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Tennessee WMU honors Bryan

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — Members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union honored retiring Executive Director Katharine Bryan and learned Carrol Kelly will be interim executive director during their annual meeting.

A record 1,775 women attended the session held in conjunction with the annual Missions Get-Together held here April 11-13.

Bryan, a native Tennessean, will retire July 4 after serving 12 years as the fifth executive director-treasurer of Tennessee WMU.

The Tennessee WMU Executive Board, at its April 11 meeting, established an endowed scholarship fund in honor of Bryan.

The fund was announced during the annual meeting on Saturday. "In searching for an appropriate way to honor Katharine for the wonderful way she has led us these 12 years, we considered many things," said Tennessee WMU President Carol Richardson of First Church, Memphis.

"We know Katharine has a great appreciation for education and a deep love for missions. With these thoughts in mind, the Executive Board of Tennessee WMU is working with the WMU, SBC Foundation to establish the Katharine C. Bryan Scholarship," Richardson said.

ardson said.

Women attending the Missions Get-Together contributed \$4,607 that evening to begin the endowment fund.

When the corpus of the fund reaches, \$25,000 scholarships will be awarded on yet to be determined criteria.

Bryan also was presented a framed stained glass world and a reception was held in her honor Saturday evening.

During the WMU meeting the Executive Board also announced Carrol Kelly, a Tennessee WMU staff member since 1985, will serve as interim executive director, effective July 5.



KELLY

Kelly, a native of Hamilton, Texas, has served on the state WMU staffs of Florida and Missouri and was on the national WMU staff in Birmingham, Ala., before coming to Tennessee WMU.

She is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

National WMU President Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., challenged Tennessee women to make a difference in the world.

Lee encouraged older WMU members to pass on the missions vision to the oncoming



KATHARINE BRYAN, center, was honored by current Tennessee WMU President Carol Richardson, second from right, and three former WMU presidents who have served with Bryan: Ruth McNabb, left, of Marion, N.C.; Judy Trivette, Knoxville, second from left, and Carol Pharris, right, of Lebanon.

generation of young women.

Anne Davis of Louisville, Ky., interpreted the meeting's theme of "Embracing the World."

She observed that the challenge for ministry in the years ahead will be ministering to three primary groups: the poor, the elderly, and victims of violence.

In her concluding remarks on Sunday, Davis reminded participants they may not always understand God's call or may never live to see the results, but to keep on serving God and responding to his call.

In her final report as executive director, Bryan noted 1996 was a good year for Tennessee WMU "because we labored together with God."

Bryan cited adult organizations who realized their "potential with uninvolved women and reached out in creative and risky ways. The result was multi-groups responding to missions education at various levels," she said.

Richardson was re-elected to a second term as WMU president along with recording secretary Phyllis Finchum of Beaver Creek Church, Strawberry Plains.

Vice presidents elected were Peggy Bell, White Hall Church, Trenton, west; JoAnn Wortham, North Fork Church, Shelbyville, middle; and Kathy Davis, Pine Ridge Church, Harriman, east. ■ — Carrol Kelly of Tennessee WMU contributed to this report.

Church secretaries gather for career development, enrichment



RE-ELECTED AS OFFICERS of the Tennessee Baptist Church Secretaries Association were, from left, front row, Susar Gamble, Kingsport, East Tennessee representative; Pat McGill, Harriman, secretary/treasurer; Marie Keel, Savannah, West Tennessee representative; back row, Barbara Seaborn, Nashville, Middle Tennessee representative; Millie Badgett, Knoxville, vice president; Cathey Williams, Antioch, president; and Sarah Farmer, Johnson City, ex officio.

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — One hundred and forty-four church secretaries from all across Tennessee gathered at the Baptist Center last week for a time of career development, personal enrichment, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the Tennessee Baptist Church Secretaries Association.

Conferences during the three-day meeting focused on the theme, "Vessels of Mercy and Service."

The secretaries conference is an annual event sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group with Lana Rose as coordinator. ■

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HMB, Brotherhood employees learn of NAMB status

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Professional staff members at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission are learning if they have new assignments with the North American Mission Board.

About 80 people were invited to attend a one-hour meeting April 16 in which they were offered positions in the new agency, to be created in June by a merger of the HMB, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio & Television Commission.

Those 80 invitees included at least 11 Brotherhood Commission staffers, who were notified two days before the meeting, and given airline tickets from Memphis to Atlanta to attend.

About 50 professional staff members from the HMB have not been offered positions with

NAMB. Of those, a few are retiring, but most remain in limbo.

According to HMB spokesman Martin King, some of those as yet uninformed could be alternate choices for positions that have been offered to someone else first.

"We have been told there is a large group of people who are alternates for positions," King explained. "So they're making offers first to these people who were in the meeting yesterday. We've been told they have alternates for every position."

In addition to the 80 existing HMB and Brotherhood staff members already offered jobs, the implementation task force overseeing creation of the new agency reportedly is offering jobs to about 40 people not presently working for one of the existing agencies.

Existing staff members of-

News conference slated for Thursday

ATLANTA — A news conference to discuss all developments concerning NAMB with the press will be held April 24 at New Hope Church in nearby Fayetteville.

Scheduled to be present are Bob Reccord, who was expected to tell his church April 20 that he is being recommended for the NAMB presidency; Bill Hogue of the Implementation Task Force; John Yarborough, who chairs the ITF; and SBC president Tom El-liff. ■

ferred positions have five days to accept or reject the offers. Apparently, no professional staff members offered new positions will qualify for severance benefits if they reject the jobs offered. Severance benefits are available only to those terminated or those offered positions at a reduced pay level. Those attending the April 16 meeting were told no one in that group would receive a reduced salary, even if the new position offered

is at a lower level than the person's current position.

While some employees were offered positions similar to their current positions, others were assigned to entirely different areas. Some HMB employees described the effect as "fruit-basket turnover."

No figures have been released on the total number of HMB support staff members terminated or offered new positions. ■

FMB trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties

For *Baptist and Reflector*

RICHMOND — Surgoinsville native Whitney Johnson Mathis and her husband, Mark, minister to students at Englewood Church, Jackson, since 1994, have been appointed as missionaries to South Africa.

Mathis, a native of Florida who was reared in Mississippi, will start and develop churches in South Africa and together the couple will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries

Mrs. Mathis is the daughter of Hugh Kyle and Delores Johnson of Surgoinsville. She considers First Church there her home church. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

They have three children: Caleb Johnson, Seth Aaron, and Paul Houston.

Also appointed with Tennessee ties were Mark and Judy Harvey who were reappointed. They will serve in the Philippines. Harvey is a former youth editor for the

Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. His parents, Jim and Val Harvey of Franklin, are retired BSSB employees.

Two other appointees are graduates of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown: Mike McDaniel and John H. Crocker. McDaniel and his wife, Lori, will serve in Zambia while Crocker and his wife, Suzanne, will live in Togo.

These missionaries are among the last group appointed by the Foreign Mission Board before it becomes the International Mission Board in June. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

April

23 — Pray for Pastor Craig O'Brien and Cityview Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, as they sponsor a children's Bible club this summer.

24 — Pray for Herman McDonald in Warren, Mich. who is suffering from complications from diabetes.

25 — Praise God for the spiritual awakening that took place among young people at a recent youth camp in Costa Rica.

26 — Pray for Torun Church in Poland. A construction team is needed for their rustic youth camp.

27 — Pray for Pastor Vincent Paul and the East Indian Mission of Royal Heights Church in British Columbia as they seek to see 50 new converts this year.

28 — Pray for the pastor search committee of Warren Woods Church, Warren, Mich.

29 — Praise God for the people who attended the recent *Experiencing God* Bible study group in San Jose, Costa Rica.

State associations select DOMs

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Two new directors of missions, both former Southern Baptist missionaries, began work in Tennessee in April.

Don Pierson began duties April 1 at William Carey Association.

A native of Illinois, Pierson is a graduate of Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Pierson was pastor of First Church, Linden,

N.C., prior to serving as a missionary along with his wife, Patricia, to Belize from 1990-97.

Roger Stacy accepted the call of Central Association, effective April 14.

A native of Pontotoc, Miss., Stacy is a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served as pastor of several churches in Mississippi and was a home missionary in Utah and South Dakota. He, and his wife, Penny, served as foreign missionaries to Brazil and the Ukraine from 1986-97. ■

Belmont profs study church accounting procedures

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Three Belmont University accounting professors — Tommy Wooten, John Coker, and Jim Jamieson — are working on a study to determine what accounting and financial management practices Tennessee Baptist churches are using. They have the support of Gary Rickman, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Staff Leadership Group.

"Pastors and church leaders tell us that the accounting, payroll, budgeting, reporting, taxes, risk of loss, and other financial management aspects

of church administration can be overwhelming," Wooten said.

"While most churches do an adequate job of managing their finances, our experience has shown us there is much room for improvement and most churches eagerly desire methods by which to improve their processes.

"We want to gather information about the financial management procedures and policies of TBC churches so that we can share recommendations and improvement ideas," Wooten said.

A four-page survey is being sent out this month to church

treasurers of approximately 2,000 churches. The survey should only take 10 minutes to complete and can be returned in a postage paid envelop, Wooten said.

Wooten noted results would be compiled in a book on church accounting and financial management and that each church that responds will receive a free copy of the book when published.

The Belmont professor stressed all information will be treated confidentially.

For more information or for treasurers who did not receive a survey, call Wooten at (615) 460-6484. ■

Fallout of video poker evidenced in people's lives

By C. Lacy Thompson
For Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — The mounting fallout of video poker in Louisiana — the state where it is most accessible — is evidencing itself in statistics and, moreover, people's lives.

Formerly approved statewide by the Louisiana legislature, video poker received favorable votes to continue in 31 of the state's 64 parishes in last November's election.

Statistics warn of a looming catastrophe from Louisiana's foray into video poker:

(1) As many as 159,000 Louisiana residents are problem or pathological gamblers.

(2) Problem gamblers in Louisiana spend about twice as much of their income on video poker as their counterparts in other states.

(3) Gambling is especially a problem among 18- to 21-year-olds in the state.

Still more graphic, however, are the stories of people over-run with gambling debt.

Reece Middleton knows many of the stories. As executive director of the Louisiana Association of Compulsive Gambling in Shreveport, he knows of people thousands and thousands of dollars in debt, people who have lost families and homes, people who have squandered all and find themselves at the point of complete despair. Where do these people

go for help?

Where, indeed? Unfortunately, in Louisiana, resources to help people with gambling problems are sorely lacking, Middleton said.

Many people, however, do not see the problem, even those in the church, he said. Speak of alcohol addiction or drug addiction, and it is pretty clear the differences a chemical makes in a person's body. But gambling addiction does not necessitate outside chemicals. It is harder to understand. It is easier to dismiss as simply a problem of weak will.

"But it is an addiction," Middleton insisted. "It does exist." Indeed, there are numerous similarities between compulsive gambling and substance abuse, Middleton noted. For instance, both involve an inability to stop, denial, severe depression and mood swings, and preoccupation with the activity. Compulsive gamblers remember their first win just like alcoholics remember their first drink, both using their activities as a means of escaping pain.

There are differences as well — and those make gambling addiction even scarier in some ways. For instance, compulsive gambling is a hidden addiction. Compulsive gamblers cannot be tested in a scientific way and can continue to function at the employment site despite their addiction. In addition, there is no overdose

point, no saturation mark for a compulsive gambler. The problem can get bigger and bigger and create tremendous financial problems — often in a relatively short time.

Indeed, video poker is especially insidious at this point. A "big" win on a video poker machine is \$500. For a compulsive gambler, that is not very big — and does not go far in offsetting losses. That is why Middleton and others are seeing speeded-up cycles of gambling addiction. Many people are not enjoying a true winning phase but are moving straight to the losing phase and quickly into the desperation phase.

Once there, they find the most disturbing difference between other addictions and gambling — the lack of resources and understanding of the problem.

Middleton is determined to change that. He is working through his organization to educate Louisiana leaders and encourage the Louisiana legislature to set aside adequate money to help those hurt by gambling. Middleton and his group do not take a stand on gambling as right or wrong but simply seek to help those hurt by the activity.

Middleton pointed out the state sets aside portions of oil money for pollution control

and portions of alcohol money for treatment centers. "Why can't we do the same with gambling? Whatever your view of gambling is, some people have real trouble with it. ... And it's only fair that those who benefit from it help those who have trouble with it."

And it is only logical the church get involved as well, Middleton and others said.

Churches already play a front-line role with many people in trouble. And with so few other resources available, churches can expect to encounter even more than their share of persons whose lives are

falling apart because of gambling.

To become involved, churches can offer Gamblers Anonymous groups and support groups for family members affected by gambling, for example, Middleton said. Meanwhile, leaders must learn how to recognize addictive behavior and where to refer persons who need help.

In Mississippi, Dick Langford has the Mississippi Council on Compulsive Gambling to host training seminars for church leaders about how to recognize addictive behavior and how to help.

The problem of addressing gambling addiction now is a critical one, Langford insisted,

noting 13-year-old kids are getting involved in gambling and no one knows how bad the situation will get. "We don't know," Middleton agreed. "We've never had a proliferation of gambling like this."

However, Langford and Middleton do know how insidious compulsive gambling is — and what kind of personal, family, financial, work, and relationship difficulties it can cause.

"When you're gambling-addicted, you carry your addiction with you everyday," Langford said, holding up a credit card and several folded bills. "The person with the gambling problem has the substance of it with him or her every day."

"And that makes it that much harder to deal with."

Left unaddressed, the problem will escalate. Newspapers periodically report instances of murder as a result of gambling woes. And Middleton noted suicides for compulsive gamblers are 6 percent higher than among alcoholics.

But it does not have to get that far to be disastrous, Middleton said. "If it causes a problem, it is a problem. If there's a problem created by one's gambling behaviors in any area of life and the gambling behavior continues nonetheless, that is a problem."

The solution is to find help. ■



SBC messenger cards available

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Messenger cards for the Southern Baptist Convention have been mailed to association offices throughout Tennessee.

Contact your local director of missions for more information. ■

Japan leaders credit Southern Baptists

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Seventeen years ago, Virginia Highfill, now a retired Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary, spoke at Hiro Sakamaki's church in Japan.

During that worship service, Sakamaki heard God's call to be a pastor. Seven years ago, after graduating from the Baptist seminary in Japan, a California Baptist church called him to be pastor of its Japanese mission.

In July — still living out Highfill's impact on his life — the 35-year-old will leave his pastorate and return to Japan as the first-ever director of Japanese Baptists' foreign missions program.

"I have an interest in foreign missions because Miss Highfill

came to my church as a missionary, and it was a good experience to me," said Sakamaki. In mid-April he attended a session at the Missionary Learning Center near Richmond where Foreign Mission Board missionaries prepare for work overseas.

With Sakamaki was Junichiro Naito, Japanese Baptists' general secretary, who appointed Sakamaki to his new post. Naito thanked Southern Baptists for sending missionaries.

"The history of our convention being only 50 years old, Japanese Baptists still have little experience sending out missionaries," Naito said. "That is why we are here in Richmond — to gain a wider vision and receive from the accumulated experience of Southern Baptists in foreign missions." ■

HMB prepares for NAMB in final meeting

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board held the agency's final full board meeting April 16, taking several actions in preparation for the new North American Mission Board.

On June 19, NAMB will assume the work of the 152-year-old Home Mission Board, along with the Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission as part of the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

HMB directors approved a resolution requesting board members who will serve incomplete terms due to dissolution of the agency be considered as "prospective nominees for future service as trustees for NAMB when appropriate opportunities for service become available." The resolution requested names of those people be submitted to the SBC Executive Committee and Committee on Nominations.

The board also passed a res-

olution encouraging the Implementation Task Force overseeing the restructuring and NAMB trustees to increase "personnel, missionaries, and monies spent" on SBC work among ethnics and African Americans. Recommended by the board's committee which oversees church starting, the resolution cited growth in language and black churches as justification.

Another resolution authorized the HMB's administrative or executive committee to act on behalf of the full board in matters necessary for dissolution of the agency and creation of the new North American Mission Board.

Ernest Kelley, HMB interim president, reported preparation for the new agency "led us to ask the most probing and difficult questions about our purposes, programs, and employees."

He said a number of issues have given him the ability to deal with termination of HMB employees, "not the least of which is the conviction that Southern Baptists must be

more focused on reaching our nation for Christ. The North American Mission Board will do that."

Kelley also told the board. "I have also been strengthened knowing that we have used a fair and equitable process ... that we are offering a generous severance package ... and that the (severances) will not affect our missionary force."

Kelley also commended the board and HMB management staff for their good stewardship. "The new agency will begin with a strong financial picture because of the generous support of Southern Baptists and the stewardship of this board and management."

In other actions, directors approved 22 new home missionaries, endorsed 119 chaplains, and voted to return Utah Missions, a previously independent ministry, to its founder. The ministry, which monitors and produces educational material about the false doctrines of Mormonism, became a subsidiary of the HMB in 1991. ■

Belmont SPOTS team shares Christ's love

By Rachel Springer
Special to Baptist and Reflector

Editor's Note: The following is a first-person account by Rachel Springer, a Belmont University junior and president of the Baptist Student Union.

CHARLESTON, S.C. — This year we traveled to sunny Charleston — all 21 of us — to have a good time showing the love of Jesus during our spring break.

Belmont students, led by campus minister Dane Anthony, and other college groups assisted a ministry called Charleston Outreach, a part of the Charleston Baptist Association that sponsors several different ministries to the people of "the Holy City," as Charleston is known.

Each day began bright and early. Armed with Skin-So-Soft, hammers, and nail pouches, students were challenged to be motivated by Christ's love. The theme for the week was

Isaiah 58 which speaks of the blessings God grants as we give ourselves to the hungry, the afflicted, and the homeless.

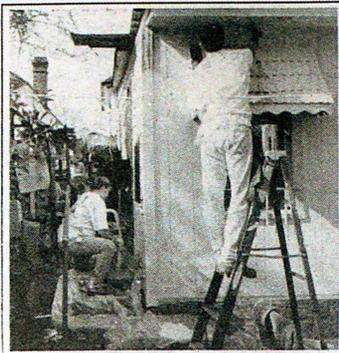
We worked on two homes on Dingle Street owned by two elderly women. They were entertained all week, by our laughing, shouting, scraping, glazing, pounding, falling, caulking, singing, and painting.

We were able to talk with neighbors and fellowship with each other while we worked and somehow by the end of the week there were two beautifully painted and sealed houses because of our team efforts.

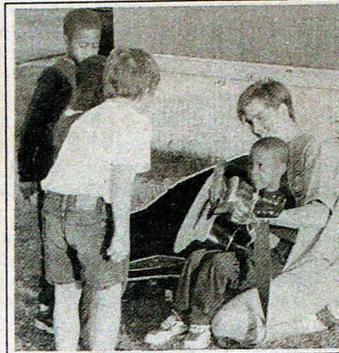
The week contained more than construction work, however. After showering away all

the paint and dirt of the day's work we went to two multi-housing sites to do a Vacation Bible School-type ministry with the children.

We spent time loving, teaching, and entertaining almost 50 children who desperately needed all the love we could give.



BELMONT STUDENTS Jacquie Wilson, left, and Brian Bauman apply a fresh coat of paint to a home on Dingle Street in Charleston, S.C.



BRIAN HARVEY, a junior at Belmont University in Nashville, shares his love for music with some of Charleston's inner city children.

By the end of the week, the children literally would not let go of us. It was amazing and overwhelming to see how much love they needed, and to consider that the Father wants all of us to have faith like a child.

It was a great time to spend with the Lord and with each other. ■

Holston Valley team builds church in Venezuela

For Baptist and Reflector

ROGERSVILLE — A volunteer mission team from Holston Valley Association has returned from a mission trip to Venezuela.

The team, the first association-wide team in the history of the association, shared in an evangelistic outreach and helped to erect a building for the Palo Gordo Baptist Church in San Cristobal.

The mission committee of Holston Valley, comprised of Mark Dance, chairman; Denny Sorah, John Parrott Sr., Ronell Owensby, and Director of Missions John Parrott Jr., convened early last year to seek a place of need where the association could make a difference.

When they learned the newly established Palo Gordo Church was meeting in a rented garage building, with no place to go when the rental contract expired, the committee was led to focus their attention there.

The effort was named "Mission '97 Venezuela" and the association adopted a goal of raising \$25,000 for the cost of construction materials and began to form a team to go as mission volunteers.

The effort soon took wings, with one of the rallying points being the possibility of the team getting to visit the James Hensleys, a couple from the association who recently were appointed missionaries to Venezuela.

The response of the churches in the association was overwhelming as they gave \$35,794 and 34 people responded as volunteers, assuming their individual trip expenses.

Team members were:

Glen Bradley, Charles Lowe, Maple Hill; George Baker, Tammy Baker, Donald Chapman, Paul Chinery, Elmer Dockery, David Harrell, James Hurd, Sharon Hurd, Ridgeview;

Denny Sorah, Patsy Sorah, O.B. Bailey,

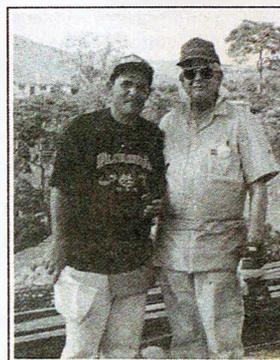


HOLSTON VALLEY ASSOCIATION volunteers help to construct a building for Palo Gordo Church in San Cristobal, Venezuela.

Choptack; Harold Stroud, Morrisetts Chapel; George Bradley Jr., Keplar; Ed Cuthrell, Terry Whitson, Caney Creek; Roger Smith, Lyons Park; Rod Jones, Henards Chapel; Benny Keck, Oak Grove; Rodney Lane, James Shackelford, Ginger Shackelford, FBC, Church Hill; Clyde Bowers, Hugh Kyle Johnson, FBC Surgoinville; and Bill Arms, Jack Davis, Gladys Davis, Michael Norman, Ronell Owensby, Clifford Peach, Juan Roldan, Lynn Stewart, Sarah Stewart, FBC, Rogersville.

During the two weeks in Venezuela the Holston Valley team joined with members of Palo Gordo Church in helping to erect their church building. They also visited homes near the church with their Venezuelan brothers and sisters. The visitation thrust was in preparation for an evangelistic crusade planned as part of the team's itinerary.

The crusade services were held at the construction site with team members giv-



TEAM LEADER Ronell Owensby, right, of Rogersville, confers with Eron Breceno, building chairman of Palo Gordo Church.



VENEZUELANs welcome Holston Valley volunteers to their country.

ing their testimonies and assisting with the music. The five pastors on the team — Glenn Bradley, Ed Cuthrell, Benny Keck, Ronell Owensby, and George Bradley Jr. — served as crusade evangelists.

More than 30 people publicly declared their faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Julio Ruiz, co-pastor of Palo Gordo, observed, "The hearts of the people in the Andes, who have long resisted the claims of the Gospel, are now open to hear the message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ." ■



Tennessee features

God changes Mt. Juliet youth

For Baptist and Reflector

MT. JULIET — During a recent revival at Silver Springs Church here 15 young people gave their lives to Christ.

"It was truly a movement of God," said youth pastor David Lambert.

The church held a youth night on Wednesday of the revival and held a "pizza blast." Lambert had not planned to push the event because he had planned "A Time To Tell" outreach for the following Saturday. Yet, Silver Springs youth and adults spread the word and gave out tickets to the pizza blast.

That morning Lambert prayed the Lord would draw youth to him that night. And, he did.

Fifty-one youth showed up for the pizza blast, double what was expected, Lambert said. "I had to order 10 more pizzas. I can't describe what it was like to see so many new faces. Twenty-four were first-time visitors."

Revival pastor Morris Anderson of First Church, Pigeon Forge, talked with the youth during the pizza blast and several made decisions there, Lambert said.

During the invitation at the end of the revival service, more decisions were made for Christ.

"We were excited and rejoiced to say the least," he said, noting the church plans to follow up with the young people and their families. ■

C-N meeting considers 21st century church

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — As the 21st century approaches, the expectations of ministers and the role of the church will be redefined.

A conference at Carson-Newman College May 1-2 will bring together people to explore the church of the new millennium.

Keynote speaker will be Leonard Sweet, author of the best-selling book, *FaithQuakes*.

Conference fees are \$68 including meals, \$92 including single occupancy lodging, or \$115 including double occupancy lodging. Reservations are required. Call (615) 471-3245 for more information. ■

Twelve reasons to oppose lottery

Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Commission is very helpful in combatting gambling of all kinds, and lotteries specifically.

The commission has distributed 12 reasons to oppose the lottery. We offer them to Tennessee Baptists since the General Assembly will act on lottery issues this term most likely.

1. Lottery changes the values of the state from a work ethic to a "chance ethic."

2. Lottery diverts dollars from goods and service to lottery tickets. Some retail merchants in lottery states are appalled at the flow of dollars away from their merchandise to lottery tickets.

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

3. Lottery does not create new jobs for the state, it only redistributes a few. Money spent on lottery is money that would have been spent (and taxed) or spent (and invested).

4. The state's awarding of lottery agent license interferes with free enterprise.

5. The state becomes a "bookie," as it takes the active role in promotion and advertising.

6. The lottery is a state monopoly that competes with free enterprise. The state, through the lottery, becomes a direct competitor with the private section or for the consumer dollar.

7. Illegal numbers games continue to flourish, even with legal lotteries. (And in Tennessee, the state attorney general has ruled that removing the lottery

ban from the state's constitution would allow other kinds of gambling.)

8. The chance of winning is exceedingly low. Of all gambling games, lotteries offer the worst odds for the better. Odds for winning the jackpot are astronomical. A person has a better chance of being hit by lightning than of winning a major lottery prize.

9. The lottery is an uneven and unpredictable source of state revenue.

10. States have a "built-in" temptation to "tilt" games in their favor. States can easily change the odds when they change some games, thus raising the odds.

Some tips for parents about gambling

Parents have many responsibilities. In today's parenting, it is extremely important that parents know what to tell their children about gambling.

Parents should carefully explain the dangers in gambling. And parents must set the example, to avoid anything that could be seen as a form of gambling.

Here are some tips for parents — from Kentucky's *Western Recorder*:

■ Pay attention to gambling issues and legislation.

■ Write your state and local representatives and senators, and speak out against gambling whenever possible.

■ Don't gamble personally in any form. Kicking in a quarter, 50 cents, or a dollar on a race or party, or to any office pool on game results, silently but

11. The lottery exploits the poor. A California study showed that four of every ten players were unemployed. Other studies amplify facts that most of those who bet cannot afford to wager.

12. The lottery creates new gamblers.

These are good arguments against the lottery. *B&R*

editorial/
opinion

surely conveys the message that gambling is all right.

■ Teach your children the value of working for what they want (and need), and the importance of delayed gratification and self-control. (This combats the "quick fix for everything.")

■ Look for opportunities to talk with your children about the true nature of gambling and the problems it creates. Balance the glitz and glamour of the come-on stories with lives ruined and promises broken.

■ Know what you believe about gambling. Christians oppose gambling on a biblical basis for many reasons, including the fact that gambling preys on those who can least afford to lose, promotes behavior that is often destructive to individuals and families, and plays to materialistic and hedonistic tendencies which are, at the bottom line, sinful. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Lady to tax assessor, at church: "Can you spare me a minute? I need to know who owns the house next to mine."

Tax assessor: "Why don't you call me at my office tomorrow?"

Lady: "Oh no, no. I don't want to bother you at work."

Take this truth

People will waste our time if we let them. There are always things to talk about, and sometimes the talking can turn into just plain gossiping.

Let's be careful that we don't waste other people's time.

Memorize this Scripture

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver — Proverbs 25:11.

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me, rather than losing my temper, to get away quickly from those who waste my time or say inappropriate things to me.

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

When nothing else will suffice but simple silence

It is a common belief that most older people gradually lose their hearing ability — as they advance into the golden years.

That's at least partially true, because, as a pastor friend has shared with me, we all start the dying process when we are born. But that's not bad — we all face that. It is how we face it that matters.

For example, most men begin losing their hair much sooner than they would like. I have noticed that a little rain shower reminds me that my head covering is much thinner than it once was.

We change in many ways.

Some folks seem to believe it is necessary to speak louder to older people, to address them at close range so they can see the speaker, and hear the speaker.

When people retire, for instance, many are elated that they no longer have to submit to a dress code that requires "dress up" clothing. So they don't.

Younger folks also expect the "old

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

timers" to forget easily, to fail to remember what they heard yesterday. My theory is they have lived longer and have more to remember. There's not space for all of it.

I've done some informal surveying.

Most of them have worked long and hard, some under difficult situations. Some have had to change their interests to suit the interests of the company.

But if you want to really understand this group — believe them when they say they don't miss the hubbub of office time. They don't miss the horrors of daily commuting in traffic that would amaze race car drivers. They don't miss the awkwardness of that day when the boss suggested they "deserve" to rest.

I also have learned they don't turn

sour, they are interested in helping others, they enjoy quality time with family and friends, they want to be productive. They have time!

Most of all, I think they just feel blessed with simple silence — quiet time. I read Pastor Charles Brown's newsletter column last week, as he shared his deep belief in simple silence. My friend reminded me of a time when several of us, deacons all, spent a couple of hours during a retreat, just being quiet with the Lord.

Oh, amazing things happened as we opened our empty hearts to the presence of the Holy Spirit. For myself, I was content not to obstruct his pathway to my soul with my own wisdom.

As I read, I also remembered my friends who are finding that deep sense of abiding in him, him only. Quiet time, simple silence, waiting before him, listening for the next step.



ALLEN

What is an adequate liability insurance?

families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

driving mistakes every week, but we are better. Interestingly, the difference between the premium cost for \$100,000 coverage is small compared to \$25,000.

In innumerable auto cases that I have handled, a \$25,000 liability policy did not even pay a significant amount of actual loss. Medical bills alone frequently exceed \$25,000.

When pain and suffering, lost wages, or perhaps the death of another driver or passenger are added, liability can reach a huge figure.

A driver or vehicle owner can discover to his dismay that his home, bank account, and other assets are vulnerable.

Therefore, I believe the absolute bare minimum liability coverage should be \$100,000. Even more coverage or an umbrella policy would be better. Interestingly, the difference between the premium cost for \$100,000 coverage is small compared to \$25,000.

Protecting one's family, and quite possibly some injured person in the future, by purchasing this additional coverage is an application of Biblical wisdom.

"The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it" — Proverbs 27:12.

I will address the question of adequate uninsured and underinsured automobile coverage in a future column. ■



SCARBOROUGH



WOOD

Another Macedonian call — it's Rio de Janeiro

Executive Board slated to discuss partnership with Carioca Baptists

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

RIO DE JANEIRO — Popular songs and Hollywood movies about this great city were virtually useless to five Tennessee Baptists who flew here April 2 and returned to Tennessee April 8.

We went to this major Brazilian city to work — though the beauty of the place and its people could have made that difficult.

A five-member advance, or survey team, met for several days with missionary leaders, and local Baptist leaders. It was "love" at first sight.

The team was led by Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership Missions specialist, himself a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil.

Joining Sharp were Herbert Higdon, retired Jackson pastor and current TBC president; Bill Northcott, pastor of First Church, Covington, and chairman of the Executive Committee; Gene Cotey, retired Murfreesboro pastor and current Executive Board president; and Wm. Fletcher Allen, *Baptist and Reflector* editor.

Our purpose was to meet with Carioca Baptist Convention leaders and pastors, and FMB missionaries — to study the possibilities of a Partnership Mission.

We quickly learned that Rio was much more than the stunning beauty of Sugar Loaf Mountain and the magnitude of Christ the Savior, the statue that looks down from another hillside on the city with outstretched arms.

Rio de Janeiro, we learned, is more than millions of auto-

mobiles, buses, and trucks — spewing out overwhelming amounts of pollution.

Rio, the megalopolis that boasts star-spangled nights, flower-strewn hillsides, and beaches beyond description — well, above all else, Rio is people.

Almost a hundred years ago, Southern Baptists went to Brazil in the name of Jesus Christ. They planted the Word, their testimonies of faith, the ministry of salvation, and a century later, Brazilian Baptists work within sound organization on a solid foundation.

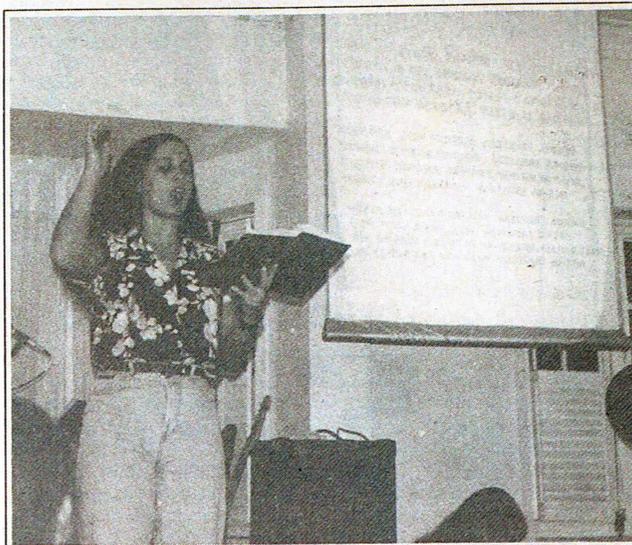
God's Word did not fall on rocky soil. Some seed fell on fertile ground, and it has been watered and nourished.

The Brazilian Baptist Convention was formed in 1907. Now the convention has almost one million members and nearly 5,000 churches. And the Baptists of Rio de Janeiro have a convention within a convention.

The Carioca Baptist Convention encompasses most of Rio, with 12 associations and 378 churches and 90 more congregations.

The convention relates to the Brazilian Baptist Convention, and has home and foreign missionaries, plus a seminary and many other institutions similar to those in Tennessee.

We arrived in Rio Thursday morning after an all night flight. Though the next five days were hectic, the team, led by Rio area Southern Baptist missionaries, were able to get



MUSIC PLAYS a leading role in Brazilian churches. In this evening service at Horto Mission, in a "slum" area of Rio de Janeiro, the song leader exhorts the congregation in praise songs. A youth group led the instrumental accompaniment. Horto, though a mission, is growing and trying to reach the community. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

some ideas about a possible partnership mission with Carioca Convention.

We stayed in guest rooms of a mission complex where several missionaries reside.

Host missionaries were Elizabeth Oates of Memphis, and Marilois Kirksey, Abilene, Texas.

Oates is director of evangelism and missions for Carioca Convention (Baptist State Convention of Rio de Janeiro).

Kirksey is interim executive officer of South Brazil missions and social work consultant for the Brazilian home mission board.

They were part of a team that met with the Tennessee Baptists to discuss the partnership feasibility. They also showed us examples of possible projects and introduced us to the City of Rio, and some of the Carioca pastors and churches.

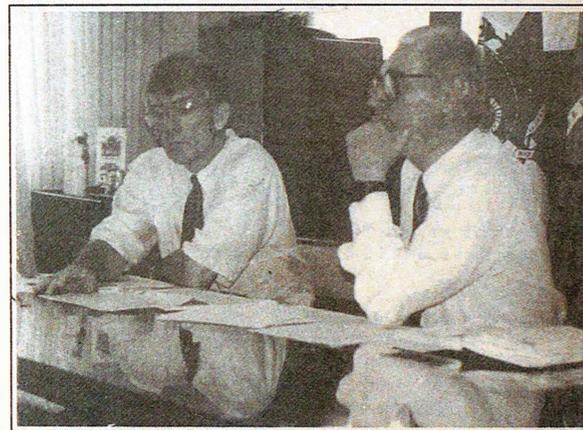
The five of us spoke in two churches or missions each on Sunday, April 6.

D a v i d Campbell, FMB volunteer coordinator for Brazil, traveled with us and participated in the meetings.

W a l t e r Justl, FMB missionary, who is associ-

ate to the director of the Brazil area, also was with us. Other missionaries took part in the meetings.

The Carioca Baptist Convention already has approved of a partnership with Tennessee Baptists, said Oscar Be-



MISSIONARY Eddie Hallock, left, translates for Oscar Belardin, Carioca Convention executive director, during a discussion with the Tennessee team about a partnership in missions.

lardin de Amorim Pimental, general secretary.

However details for projects will have to be worked out even if the partnership is approved by the Executive Board May 6 and by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November. Higdon, Cotey, and Northcott, are members of the Executive Board. They, along with Sharp, will explain their findings to the board and to its Executive Committee.

A favorable reception by the board then would be passed on to TBC messengers.



Tennessee features

Some of the work done by Carioca Convention was referenced in last week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, and more news and photographs may be used in the next Macedonian Call.

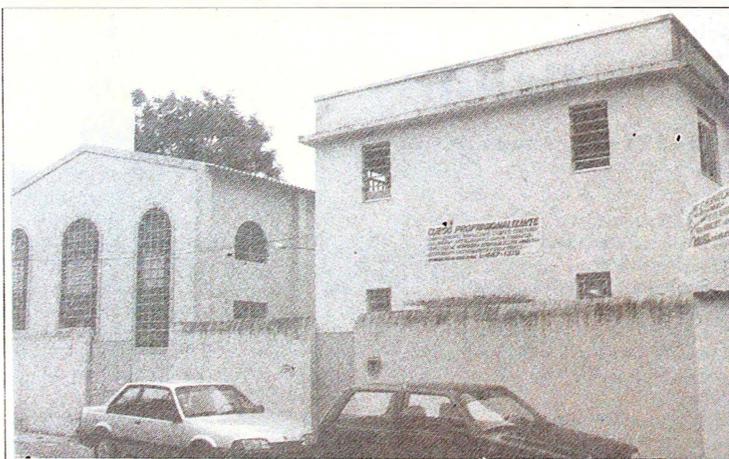
Here are brief summaries from the team members about their experiences in the churches on April 6.

Herbert Higdon: I was with Vila Val Queire Church Sunday morning, in a formal setting.

"The World Mission Offering was emphasized and the goal of \$1,000 was reached. There were about 250 present.

"We had a beautiful baby dedication service. A young girl accepted Christ and there were several commitments.

"On Sunday evening I was with Congregacao Batista no Riachuelo, a mission. A band played and there were many public prayers. The mission reached its \$1,000 missions goal. Both congregations have a new member's class which is



THIS CHURCH reaches out to its community in a variety of ways. For example, an aluminum can recycling program has helped provide computers for the church and those who need computer training. The church is vigorous in evangelism and outreach.



A SATURDAY MORNING Bible study finds this group busy at Primeira Igreja Batista do Recreio. Like many churches in the Carioca Convention, Recreio has a variety of ministries. The pastor is a licensed psychologist and helps several convention ministries.

Survey team visits in Brazil for possible Partnership Mission



Tennessee features



Looking at Rio de Janeiro

More firsthand reports from members of the Tennessee survey team —

Bill Northcott: "On Sunday morning I was guest pastor at Vila da Pencha, church where Sebastiao Ferreira is pastor. He is president of the Carioca Convention.

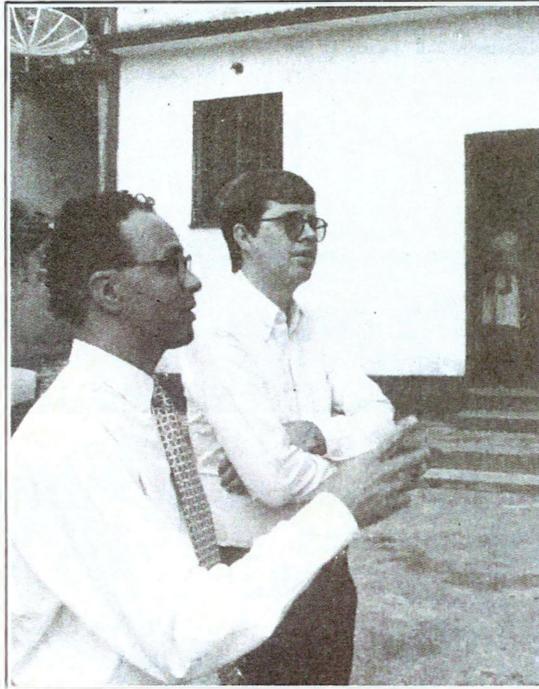
"The church has about 2,000 members. The sanctuary was overflowing, and many people were waiting to get inside. There were several professions of faith and rededications.

"That evening I was with Rocha Church. There was music with several instruments played by young people.

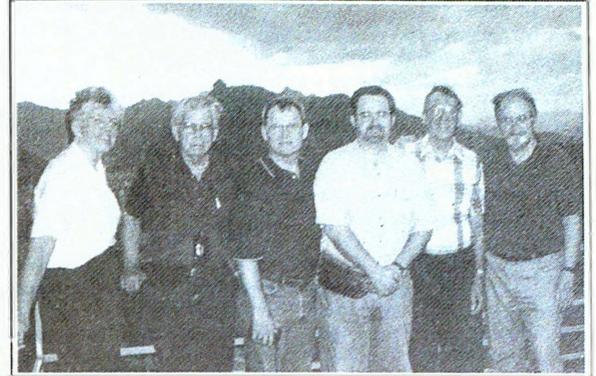
"It was a warm service, with a good mixture of young and older people."

Terry Sharp: "Sunday was not anti-climatic. There were feelings of joy, excitement, and anticipation in worship. Sunday morning's service was two hours! Singing is a vital part of worship.

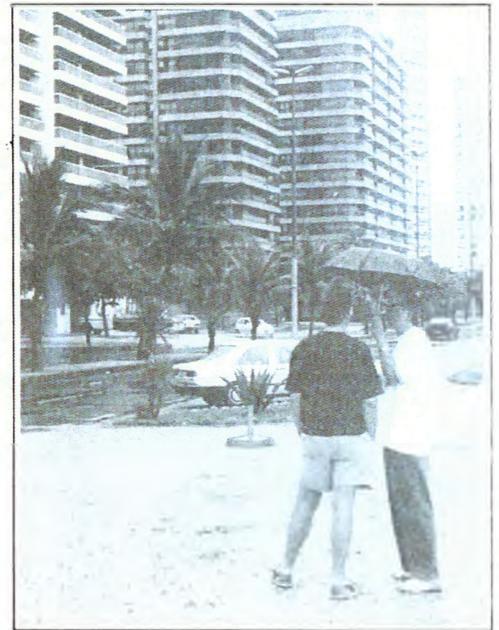
"Both congregations were filled with gracious, friendly, and joyful people. They like to sing and praise God."



PASTOR ESEQUIAS SANTANA, left, shows Nelson Ichter his Amizade Church community in a "slum" area. Ichter, son of Baptist missionaries, helps with translating.



MISSIONARY Elizabeth Oates stands with Tennessee team at sunset on Sugar Loaf, with Rio de Janeiro in the valley below. From left, Oates, Herbert Higdon, Bill Northcott, Terry Sharp, Gene Cotey, and Wm. Fletcher Allen.



ELIZABETH OATES, shows a line of elite offices and living quarters, on a beach where Tennessee volunteers could give a witness for Christ.



MISSIONARY Marilois Kirksey, center, is flanked by Carioca Baptist leaders in a meeting with missionaries and the Tennessee team. From left, Oscar Belardin, executive director, and his wife; Kirksey; and Carioca Convention president, Sebastiao Ferreira, and his wife. Many ideas and projects were discussed by the group.



HOMELESS CHILDREN who have found a home, thanks to Carioca Baptists, enjoy their special place as they sing praises.

Vision of global evangelism drives FMB restructuring

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Driving the overseas revitalization approved by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees (see story on page 2 of April 16 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*) is a twofold vision:

(1) that God is at work around the world in new and exciting ways.

(2) that the Foreign Mission board must rapidly restructure itself to keep pace with these divine initiatives.

Board President Jerry Rankin and Senior Vice President for Overseas Operations Avery Willis articulated that dual vision during the FMB trustee meeting April 7-9 here. It's the same message both have been preaching since assuming leadership at the board almost four years ago.

"God is accelerating a movement toward fulfilling his purpose of bringing a lost world to redemption," Rankin told trustees. "We are in the

greatest era of mission opportunity in history, and we must be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to keep pace with what God is doing."

Rankin said Southern Baptists can take pride in their past missionary accomplishments, but if they rest on how God has used them in history, they will miss even greater opportunities unfolding for the future.

"What we've got to do is keep up with what God is doing today," Willis said.

He said the Foreign Mission Board can no longer "measure ourselves by ourselves and commend ourselves by ourselves" but instead must see its ministry in the context of all that God is doing through and with national Christians worldwide as well as through state-side FMB global partners.

One of Willis' illustrations focused on new "harvest" fields where Baptist partners in some countries are seeing extraordinary growth in numbers

of baptisms — as high as 25 to 28 baptisms for each 100 church members, or nearly quadruple FMB averages, which themselves are triple state-side SBC averages.

FMB trustees approved the following fivefold rationale for the agency's revitalization:

"A. God is accelerating the redemption of all the lost people of the world. We are in the midst of the greatest mission opportunity in history. We must make whatever changes necessary to keep pace with what God is doing to complete the unfinished task.

"B. At this unprecedented moment in Christian history, our missionary advance does

not seem to be keeping pace with the opportunities or with what God is doing through others.

"C. Our organization and culture must be flexible, responsive, change-oriented and innovative to meet the challenge of continuous rapid change.

"D. To facilitate the ownership and responsibility of each missionary to maximize his or her potential and to fulfill his or her God-given call.

"E. To provide administration and leadership that will function efficiently, eliminate overlap, and create synergistic effectiveness."

Though trustees and administrators agreed on massive structural changes to revitalize the 152-year-old board, Rankin said "the real evidence of change will come when the following characteristics are reflected:

"A passion to know Christ and make him known with a total abandonment that supersedes concerns of fi-

nances, family, and personal fulfillment.

"A desire to focus on our own ministry and calling rather than demanding the right to be consulted in every mission decision whether it involves us or not.

"A confidence and willingness to follow the wisdom and guidance of God-appointed leadership whether we necessarily understand or agree.

"A recognition that the FMB provides the best, most equitable support possible, within available resources, and letters about cost of living become a thing of the past.

"A passion to share at home what God is doing and mobilize support for missions so there is no consideration of what counts as a furlough obligation or not.

"An identification with God's global agenda that moves us beyond petty provincialism of concern for one's own mission and area of the world." ■



RANKIN



WILLIS

New FMB regions with countries, personnel

Central and Eastern Europe

Total field personnel: 225

Albania
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.)
Moldova
Poland
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Ukraine

Western Europe

Total field personnel: 261

Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
United Kingdom

Middle East and North Africa

Total field personnel: 318

Chad

Egypt
Ethiopia
Israel
Jordan
Lebanon
Morocco

United Arab Emirates
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen

Central and Southern Asia

Total field personnel: 214

Bangladesh
India
Kazakistan
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

Southeast Asia and Oceania

Total field personnel: 304

Australia
Fiji
Indonesia
Malaysia
New Zealand
Singapore
Thailand

Western Pacific

Total field personnel: 398

Japan

South Korea
Philippines

East Asia

Total field personnel: 349

China
Hong Kong
Macau
Taiwan

Eastern South America

Total field personnel: 347

Brazil
Paraguay
Uruguay

The Caribbean Basin

Total field personnel: 293

Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Colombia
Dominica
Dominican Republic
French Guiana
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guyana

Haiti
Netherlands Antilles
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Venezuela

Middle America

Total field personnel: 312

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama

Western South America

Total field personnel: 289

Argentina
Bolivia
Chile
Ecuador
Peru

West Africa

Total field personnel: 336

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cote d'Ivoire

Equatorial Guinea

Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

Southern Africa

Total field personnel: 254

Angola
Botswana
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Reunion
Seychelles
South Africa
Swaziland
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Eastern Africa

Total field personnel: 233

Burundi
Kenya
Rwanda
Tanzania
Uganda



Tennescene

■ Forest Hill Church, Parrottsville, ordained Ed McNabb, Truitt Ottinger, and Gene Sirmons as deacons April 6.

leaders

■ Alex Kennedy has been

called as interim youth director, First Church, Trimble.

■ Westside Church, Dyersburg, ordained Ronnie Turner March 16. Turner is pastor, Beech Grove Church, Viar.

■ Gatus Cheatham has been called as pastor of Apison Church, Apison.

■ James Evans has been called as pastor of Oak Street Church, Soddy.

■ Tommy Wallace, pastor, First Church, Collinwood, has been called as pastor of Brace Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ Michael L. Prince, pastor, Audubon Park Church, Memphis, has been called as

pastor of Robertsville Church, Oak Ridge.

missionaries

■ Timothy and Julie Cline, missionaries to Senegal, have arrived on the field and can be reached at B.P. 8417 - Yoff, Dakar, Senegal. He is a native of Knoxville and she is the former Julie Simpson of Portland.

■ Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field and can be reached at Caixa Postal 36, 17.760-000 Inubia Paulista, Brazil. He grew up in Oak Ridge and Knox County.

■ Carl and Cassie Galion, Baptist representatives to the Ukraine, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service and can be reached at 3-A, L. Tolstogo St., Kiev-4, 252004, Ukraine. She is the former Cassie Sullivan of Spencer.

associations

■ Campbell County Association held its spring biannual meeting April 7 at First Church, Caryville. Dean Wat-

son spoke. Those elected as officers were Charles Noss, pastor, First Church, Caryville, moderator; Bill Helton, pastor, East LaFollette Church, LaFollette, vice moderator; Gary Hatmaker of First Church, Jacksboro, treasurer; and Katherine Bollinger of First Church, Jacksboro, clerk.

churches

■ Memorial Church, Hixson, will hold a Catch the Vision Conference April 25-27. Kenneth Hubbard, pastor, First Church, Smyrna, will speak and Dewayne Roberson of Memorial Church will be the praise leader.

■ Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, will host a meeting of the Rocky Top Chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administration. The April 24 seminar, "Managing the Church of the Future," will be led by F. Marvin Myers, executive director of the association for 16 years. For more information contact Don Miller of Manley Church, Morristown at (423) 586-8665 or manley@planet.com.

■ First Church, Morristown, will host Paul and

Nicole Johnson, a drama team, April 27 at 6 p.m. The duo has appeared with Gary Smalley, a speaker on marriage relationships. For more information, call (423) 586-0522.

■ Northeast Church, Clarksville, will celebrate its 20th anniversary April 27. The church also will begin revival that day which will continue through April 30. Jamie Work and Ken Hendrix will lead the preaching and singing. For more information, call (502) 439-6870.

the schools

■ Union University, Jackson, trustees appointed John Adams, vice president of campus ministries and church services, as director of the new R.G. Lee Center, an education center for churches; David Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies, as director, the new Center for Christian Leadership; Cynthia Jayne, professor and chair, languages department, as director, the new Center for International Studies; and Wayne Wofford, associate professor of biology, as director, the new Center for Scientific Research and Christian Studies.

Campers on Missions Rally

May 15-18

Cedars of Lebanon State Park
328 Cedar Forest Road
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087
(615) 443-2769

Registration Deadline — April 30
Contact Beverly Smothers at (615) 371-2044
No advance deposit required.

Campers on Missions Ministry Project
Tennessee Baptist Convention Children's Home, Franklin
May 12-15
Repair, Refurbishing of facilities
Contact Joe Little at (423) 337-5301



Joining Hands; Healing Hearts

1997 Mother's Day Offering

The statistics are staggering.

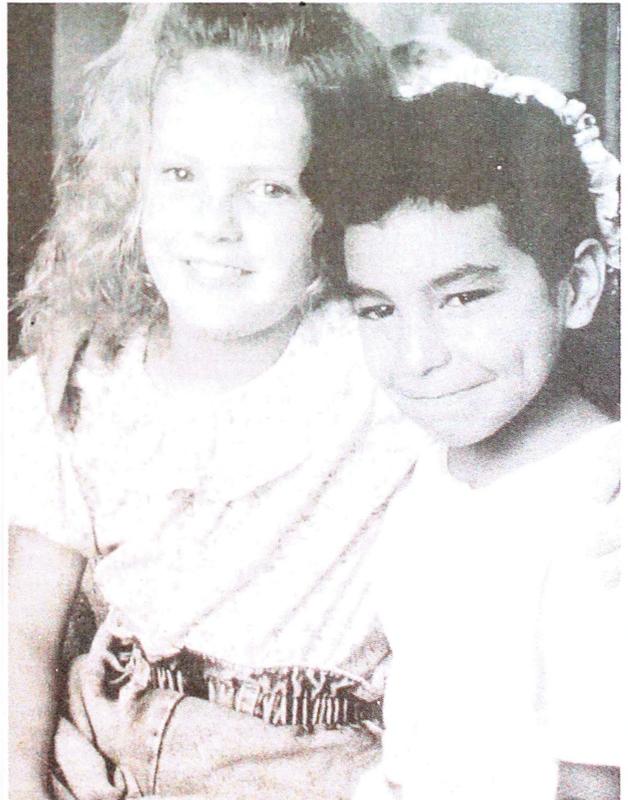
Every 13 seconds, an American child is reported abused or neglected; that is 2.5 million a year. Every day, three children are known to die from abuse or neglect and approximately 156,000 children suffer sexual abuse each year. In the state of Tennessee during the most recent year on record (1995), nearly 100 children were reported abused or neglected every day.

Each year the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is called upon to minister to the needs of more and more children who suffer the horrors of abuse.

On Mother's Day, May 11, our annual Mother's Day Offering will be received at Baptist churches across the state. This offering provides approximately one-third of our annual budget for ministry to hurting children.

The goal this year of \$1,275,000 means many needs will be met. They are the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children who have passed through the doors of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Many will leave healed and whole.

"He healeth the broken in heart. . ." - Psalm 147:3



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES, INC.
A Benevolent Ministry of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Dr. Gerald L. Stow, President/Treasurer
P.O. Box 728 • Brentwood, TN 37024
1-800-624-8591

'PowerSource'
set for May 19-20
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A "PowerSource: Energizing Our Worship" conference is slated for May 19-20 at Third Church, Murfreesboro.

The conference, sponsored by the Church Staff Leadership Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will examine major forms of worship and discover new ideas to incorporate into worship.

Special guests include Ken Hemphill, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Alan Walworth, pastor, Park Cities Church, Dallas; Don Hustad, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and others.

There will be breakout conferences on a variety of topics. Registration fee is \$40 per person and should be mailed by May 12. For more information including a group rate, call (615) 371-2040. ■

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.

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: Part-time youth minister for Oakview Church, a small country church with an average attendance of 250 and about 40 youth in Walland, beneath the Great Smoky Mountains. Send resume to Glenn Gamble, Oakview Baptist Church, 2704 Ellejoy Road, Walland, TN 37886.

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.

Of White Station Church, Memphis

Littlefield retires after 34 years as pastor

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Joe Littlefield retired March 31 as pastor of White Station Church here after serving the congregation for 34 years.

The credit for his long tenure must be shared with the congregation, said Littlefield.

"The people also get credit for it," he said. "They weren't tale-bearers, they were faith-builders, and that's the key to it," he explained.

What he experienced at White Station Church was a "mutual give and take" which arose from the rapport and confidence gained from long relationships.

"They were happy and I was happy, so I've just stayed with them and we've endured together," he explained.

Littlefield, 66, was honored by the church on March 22. He and his wife, Doris, plan to travel this summer.



Littlefield **LITTLEFIELD** has served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and on the *Baptist and Reflector* board of directors. As part of the Executive Board he was a member of its Executive

Committee and vice chairman of the program and budget committee.

He also served as chairman of the convention's Credentials Committee and Committee on Committees.

In Shelby Association, he was moderator, president of the pastors' conference, chairman of the foundation, and a leader in several other areas.

Beginning in 1952 Littlefield has served as a pastor

with no break except two partial years in which he was attending seminary. He has served First Church, Middleton; Post Oak Church, Cooper, Texas; Beech Bluff Church, Beech Bluff; and Hopewell Church, Savannah.

He holds degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Union University, Jackson. *B&R*

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Power source

By Gary Rickman

Focal Passage — Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-6, 17-18, 36-39

We take electrical power for granted, using incredible amounts daily, never giving it a second thought. Christians have a far greater power source which we often take for granted, the Holy Spirit. He provides power to do things we would not ordinarily be capable of doing.

In Acts 1 Jesus reminded his disciples of God's promise to give them the Holy Spirit. He did not promise because they asked but because of his love and their need. Jesus commanded them to stay in Jerusalem until they received this promised gift, waiting in faith. Sometimes we forget the importance of waiting on God's timing.

In verse 5 Luke uses the expression "baptized with" and in verse 8 he used the words "shall come upon you" in referring to the Holy Spirit. These expressions say the same thing. What is going to happen is not going to be just a small touch of the Spirit, it is a surrounding of the believers by the Spirit just as water surrounds a believer during baptism.

Some churches interpret the Holy Spirit's baptism as a second work of grace, evidenced by speaking in tongues. They teach we can be saved without experiencing the Holy Spirit's baptism. This is a grave error. Verse 8 makes it clear that the Holy Spirit's power had come upon the believer in order that a bold witness to God's saving grace through Jesus Christ will be made. The primary evidence of the Spirit-filled life is a bold witness, not speaking in tongues.

Verse 8 describes how the Gospel will spread. That the disciples would be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem was probably obvious to them. However, Jesus expanded their horizons when he said that they would be witnesses in a larger area. How large is your sphere of witness? Today, through the Cooperative Program, our witness reaches to the ends of the earth.

In Acts 2 Luke presents the coming of the Holy Spirit in such a dramatic way that it seems the Spirit came into being on the day of Pentecost. However, Luke is fully aware of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. In the New Testament there is a shift in the way the Holy Spirit works. In the Old Testament the possession of God's Spirit appears to be restricted to individuals such as prophets, priests, and kings. Acts tells us the gift of the Spirit is offered to all believers. Luke also sees the gift of the Holy Spirit as the power of God which gives divine authority to this new movement.

The Holy Spirit's coming was expressed in three parallel events — wind, fire, and speech. These are natural phenomenon, but on this day they were infused with the supernatural.

Earlier we were told that a bold witness is evidence of the Holy Spirit. Now in Acts 2:17 we are told of a second evidence of the Spirit's presence — prophecy. Here we need to view prophecy in the broad sense. Through prophecy God makes himself known. Because God's Spirit dwells in all believers, and we are called to be witnesses of this fact, we all are prophets. God speaks through us to make himself known. We are to follow Peter's example and tell others that God provided salvation through his Son Jesus. ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

To Philadelphia and Laodicea

By Larry Kirk

Focal Passage — Revelation 3:7-10, 15-21

There is great diversity of our TBC churches. Some are similar; others are stark contrasts. But I have encountered none as different as the two churches in this lesson. To the Philadelphia church Christ gives a warm commendation and no warning. To the Laodicea church there is no commendation, but a strong warning.

There is one commonality — the door. The image of the door in the Philadelphian letter is an open door; in the church to the Laodiceans the door is closed. In the first, our Lord controls the door and the keys; in the latter, man controls the door and the latch is inside.

Letter to Philadelphia (vv. 7-13). Christ introduced himself as the holy and true one who alone holds the key to the eternal kingdom. Jesus alone can admit one into the presence of God.

Family Bible Lesson

Christ set before the church an open door that no man can shut. An open door symbolizes a God-given opportunity. Christ declared his knowledge of their "little strength" (v. 8). But because they had kept his Word, refusing to deny his name, he would cause Satan and his congregation to bow at their feet (v. 9).

Because thou hast kept ... I will keep thee (v. 10) speaks of Christ's protection over the faithful. Some see this passage as God's deliverance from trials. Others see it as deliverance through trials. In either case, God's grace is sufficient.

Letter to Laodicea (vv. 14-22). The KJV paints an interesting word picture of this carnal church. In all the other letters, the churches are identified as being "in" or "of" a town. Here it says "the church of the Laodiceans" (v. 14) indicating ownership by the people

rather than by Christ. He was ready to spew them out of his mouth (v. 16).

What did Christ mean by "lukewarm" (v. 16)? Some think he was thinking of the hot medicinal waters of Hierapolis and the cold pure waters of Colosse. Thus the church in Laodicea was providing neither refreshment nor healing for the spiritually weary and sick. It was ineffective, distasteful to Christ. Laodicea had been reduced to a condition repulsive to our Lord.

The church's riches was its refuge from reality (v. 17). They were blinded by self-sufficiency, their prosperity. Prosperity is often a greater test of the faith than affliction. They had failed the test.

In verse 18 our Lord challenges the church to see true riches, righteousness, and spiritual insight as coming from him. The price of purchasing these is repentance (v. 19).

Verse 20 is familiar to us, often used in evangelism to depict a patient Savior knocking at our heart's door longing to enter with everlasting life. The context addresses the carnal church. Christ has been excluded but he offers forgiveness. He stands outside, knocking on the door. No other religion has this vision of a seeking God.

There is no latch on the outside, neither is there a battering ram in Jesus' hand. The door must be opened from within. Jesus will never violate our will. If we open the door, he will return to his rightful position as head of his church, or our lives, and we can know the joy of fellowshiping with our God and our Lord.

Which of these two churches best describes your walk? ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



Bible study
for April 27



Bible study

Living with wrong choices

By Tim Holcomb

Focal Passage — I Samuel 10:17-27

Doubt leads all of us astray. When we doubt family, faith, or ourselves, missteps are possible. Missteps lead to choices that may not be the best. The children of Israel were into a cycle of punishment, repentance, and deliverance. At this point in the cycle, the same people who had seen God redeem them out of oppression over and over decided they had a better idea than God. They wanted a king.

Israel demands a king. I Samuel 8:1-22 spells out a series of rejections. First is the rejection of Samuel's sons of the honesty of Samuel. Dishonesty and misuse of power then led to the rejection of Samuel's type of leadership — a "judge." The elders spoke out not against Samuel, in seeking a king but against "judge-type" leaders.

This led to the most serious rejection — God as king. The elders demanded an earthly king. God told Samuel to give them one and to clearly spell out the results of rejecting the Heavenly King God and replacing with an earthly king.

The final rejection came when Israel rejected Samuel's description of what it would be like, living under an earthly king (ch. 8:10-18).

Explore the Bible Lesson

God chooses Saul. In spite of their rejection of God as their king, God continues to love Israel. Chapter 1:16c points to a wonderful future of God's love ... *I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me.* Even though God knew it would be the wrong move, he gave them a king, young Saul.

God publicly identifies Saul as king. Ownership follows participation. Samuel calls the tribes for a formal process of discovering the king God had already selected — Saul. When Saul was identified, he was hiding in the baggage.

Why would he be hiding at this critical moment? He knew God had picked him. Are there reasons other than Saul was young, lacking in kingly confidence; unable to express "wonderment" of being in that situation; or maybe "just plain scared?"

Samuel rehearsed again the exceptions of being under a king. He sent them home; Saul goes home as king but not for all. "How can that fellow save us?" some scoffed. Even when the heart's desire is answered, there is grumbling.

Saul leads Israel to victory. The cry was for a king. God gave them a king, a deliverer. A crisis

comes and the country forgets the recent king-making ceremonies ... "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you" was the response of the besieged Jabesh Gilead. Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I'll make a treaty after I gouge out the right eye of everyone of you." The elders of Jabach said, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you." (ch. 11:1-3).

Powered by God's Spirit, Saul came alive as the king. He burned with anger. He cut up a pair of oxen and dispersed the pieces throughout Israel, proclaiming this would be the treatment of oxen of anyone that did not follow Saul.

They wanted a king — they got a king. Saul led them against the Ammonites and killed them all.

Samuel hands over leadership of Israel to Saul. Samuel confirms God's actions of giving Saul leadership by calling for thunder and lightning before the assembled group.

So what! Be careful what you ask of God, you just might get it. After you ask and receive of God, serve him faithfully. *Consider what he has done for you.* ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



world news

Arkansas Baptists celebrate call

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas Baptists helped "Celebrate the Call" for 63 Southern Baptist missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board.

The April 8 service, the first of its type in Arkansas since 1989, drew an estimated 5,150, making it one of the largest gatherings in Arkansas Baptists' history.

Jerry Rankin, FMB president, also highlighted the meeting's historical significance, telling participants the appointees would be "the last 'foreign' missionaries sent out by Southern Baptists. In subsequent services, we will be appointing 'international' missionaries." Rankin's reference was to the FMB's upcoming

name change to International Mission Board, in June.

Participants on the program in addition to Rankin included Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, a Southern Baptist.

In addition to delivering the charge to new missionaries, Rankin challenged those in the audience, reminding them of unprecedented opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ.

During the invitation 51 participants surrendered for missions service. ■

'Concert of Prayer' set for telecast by RTVC

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — A three-hour "Concert of Prayer" will be telecast live from 8-11 p.m. Eastern Time May 1 by FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the SBC Radio and Television Commission.

The Concert of Prayer, part of the National Day of Prayer, will originate from The Church on the Way in Los Angeles.

The theme of the 1997 National Day of Prayer is "In God We Trust." Last year's telecast was accessible to 140 million homes. ■

New program helps Asians reach Asians

Baptist Press

MANILA, Philippines — Two Malaysians and six Filipinos were the first to receive hands-on training in cross-cultural missions in a new three-month training program designed to send Asian missionaries to Asian people groups with little or no access to the Gospel.

"CrossTrain" used the ethnic diversity of urban Manila as a combination training ground and launching pad to take the good news of salvation in Jesus to the unreached of Asia.

Program director Lutgardo Garcia and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary Greg Holden hope to have 30 participants for the next term which begins June 21. ■

Rain fails to stop prayer

Baptist Press

CORN ISLAND, Nicaragua — Driving rains didn't deter more than 200 people from gathering in a ball park to pray for the success of the first

island-wide crusade in 30 years here.

The event, which was held April 11-18, involved all Christians on the island, said Jim Palmer, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary in Nicaragua.

"There is a real hope that the crusade will reach young people, many of whom have rejected the church and have gotten involved in a life of drugs and immorality," Palmer noted. ■

Louisiana court permits lawsuit

Baptist Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana Supreme Court, in an 8-0 vote, has declined to review a lower court decision allowing a lawsuit to proceed that has been filed by four Louisiana College professors against a "Louisiana Baptist Conservative Resurgency" group.

The lawsuit, filed in June 1996 and requesting a jury trial alleges that letters distributed in 1995 by Leon Hyatt of Pineville and others in a state "conservative resurgency" group were defamatory and derogatory and meant to harm the professional and moral reputations of several Louisiana College professors.

The lawsuit was filed by professors Carlton Winbery, Fred Downing, James Heath, and Connie Douglas. The college itself is not involved in the lawsuit.

The Supreme Court ruling March 21 effectively means the case is now a matter for the courts. ■

MBTS trustees expect growth

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have endorsed continuation of an architectural planning process for new facilities to handle expected growth.

In their regular spring meeting April 14-15, trustees authorized their executive committee to oversee and coordinate activities necessary for fund-raising and architectural planning leading to the initiation and implementation of the overall construction project.

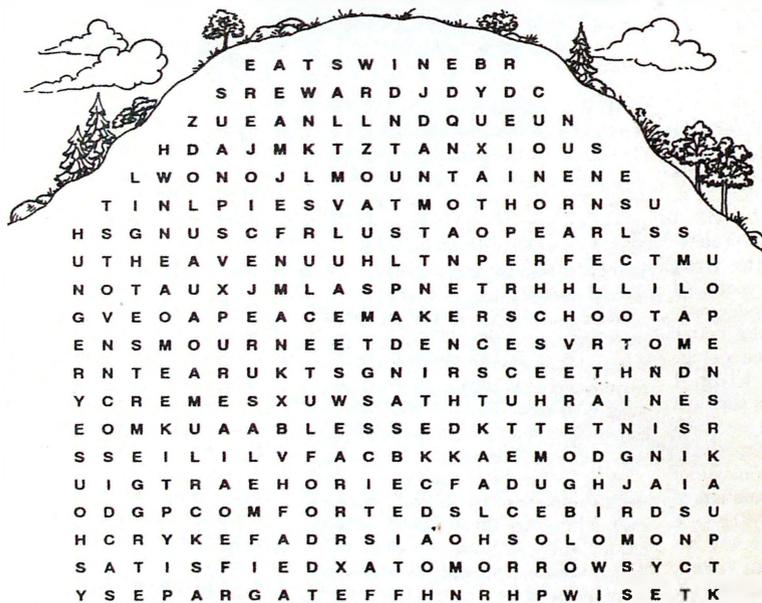
In his report to trustees President Mark Coppenger noted enrollment in the master of divinity program has increased by more than 30 percent in each of the last two years. In other actions, trustees approved a \$4.9 million budget for next year, slightly lower than the current budget. ■

For Adults and Teens

Fun for the Family

Just for Kids

Sermon on the Mount -Matthew 5:1-7:29



Circle these words from the book of Matthew. They may run sideways, up, down, backwards, or diagonally in any direction.

- ALMS ANXIOUS ASK BIRDS BLESSED CLOTHING COMFORTED EAT EYE FAST FATHER FIG FIND FLOOD FOOD FOOL GATE GRAPES HEART HEAVEN HOUSE HUNGER JERUSALEM KINGDOM LIGHT LILIES LOVE MASTER MEEK MERCY MOUNTAIN MOURN NEIGHBOR OPEN PEACEMAKERS PEARLS PERFECT PERSECUTED POOR PRAY PURE RAIN REJOICE REWARD ROCK SAND SATISFIED SOLOMON SUN SWEAR SWINE TEMPTATION THORNS TOMORROW TREASURE WISE

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Th ___ w ___ ll ___ b ___ d ___ n ___,
___ n ___ ___ rth ___ s ___ t ___ s ___ n h ___ ___ v ___ n ___.
G ___ v ___ ___ s th ___ s ___ d ___ y ___ ___ r ___ d ___ ___ l ___
br ___ ___ d;
___ nd f ___ rg ___ v ___ ___ s ___ ___ r ___ d ___ bts,
___ s ___ w ___ f ___ rg ___ v ___ ___ r ___ d ___ bt ___ rs;
___ nd l ___ ___ d ___ u ___ n ___ t ___ nt ___ t ___ mpt ___ t ___ n ___,
b ___ t ___ d ___ l ___ v ___ r ___ s ___ fr ___ m ___ v ___ l ___.
F ___ r ___ th ___ n ___ ___ s ___ th ___ k ___ ngd ___ m ___,
th ___ p ___ w ___ r ___ nd ___ th ___ gl ___ r ___ f ___ r ___ v ___ r ___.
___ m ___ n

-Matthew 6

"Fun for the Family" is a new feature of the Baptist and Reflector that will appear regularly. If you get stumped on answers, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024 and we will send you the answers.