association. Also assisting with the weekend will be Jim Buck, state coordinator of the Criminal Justice Ministry Fellowship through the Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Office. Buck is a member of First Church, Goodlettsville.

Experiencing God is a short-term study which assists Christians in knowing and doing the will of God. The event will involve residents of the prison's main unit and annex. **B&R**

Religion portrayal increases in prime-time TV

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Religion continues to get short shrift from television network news, but its portrayal in prime-time entertainment shows made a dramatic leap upward last year, according to recently announced studies.

While coverage of religion stayed below 2 percent of all news stories on network television in 1996, the number of depictions of spirituality on prime-time TV increased to 436 last year from 187 in 1995, the Media Research Center and an affiliate reported.

The upswing in portrayals of religion on prime-time TV is tempered by others findings:

(1) There was only one depiction of religion in every four hours of programming.

(2) Though religion in general was portrayed positively by a nearly 2-1 margin, the laity is depicted negatively four times as often as it is positively.

Meanwhile, a recent survey commissioned by *TV Guide* showed 56 percent of adults polled believe religion does not receive enough attention on prime-time TV.

The *TV Guide* survey, reported in its March 29 issue, also found that 68 percent of adults are eager to see more spirituality on prime time, 82 percent would like more references to moral issues, and 61 percent believe TV has become

less spiritual and less moral in the last five years.

Aided by such shows as "Touched By An Angel" and "Promised Land," CBS easily outdistanced the other five networks studied with 172 depictions of religion. NBC, with 87 portrayals, and FOX, with 83, were second and third, respectively. ABC, Warner Brothers, and UPN trailed far behind. CBS and ABC easily

led the others in the positive-to-negative ratio of overall religious depictions.

When asked to name the most spiritually rich prime-time show, 66 percent chose "Touched By An Angel," *TV Guide* reported. ABC's "Family Matters" was a distant second at 6 percent. ■

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PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow, Ky., is accepting resumes for position of pastor. All interested parties may reply by mail to: Attention: Pulpit Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1524, Glasgow, KY 42142.

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Applications are now being taken for Houseparents for Noah's Inn Children's Haven, a temporary shelter for neglected or abused children ages newborn to 12. Applicants need to have a love for working with children and be born-again Christians, plus be willing to submit to an extensive background check.

Noah's Inn Children's Haven is located in Pikeville, Tenn., which is approximately 50 miles north of Chattanooga. It is a nonprofit, 501 (c) 3 Christian ministry of the Pikeville community and the Farris Foundation, Inc. Resumes can be mailed to Noah's Inn, P.O. Box 811, Pikeville, Tenn., 37367 or fax (423) 447-7363.

Questions can be directed to Noah's Inn at (423) 447-2275 or to the office of The Farris Foundation at (770) 962-4448.

"A Place of Rest from the Storms"



Classified

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Bivocational minister of music needed at Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport. Write Lynn Garden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 4035, Kingsport, TN 37665 or call (423) 246-2562.

FOR SALE: Sixty-eight oak finished padded church pews; good condition; \$175 each. If taken as lot, price negotiable. Call South Harriman Baptist Church at (423) 882-1816. M-F, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

WANTED: Organist, First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Salary plus travel. Call (615) 893-2514.

FOR SALE: Church pews and furniture, solid wood (golden oak) in good condition: 30 13-foot pews; 3 16-foot pews; 16-foot choir modesty screen; pulpit, communion table and 2 chairs; \$7,500; call (423) 376-2765.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: 1,100-member church seeks part-time minister of music with bachelor's degree with a major or emphasis in music preferred and at least 5 years church staff experience. Will direct youth and sanctuary choirs and coordinate graded choir program. Send resumes with references to FBC, 106 North Broadway, Portland, TN 37148, Attn: Greg Bowers, or fax to (615) 325-7097.

Minister of Music & Youth
 Faith Church in Knoxville, Maryland, seeks full-time minister of music and youth. Faith is located in a rapidly growing area outside of D.C. Send resumes to Staff Search Committee, Faith Baptist Church, 2212 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD 21738.

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By Gary Rickman

Focal Passage — John 16:5-15

The news about the Heaven's Gate cult causes many Christians to ask how can people be led to such extremes. Cults surprise those who know Jesus as personal Savior.

But we should not be surprised. The Bible gives us the principle involved. *The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God* ... (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Holy Spirit leads us to Christ and to understanding the truth of Christ. So false teachings are clear to Christians and will be rejected.

The lesson teaches that the Spirit reveals the truth about Jesus to the world by convicting people of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Jesus spent the last night before his death preparing his disciples for his arrest, death, and resurrection. The disciples were bewildered and grief-stricken. They knew they were going to lose Jesus, and thought they would be abandoned to serve an absentee Lord. Jesus again promised to send the Holy Spirit to fill his place in their lives.

In this passage the role of the Holy Spirit is defined by *elegcho*, a single Greek verb with multiple meanings. The basic meaning is to expose, to convince, or convict. The word also may mean to awaken a person's conscience to guilt and lead the individual to change.

As Jesus' agent, both meanings apply here. The Holy Spirit exposes our guilt and wrongdoing, to lead us to turn from that guilt and wrongdoing.

The Spirit will convict humankind of sin, and Jesus explained that sin. The Spirit convicts the world that Jesus is God and that he is Lord. The sin is rejection of Jesus as the Christ. The lost world needs to know they are condemned to hell, not because they are bad, but because they have rejected Jesus, and that Christians won't go to heaven because we are good, but because we have trusted in Jesus as the Christ.

The Spirit convinces the world of righteousness. He will show that Jesus is the only way to have right standing with the Father.

The Spirit convinces the world of judgment. When Jesus died on the cross, Satan was defeated. The Spirit convinces people that judgment is certain because Satan was judged and defeated when Christ declared, *It is finished*.

In acting as Jesus' agent, the Spirit's work duplicates Jesus' work during his earthly ministry. Jesus spent much time teaching and guiding his disciples. In verse 13 we see the Holy Spirit will illuminate and guide us in understanding the truth in Jesus. When Jesus said, *He will show you things to come*, he wasn't referring to the Spirit giving predictions of the future. He was telling his disciples the Spirit would give them understanding about things about to take place.

Today the Spirit helps us understand the meaning and significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus is the truth, so the Spirit is not giving any new revelations. He is unfolding the truth already in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit indwells each believer, thus, believers can know for certain the truth about Christ and what he wants to do in their lives. We only need to surrender ourselves to his leading. Then, as we go out under his leadership, he will use our witness and will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

To Thyatira

By Larry Kirk

Focal Passage — Revelation 2:18-29

I remember the country western song entitled, "Mama Knows." The thesis was you cannot hide anything from Mama. I often have heard our children ask their mother or me, "How did you know?"

A parent's knowledge is nothing compared to God's knowledge of his people and churches. "I know" (v. 19) speaks of positive and negative knowledge. Our Lord first commended the church for its fine attributes. Verse 20 proves our Lord does not "grade on a curve." It is never acceptable to him for us to talk about our great deeds while walking in unconfessed sin.

The people were allowing a certain woman to lead them into compromise. She called herself "a prophetess" (v. 20). She demonstrated the same evil of Jezebel, Ahab's wife and was called by that name. She led people to mix worldly practices with holy worship, resulting in heresy. The church had become a religious club, not a Christian congregation.

Family Bible Lesson

There are spiritual lessons here for us. First, we must recognize there is a vast difference between a "claim" and a call. The prophetess' credentials are not verified by the spoken word, but rather by the obeyed word. There is no place in the church for false teaching. We need to prove people before we place them in positions of leadership.

Second, Christians must always accept responsibility for choices. Jezebel did not force anyone to follow her. Third, we must transfer the imagery. Most of us will never encounter sins mentioned in connection with worship. But we do violate the principle. What about those of us who see Sunday worship as separate from our work place? We pray to God on Sunday

and prey on people on Monday.

Despite the evil of Jezebel, God gave "space to repent" (v. 21). He looked past her faults and saw Satan as sin's author. She was a willing tool, and she must repent. When she refused, Jesus said, "I will cast her into a bed" for judgment not pleasure. Don't miss this point. Her pleasure would become her pain and death. The sin she enjoyed would destroy her. The same judgment awaits her followers.

Even in judgment, God always has a positive purpose. Verse 23 gives clear testimony to the power and authority of the one who "knows." He is triumphant. And so shall this victory be for those who have shunned the "depths of Satan" (v. 24). We may worship in the midst of carnal people, but only we can make ourselves carnal. God's promise of resurrection power assures us of victory in any circumstances.

Christ asks us to "hold fast until he returns" (v. 25). To those who do, he promises — power over nations (v. 26), ruling with the rod used by a shepherd for protection of the sheep. This reveals the rule of the Shepherd — King and his faithful people over fragile, broken people. Our Lord's first coming was with humility to an arrogant people. His second coming will be with power to a humiliated people. "Unto the end" (v. 26) reminds us that the Christian life is not a battle, but a campaign.

In a hostile environment filled with pagan values and practices, it is through faithful allegiance to Christ that enables us to share in the gift of the "Morning Star" (v. 28), even the Lord Jesus.

What is the Spirit of God saying today to your church? To you? ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



Bible study
for April 20



Bible study

God chooses to save

By Tim Holcomb

Focal Passage — Exodus 6:2-9

It's a man thing. You arrive at a new destination and instead of asking for directions, a man will keep looking until he is lost! Then comes the dilemma, admitting being lost and seeking a way to be found.

The people of Israel weren't sure if they were lost and subsequently not sure if they needed to be rescued or saved.

God came to the people of Israel to reconfirm his covenant with them. Exodus 6:3, *I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them. And I have also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.*

An interesting experience today is that most Americans live in the present-future and subsequently the past is minimized. Even the people of Israel had forgotten the past; how they had been connected to Yahweh God.

Therefore, they had forgotten about the promised land. The idea of being rescued from something to something was a cloudy reality.

Explore the Bible Lesson

What we can be sure of is that God is consistent. How he reveals himself in the future will be directly connected to how he has revealed himself over time. In other words, he has promised rescue and he will accomplish it.

The text continues ... *heard the groaning of the children of Israel; the children of Israel move from "willing workers" in Egypt to "bent in bondage," prisoners in Egypt.*

Now the groans of the Israelites are numerous. It appears that no one hears these groans. One of the great unanswered questions of life — what do we do until God acts?

This is where past oriented focus on God has a pay-off in the present, and ultimately the future. How God has acted in the past, he will act in the future. He is consistent.

Exodus 6:7 begins to clarify for the children of Israel. *And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burden of the Egyptians.* When a man finally stops and asks direc-

tions, there is hope of finding a way.

God speaks directly to the people of Israel about what he will do. Now this is a great rescue. God rescues the children of Israel; this is more than freedom from bondage it is a freedom to a promised land.

This is true in our salvation. When Christ set us free from our sins, rescues us from death, we are also set free to a different kind of living.

Salvation in Christ is more than eternal life: it is living a life of complete satisfaction, fulfilled in our fellowship with God.

So what? What about these truths?

A singular focus on current experience will only minimize our understanding of God's activity in our lives. It is easy to get lost when there is no frame of reference or familiarity. The same is true with God's activity in our lives.

Without an understanding of God's past working in our lives, we don't have a spiritual frame of reference for future activity.

God wants to rescue anyone in bondage. ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



Bible study



world news

Financial crunch forces GGBTS to close music school

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Despite emotional pleas from students and faculty, trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary voted April 8 to close the seminary's Dixon School of Church Music.

Trustees declared a "financial emergency" in the music school's operation and directed President William O. Crews to shut down the program effective July 31.

George Mullinax, trustee chairman from Virginia, termed the action "a tough decision that will enable the seminary to set the kinds of program priorities necessary to achieve its mission in the future."

Mullinax said the seminary "will make every effort to ensure students currently enrolled in the music programs can complete their courses of study at Golden Gate as suc-

cessfully as possible."

Music school professors complained they were not given adequate notice the school would be shut down.

Max Lyall, a Golden Gate professor for 23 years, said he learned the action would be considered just hours before the trustees voted.

Lyall declared the trustees would "be making a serious mistake" by shutting down the music program.

Crews said the financial emergency was not a new problem and had been discussed "informally" with the music school faculty. Eliminating the program "may not have been action we would have recommended," Crews said. But trustees determined decisive action was needed, he said.

During committee meetings before the trustees voted, seminary officials said rising costs combined with falling revenue from years of declining enrollment made closing the music school necessary. ■

FBC, Atlanta moves north

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — First Church here held its last Sunday worship service in the 68-year-old downtown facility April 6. All Bible studies and worship services will be held at the church's northside location.

The church still has not been able to sell its 12-acre site downtown. Plans call for the

church to maintain its ministries to the homeless in downtown Atlanta as well as to international and college students, according to Gearl Spicer, administrative pastor.

Also, Spicer said, FBC's "Wednesday night service and administrative offices will remain downtown for some time." ■

BSSB dusts off vocational guidance concept

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Vocational guidance, a concept dating back more than 30 years in Southern Baptist life, is being dusted off and revamped by the Baptist Sunday School Board's LeaderCare staff.

Neil Knierim, a pastor-staff department consultant, said a redesigned process, new computer software, improved referral systems, and fresh resources and events are being implemented to encourage people who feel called to Christian ministry and to help others mentor them.

People who want to register their interest in a Christian vocation may write to Vocational Guidance at 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., 37234-0166.

Information from the cards will be referred to the appropriate Southern Baptist organizations such as mission agencies or schools. ■

SBC Mission Day Camp planned

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Children attending Missions Day Camp during the 1997

Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 17-19, will be able to visit the Dallas Aquarium; experience hands-on, interactive experiments at The Science Place; view an exciting adventure on the wall-towall, floor-to-ceiling screen at the IMAX theater; and picnic on the Texas State Fair Grounds.

Other features will include a show from Bunny Martin, "the yo-yo guy," and a trip on the DART train to the Dallas Zoo.

The SBC Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades K-6 by camp time and whose parents are attending the annual meeting. It is

sponsored by the recreation ministry of First Church, Dallas, and coordinated by the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Parents who had children registered in Missions Day Camp last year will receive a pre-registration packet automatically.

Parents who did not have children in last year's day camp should call (214) 969-2447 for a pre-registration packet.

A three-day option of \$75 per child is available as well as a two-day option of \$60 per child or a 1-day option of \$40 per child.

SBC Missions Day Camp provides a missions education program for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention annual meeting (Tuesday through Thursday). ■



Gifts increase at Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Total gifts to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for Aug. 1, 1996-Feb. 28 were up 15.8 percent from the same period last year, according to Rodney Geno, director of devel-

opment records and research at Southwestern. Aug. 1 is the beginning of the seminary's fiscal year.

Significant gains also were noted in planned giving — gifts and pledges increased from \$775,186 to \$5,178,318 thanks to a planned gift of \$4.3 million from a scholarship in honor of Mrs. Vyrdelee Brooks of Roswell, Ga. ■

Missionary's farm ministry shares power of a simple idea

By Erich Bridges
For Baptist Press

KINUSKUSAN, Philippines — Genius is often achieved by the patient, persistent pursuit of a simple idea. That's what Thomas Edison meant when he talked about 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Harold Watson is no genius (in his own estimation, at least). He's not the most patient guy in the world, either. He says he's just a Mississippi farm boy who felt the call to share Jesus overseas before he knew what an agricultural missionary was. Almost everyone who knows him well calls him a visionary, but that makes him uncomfortable. "Maybe a little vision," he allows. "I'm just curious."

Perhaps. But it's a curiosity that keeps him up at night searching agricultural publications for new ideas, though he's less than a year from retirement. It keeps him walking through fields with farmers — bending to knead soil in his fingers, making suggestions for better production.

It also keeps him on the road or in the air most of the time these latter days of his missionary career. He hurries to meet government officials, devel-

opment workers, or anyone else who will listen to the ideas behind SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology), the simple but effective method he developed to help hungry upland farmers grow more food and stop soil erosion.

Plenty of people are listening now, because SALT works. It works because salt-of-the-earth people — illiterate farmers, for instance — can understand and apply it. It works because it is simple, unlike many of the big development projects carried out over the years by governments and relief agencies. Watson and his team started teaching "appropriate technology" among the poor long before it became fashionable.

"Sometimes the Lord gives a brilliantly simple idea," observes missionary Linda Pegram, one of the Rural Life Center team members. "But sometimes you have to work years to get simple." Like Edison's countless failures on the way to the light bulb, or Jonas Salk's search for the polio vaccine.

One day the answer comes; the light switches on. It seems almost self-evident at that moment. But some "self" has to make it evident to the rest of us. Such is the gift of people like Watson.

These are productive days for the ministry of the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, which Watson founded in 1971. What kept the staff going during the hard years? Faith. A lot of prayer. And Watson's gift for seeing over the next hill.

"Mr. Watson kept telling me about this dream to help the farmers, the grass-roots people," remembers Rod Calixtro, the Watsons' first full-time colleague at the center. "That man is a dreamer."

He's also persistent, stubborn if necessary, in pursuit of a goal.

Tennessee native Sam Stallings, administrator of Southern Baptist mission work on Mindanao, calls Watson "one of the best missionary thinkers we have. He stimulates others to think of creative ways of doing things, to dream dreams. He's always been ahead of his time. That will have a lasting impact on our work."

One measure of that impact: About 70 percent of the 1,200-plus Baptist churches on the island are led by graduates of Rural Life Center training programs.

Despite his busy schedule traveling around Asia, Watson still oversees several local "impact areas" on Mindanao where SALT is being applied. "You

don't want to lose touch with the people," he cautions.

Whenever possible, he climbs behind the wheel of his four-wheel-drive, puts some country Gospel music on the tape player and heads down the road. Drive with him through large areas, and you're likely to see a SALT project around almost any curve.

But countless Asian hills and their hungry residents remain unreached by SALT — or by the Gospel. That bothers Watson.

The lives of half a billion poor people could be revolutionized if SALT technologies could be applied throughout the world's tropical uplands, Watson estimates. Suffering, forgotten people. Lost people who need to know Jesus. As his retirement at the end of 1997 approaches, "I see so many things I wanted to do that aren't done."

But the ideas he has pioneered will go on. SALT gives millions of farm families the simple tools they need to survive — and rescue their land from death by erosion. It also enables missionaries and Baptists to introduce those families to the simplest and most powerful idea of all: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son ..." ■