

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 19

Statewide Edition

May 7, 1997

this week's news

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MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

Adults, children mix well at center

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — You wouldn't expect it, but a children's playground is the first thing you see as you approach the Baptist Health Care Center here.

No, the equipment is not intended for adult use — though most users of BHC are senior adults.

A careful blend is evident here — adults who need constant care, others in assisted care who are ambulatory with nothing more than a cane or walker, and daily child care for children six weeks old up to 12 years.

Welcome to Baptist Health Care Center, a wing of the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. This facility has just passed close scrutiny of state officials and boasts a deficiency-free report. The rating came after an intense testing by a group of quality observer surveyors from the Tennessee Department of Health.

Administrator Cindy Wilmoth and Health Care Center staff members are proud of that stellar rating, and May 11-17, National Nursing Home Week, is a good time to celebrate.

Kenny Cooper, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes president-treasurer, shares that pride. The Health Care Center is under the TBAH umbrella of management.

The Baptist Health Care Center has



KENNY COOPER, president of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, visits with **CINDY WILMOTH**, administrator of Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City.

three major ministries: 104 bed Nursing Care Center, 18 bed Assisted Living Center, and the 100 capacity Child Care Center. For each of these centers, Wilmoth has a cadre of qualified staff members.

Wilmoth, who has been administrator of the facilities since 1988, says the team of six "inspectors" comes unannounced. They are required to visit such facilities within each 12-15 months period.

"The deficiency free rating is special to

us," she said, "because we are a Tennessee Baptist facility, and we are proud to show people who we are."

She said the score was rare, seldom if ever accomplished in East Tennessee.

The team checked everything from medical paper work on residents, food dispensing, direct care of patients, building and fire codes, care approval, on site fire drill, evacuation procedures, cleanliness of everything, wound care and aseptic techniques, resident-staff ratio, playground facilities, and others.

The inspectors conducted personal interviews with residents and their families, and administration and staff.

A visit to the BHCC demonstrates why the facilities scored a deficiency free report from such a strenuous testing.

In the nursing care area, the capacity is 104, and all beds usually are filled — with a waiting list of 260.

This facility is oriented for the health of the resident, and helps maintain that health. The commitment, Wilmoth says, is to bring all individuals here to the highest possible level of health.

Most say it is worth the wait.

On the other hand, the assisted living wing is licensed for only 18 residents. Two rooms are for geared for husband-wife, or perhaps mother-daughter. These residents pay their way.

— See Adults, page 4

Senior adults challenged to live life to fullest; be role models

By Terri Lackey
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — About 11,000 senior adults from Maryland to California gathered here for the third National Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention, April 28-30,

to sing, fellowship, get inspired, and be entertained.

Meeting in four general sessions, the denomination's older members heard messages from Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham; Bill Mitchell, author of *Building Strong Families*; Joni Eareckson

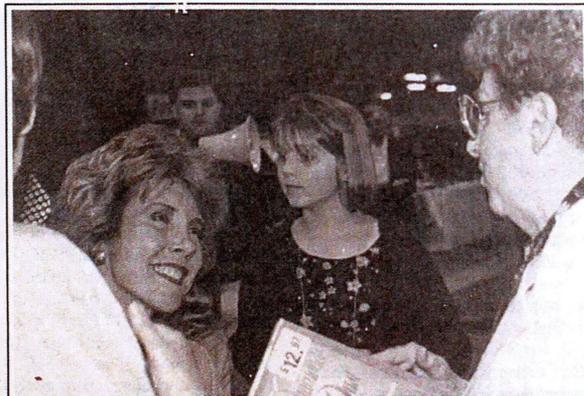
Tada, author of *Heaven Your Real Home*; Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr., who led daily Bible study sessions; and T.W. Hunt, nationally known prayer consultant.

Country humorist George "Goober" Lindsey made them laugh and Gospel entertainer Ricky Skaggs made them cry as he sang sentimental songs about the responsibilities that accompany growing older. The event was sponsored by the

BSSB discipleship and family development division.

The speakers' messages revolved around the conference theme, "Remember the Future." Seniors were urged to celebrate the remainder of their lives, to believe in the possibility of a "triumphant long life" and to use their wisdom for guiding younger generations.

Mitchell, a former teacher, principal and coach from South — See Senior, page 4



NOTED AUTHOR Joni Eareckson Tada, left, visits with Gerrie Cavin of First Church, Martin, right, during the National Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention which drew about 11,000 senior adults to Nashville. Tada was one of the main speakers for the conference. See more photos on page 6. — Photo by Connie Davis

TBC CP gifts set six-months record

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention completed the first half of the convention and fiscal year on April 30. During that period, Tennessee Baptists, through their churches, gave a record \$15,293,000 through the Cooperative Program. The amount is an increase of \$672,726 over the same period a year ago. This is the sixth consecutive year, Cooperative Program giving has shown substantial increase during the first half of the year.

"Such giving is a continued affirmation of the value of our mission, evangelistic, education, and benevolent ventures for the cause of Christ, even unto all the world," said TBC Executive Director/Treasurer James Porch. ■

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- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Ambers Wilson, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Eugene Coley, Elmer Crosby, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Ray Newcomb, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Michael Smith, Betty Summers, and Gary Walkins
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- Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- Phone** — (615) 371-2003.
- FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- E-mail** — 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

Southern Baptists upset over 'Ellen' broadcast

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists and other evangelicals expressed dismay over ABC/Disney's decision to make TV history April 30 by featuring the first openly homosexual lead character on a network show.

Dwayne Hastings, director of communications for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, stated, "I wouldn't be surprised if this pushes Southern Baptists to take a stand against the Disney Company at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in June in Dallas."

Disney is a key player in a TV trend which evangelicals see as intent on casting the "abnormal as normal and the normal as abnormal," Hastings said.

Last June, well before the "Ellen" furor, messengers to the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans threatened a boycott of Disney if the company continues its "anti-Christian

Gay lifestyle 'deadly' choice, Texas viewers told

Associated Baptist Press

BEAUMONT, Texas — When "Ellen" came out of the closet, southeast Texas viewers heard the Gospel.

Calvary Church here aired two 30-second commercials during the much-publicized April 30 ABC-TV comedy in which the title character declared her homosexuality.

Initially, representatives from the church asked local Channel 12 to refuse to broadcast the program. When it became clear that was not an option, the church asked if it could purchase commercial time to offer another perspective.

The church enlisted Michael Johnson, founding president of a ministry to homosexuals based

in Newport News, Va., to appear in spots at the half-way mark and the conclusion of the one-hour broadcast. Johnson is an HIV-positive Christian who says he came out of a homosexual lifestyle.

"Homosexuality is not a laughing matter to me. I'm dying of AIDS," he said in one of the paid spots.

Calvary Pastor John Powers said they wanted to "present the Gospel to people when they are tender, when they are asking questions. We want to help them understand that Christianity makes sense. Homosexuality doesn't make sense."

Powers said they were not condemning homosexuals. "We just need to say that sin is sin, and this is a deadly lifestyle that at least will enslave you, and it may kill you." ■ — Ken Camp

and anti-family trend."

Among sponsors of the "Ellen" episode April 30, Volkswagen drew a strong rebuke from the American Family Association, which began its own Disney boycott in 1995.

Donald Wildmon, president of the Mississippi-based AFA, said in a news release he was not surprised at Volkswagen's sponsorship. "Years ago, when other automakers refused to advertise in porn magazines,

Volkswagen eagerly did. Volkswagen cares nothing about American families, but it is willing to spend millions promoting sexual perversion of all kinds. It could be a very good reason to boycott Volkswagen," Wildmon said. Volkswagen products include Audi luxury cars.

Three companies, according to AFA, have announced they will no longer advertise on any "Ellen" episode: J.C. Penney,

Pizza Hut, and Wrigley chewing gum. AFA noted, however, that Pizza Hut is a subsidiary of PepsiCo, which has not announced whether Pepsi products will be advertised on the show.

Wendy's hamburger chain also pulled its ads off future shows, while Chrysler pulled its April 30 "Ellen" ad and will evaluate future episodes on a case-by-case basis, according to an April 16 *USA Today* article.

Hastings noted that "short of putting a lock and key on the family's television remote, this latest twist in TV programming suggests parents need to be extremely vigilant about their family's TV fare."

In a prepared statement, Concerned Women for America's Carmen Pate said it is unfortunate "Ellen" and other TV programs "portray their homosexual characters as normal without acknowledging their immorality or the health threats that exist within their behavior.

"As a result, many unknowing children and teens are lured into believing that homosexuality is not only acceptable but a behavior to be proud of. Television gives legitimacy to those ideas," Pate said. ■ — Art Toalston

AFA releases list of 'Ellen' sponsors and products

AFA released a list of sponsors of the "Ellen's coming-out episode. In addition to Volkswagen, those companies and their products are:

Bayer Corporation — Alka-Seltzer, Midol and Actron pain relievers; One-A-Day and Flintstone vitamins; Phillips' Milk of Magnesia; S.O.S. soap pads; Femstate 3 feminine products; Stridex acne treatments.

News America Publishing, Inc. — Fox Broadcasting Company; 20th Century Fox films
Sony Corporation of America — Columbia Pictures Industries, Tri-Star films; Columbia, Epic, and CBS records; Sony electronic products; Columbia House distributors; Loews theaters.

Time Warner Inc. — CNN, Home Box Office and Cinemax cable services; Primestar satellite service; Warner Brothers productions; Time Life books; Turner Pictures and New Line Cinema; *TIME, People, Parenting, Sports Illustrated*, and *Southern Living* magazines; TBS and TNT networks; Book of the Month Club

Unilever United States Inc. — Calvin Klein; Lipton tea and soups; Dove and Lever 2000 soaps; Degree deodorant; Finesse and Saue hair-care products; Q-tips; Pond's Cream; Vaseline products; Wisk detergent; Pepsodent and Mentadent toothpaste; Country Crock spread; Wish-Bone salad dressings; Ragu Italian foods; Wylers drink mixes

Warner-Lambert Company — Listerine mouthwash; Trident gum; Certs breath mints; Roloids antacid; Actifed and Sudafed cold tablets; Benadryl; Halls cough drops; Neosporin; Parke-Davis pharmaceuticals; Lubriderm Lotion.

Burlington Coat Factory — clothing stores
Slimfast Foods Company — diet aids

Viacom International, Inc. — Blockbuster video stores, MTV, Nickelodeon, Showtime, and Viacom cable services; Paramount Pictures; Prentice Hall book publishing ■ — Compiled from Baptist Press

Partnership Prayer Requests — May

- 7 — Praise God for Cityview Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and its pastor Craig O'Brien. The church recently baptized believers from three continents.
- 8 — Pray for simultaneous revivals in Poland May 21-25 in 33 different churches and mission points. Especially pray for God to empower the Tennessee Baptists who will be participating in the revivals.
- 9 — Pray for Casa de Oracion congregation in San Rafael de Guapiles, Costa Rica, as it reaches out to prisoners in La Leticia.
- 10 — Celebrate Jesus 2000 with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan as Michigan Southern Baptists prepare to reach every household in the state.
- 11 — Pray for Pastor Sam Viswasam, director of the English as a Second Language ministry at Royal Heights Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.
- 12 — Pray for Tim Bearden of the TBC as he leads a team to Costa Rica May 17-25 to teach disaster relief to missionaries and national leaders.
- 13 — Pray for missionaries Larry and Mary Hendricks, church planters in Costa Rica.

April SBC CP receipts increase

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for April jumped more than 9 percent over the previous year's month and nearly \$5 million year-to-date over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

CP gifts totaled \$14,299,668, compared to \$13,117,325, a 9.01 percent increase, over last April's receipts.

At the end of seven months of the SBC fiscal year, total CP receipts were \$90,819,060, compared to \$86,089,231, a 5.49 per-

cent increase, over the same period last year.

Designated gifts for April also topped the previous year's total: \$10,046,351 to \$9,449,413. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$97,944,314, an increase of 1.46 percent over the same period last year.

For the year-to-date, CP receipts are 7.33 percent over the required CP Allocation Budget of \$84,614,541.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the CP Allocation Budget. ■

Tennesseans nominated to serve on SBC boards, committees

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the four denominational boards — Foreign Mission Board (to become International Mission Board in June), Home Mission Board (to become North American Mission Board in June), Sunday School Board, and Annuitiy Board — have been selected by the 1997 Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 17-19 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The Committee on Nominations also

released the names of persons selected to serve as trustees of commissions and seminaries and members of committees.

In addition, SBC President Tom Elliff released the names May 1 of key committees which will serve during the convention in Dallas.

Several Tennessee Baptists are among those who have been selected to serve on various boards and committees. They include:

Executive Committee: Abe F. Siliman Jr., pastor of Turkey Creek Church, Savannah; Doug Dutton, Knoxville (second term)

International Mission Board:

John Adams, First Church, Jackson; Katherine Fortner, Knoxville (second term)

North American Mission Board: Ronald E. Stewart, pastor, Grace Church, Knoxville; Harold C. Fry III, Germantown Church, Germantown; A. Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Church, Millington; Edward R. Futrell, pastor, Southside Church, Johnson City; Guy M. Milam, pastor, Springview Church, Maryville

Sunday School Board: Kenneth R. Speakman, Nashville (second term)

Southern Seminary: Gary Watkins, pastor, First Church, Collierville

Committee on Committees: Donald Dunavant, Bartlett Church, Bartlett; Fern Sutton, Two Rivers Church, Nashville

Credentials Committee: Floyd Paris, pastor, Mount Pleasant Church, Bradford; Raymond Boston, pastor, First Church, Dyersburg

Tellers Committee: Todd Wilson, pastor, First Church, Munford

SBC bylaws require the SBC president to announce the appointments to the committees on committees and resolutions "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting" and the credentials and tellers committees 30 days prior to the annual meeting. ■

Southern Baptists' ministries fit call of Presidents' Summit

By Teresa Dickens
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Long before there was welfare reform legislation or the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, Southern Baptists were involved in helping children at risk.

Children's homes, mission centers, literacy programs, multi-housing ministries sponsored by Southern Baptists nearly always offer ministries for disadvantaged children and their families.

During the April 28-29 Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia, current and past U.S. presidents and other national leaders, celebrities, and corporate executives called on the nation's citizens to increase their involvement in volunteer efforts, especially those that help children in disadvantaged situations.

President Bill Clinton told more than 5,000 elected officials and community leaders

April 28 that "too many people are out there doing the very best they can and still not keeping up, much less moving forward."

A lot of the problems facing children are "problems of the human heart — problems that can only be resolved when there is a one-on-one connection, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, home by home, with every child in this country entitled to live out their God-given destiny," the president said.

Former President George Bush said the American dream is a stirring phrase. "It means the freedom to worship your own God in your own way without fear of persecution. It means freedom of speech and assembly, and, perhaps, most importantly, the freedom to vote." Bush said that sometimes these freedoms are taken for granted.

He added that the American

dream also means "the opportunity to go as far in life as your abilities will take you."

Southern Baptist leaders agree with the summit's conclusion that volunteers play an important role in the success of community efforts and they note Southern Baptist ministries are seeking to meet those needs.

Gerry Hutchinson, director of the Home Mission Board's church and community ministries department, described volunteers as the symphony behind home missions personnel. "While the missionaries do the leading in mission centers across the country, volunteers provide the music. Without them, little ministry could occur."

Southern Baptist leaders also affirm the summit's emphasis on children. However, more efforts need to be initiated to impact a child's entire family, said Lisa Beck, family literacy consultant with the Birmingham Baptist Association Center

for Family Resourcing and Development.

"It is good to have ministries and programs that benefit children, whether educationally or socially," she said. "But we have discovered through our work that if our goal is to change their lives, we must also provide help and training for the parents, especially mothers. In doing so, we not only help the child, but we also help the parent help the child."

Trudy Johnson, special projects manager for Woman's Missionary Union, also is pleased with the summit's emphasis on children and hopes Southern Baptists who are interested in helping children will get involved in WMU's Project HELP: Child Advocacy.

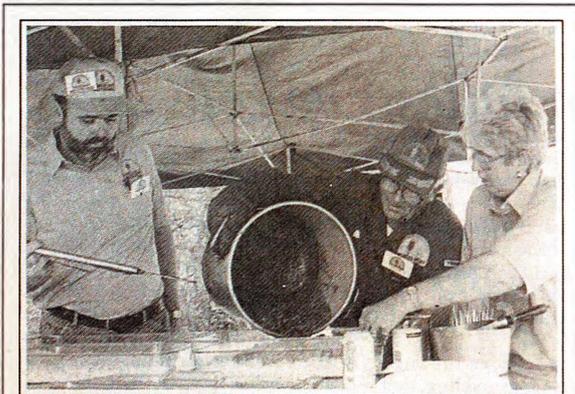
"There is something everyone can do to be an advocate for children," said Johnson, noting "when we make a positive impact on a child, we are making an investment in our future."

Johnson explained WMU

launched Project HELP: Child Advocacy in June 1996. The overarching goal of the project is to lead Southern Baptists to do more to serve the needs of children through volunteer projects, she said.

Through support materials published by WMU — including a resource kit and a book, *Precious in His Sight* by Diana Garland — Project HELP: Child Advocacy focuses on ways to educate and involve Christians in responding to the needs of children (birth through age 18) and churches' role as child advocates within the church family, community, and the world.

The resource kit and a variety of other materials related to the project are available through WMU Customer Service at (800) 968-7301. Additional information may be obtained from Johnson by contacting her at (205) 991-4972. ■ — This article also contains information from an ABP article by Kenny Byrd.



No disaster — just good food

Tennessee Baptist disaster relief volunteers — from left, Charles Manley, Trinity Church, Bolivar; Don Byrd, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; and Joyce Curington, Roseberry Church, Mascot — prepare up a meal for participants at a national Disaster Relief Roundtable. The meeting, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission, drew about 75 disaster relief personnel various Baptist state conventions across the U.S., and staff of the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. — Photo by Connie Davis

Members named to gambling panel

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has announced his long-overdue appointments to a commission designed to study the impact of gambling, but the congressman who led the effort to establish the study said the White House's selections give the gambling industry an advantage on the panel.

Nearly seven months after the congressionally established deadline for appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, the president announced his selections April 29. They are Bill Bible, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board; Richard Leone, president of the Twentieth Century Fund and former New Jersey treasurer; and Robert Loescher, executive vice president of natural resources management of Sealaska Corp. and a

member of the Tlingit Tribe of Alaska.

Clinton's appointments complete the panel, which was established by Congress in July and was to have been filled by Oct. 3. The other six panelists are:

(1) James Dobson, president of the conservative Focus on the Family ministry;

(2) Paul Moore, a radiologist and friend of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R.-Miss., from Pascagoula, Miss.;

(3) Kay James, dean of the school of government at Regent University, where Christian television personality Pat Robertson is chancellor;

(4) Terrence Lanni, CEO and chairman of the board of MGM Grand Inc., a gambling, entertainment, and hotel company based in Las Vegas, Nev.;

(5) Leo McCarthy, former lieutenant governor of California; and

(6) John Wilhelm, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union and chief negotiator for the union's 45,000-member local in Las Vegas.

While Dobson and James oppose gambling and Lanni and Wilhelm are gambling proponents, the others, except for Bible, have been portrayed as unaligned on the issue. Added to the selections of Lanni and Wilhelm, Clinton's appointment of Bible completes a trio of "mouthpieces for the big Las Vegas casinos," said Tom Grey of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, according to an Associated Press report in *The Washington Post*.

The president's choices "tilt the balance of the commission in favor of the gambling industry," said Rep. Frank Wolf, R.-Va., chief sponsor of legislation establishing the panel. ■

Adults, children, mix well at Lenoir City center ...

— Continued from page 1

Other facts about the Baptist Health Care Center, Lenoir City:

- ▶ Administrator Wilmoth and staff are preparing for a celebration of National Nursing Home Week, May 11-17.
- ▶ Renovation nears completion on office space, storage, lounge areas, as well as some outside areas.
- ▶ School-age children are picked up by van at local schools at day's end and brought to center.
- ▶ Assisted Care Center and Child Care Center are most recent additions to the "nursing home" concept.
- ▶ Sunday School Board curriculum is used for the children.
- ▶ The center trains all staff — now numbering 150.
- ▶ Jack Belcher is center's chaplain.

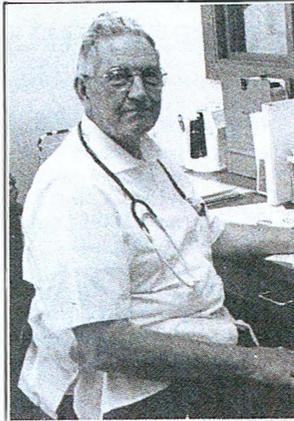
▶ **DR. WALTER SHEA**, center medical director, is always available, and spends two days weekly at the center.



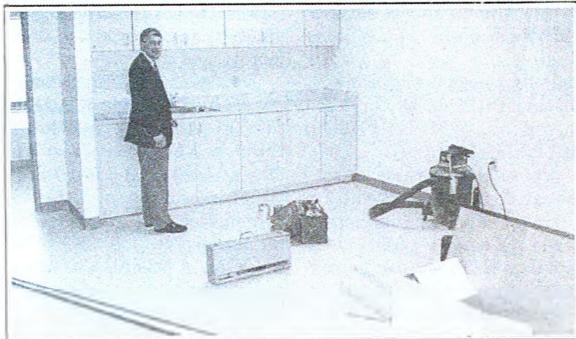
FREDA MORTON, director of nursing; **Beverly Hurley**, assistant administrator.



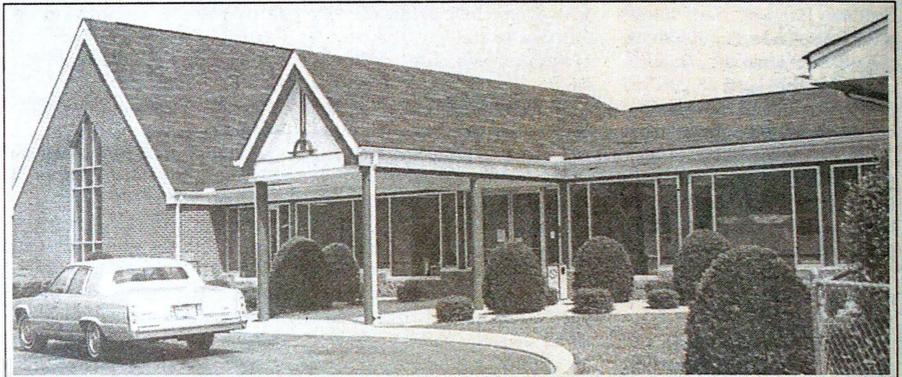
JOANNE MILLS, Child Care Center director, left, and **Sandra Jones**, toddler teacher, prepare to "wheel" a load of toddlers to the adult care centers — allowing interaction between young and old.



◀ **ANN BELCHER**, left, supervisor of Assisted Care Center, with **Eva Smith**, resident. Assisted care residents are ambulatory and usually decorate their rooms with furniture and personal items from their homes.



LOOKING AT renovation of nurses staff lounge area is **Kenny Cooper**, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes president/treasurer.



THE ORIGINAL FACILITY was purchased by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1979. Full capacity, excluding child care, is 104 and it is 99 percent filled year round. The center has full time chaplain, chapel services, Sunday School, crafts program, up-to-date medical care.

Senior adults challenged to live life to fullest; be role ...

— Continued from page 1

Carolina who founded the nonprofit organization, Power of Positive Students, told senior adults that grandparents are the backbone of the family structure. He challenged them to serve as virtuous role models for the younger generation and to act as the spiritual guiding light for families who live daily in a secularistic world.

Mitchell, whose book on family life is a home activity resource for parents and grandparents who want to train their children and grandchildren to live strong Christian lives, cites ways grandparents can serve as better role models for their grandchildren.

He encouraged them to remain positive. To do so, people have to be excited about life, count their blessings, and establish goals and purposes, he said. Preventing negativism to build up in one's life, Mitchell said, requires asking

God for forgiveness every day.

"Every day, we have to start with a new, clean cup, and we do that by asking for forgiveness for our sins every night," he said.

Senior adults also need to love, need to be loved, and need to have a purpose in life, he told the crowd. "You're not ordinary or average. You are somebody."

Joni Eareckson Tada's message for senior adults was: "Your days are numbered." But the popular Christian author and speaker said that's nothing to fret about, but something to celebrate.

"Friends, life is short. Time is a treasure. Our days are priceless. ... Please, let's not waste our precious days," said Tada, who has spent more than 30 years in a wheelchair since a diving accident left her a quadriplegic at age 17.

Admittedly down at times, she shared a favorite verse that always helps "rev up" her energy level. Psalm

90:12 (NIV) says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

"I've got this habit of numbering my days," Tada said. "Each day when I wake up, I thank God for a brand new 24 hours that he's given me. I pray for him to teach me that each moment, each hour has value."

She encouraged seniors to "turn away from murmuring, grumbling, and complaining" and focus instead on the needs of others. Everyone from children and grandchildren to neighbors and the "bag boy at the grocery market" can be impacted by the simplest acts of kindness, such as a smile or encouraging word, she said.

She also reminded seniors valuable lessons can be learned from suffering.

"Nothing better prepares us to meet the Lord Jesus in heaven than our own afflictions down here on earth," she said.

If she could, Tada said she'd take her wheelchair to heaven and tell Jesus: "The weaker I was in this thing, the more I leaned on you. And the more I leaned on you, the stronger I became."

"Yes, life is hard," Tada said. "Yes, suffering and discomfort are with us.

"But it's worth hanging on. Don't wind down; don't plateau out. God has given you another moment, another hour, another day. Do something with it."

Meanwhile, Draper told the senior adults "that the Word of God promises the possibility of a triumphant long life, one that glows with the glory of God."

He said three things the Bible teaches about a triumphant old age are "it reflects on past faithfulness; it projects the present goodness and sustaining power of God; and it reflects upon future blessedness." ■ — Chip Alford contributed to this story.

Is cooperation going out of style?

Cooperation for the sake of good causes is helpful, but not mandatory. Cooperation can be preached, taught, discussed, and explained — but unless it is acted out in daily living, it is not real.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention, sprawled across the state, is a combination of good will and cooperation among 68 associations and almost 3,000 churches and missions.

Based on Biblical truths and Christ's redeeming grace, the convention is feeble without cooperation. In any family, chaos results without cooperation. Of course, families are joined together by legal documents, birth relationships, and a willingness to put the welfare of the unit above that of any individual.

Without unity of purpose and sharing of responsibilities, the unit is weakened.

Without cooperation, such as through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists would return to the days when each seminary, each institution, each mission board was dependent on how much income they could raise by appeal.

It would be silly for the family to try to clean up the neighborhood, take care of needs at home, school, at work, and in church life — if each (or any) family member decided unilaterally to ditch responsibility, spend selfishly, or squander the group's stability.

When we mention "cooperation," some folk might think of compromise. Yes, compromise usually is needed sometime in working together. Compromise is not wrong or undesirable unless it is a compromise of

Christian faith and values. But then, would any close-knit family ask that of any member?

The state convention is an important member of the Southern Baptist Convention. Other state conventions are brothers and sisters. We make a powerful force for the Lord Jesus when we cooperate as family. Let's move to the bottom line.

The Cooperative Program, by its very name and by its definition is the financial rope that binds Southern Baptists together. Tried and true, it has been tested in fire and flood and has been found faithful.

Based on Biblical tenets of stewardship, the CP is one of the strongest ties that binds "our hearts in Christian love." It is a portrait of the "fellowship of Christian minds," an extraordinary tool against evil.

Recent news reports illustrate the urgency for Tennessee Baptists, and Southern Baptists in other states as well, to be faithful stewards. Southern Seminary trustees are searching for more funds, understandably. They aren't the only ones.

However, even when needs become critical, cooperation is extremely vital. Churches are the core of Cooperative Program giving, and messengers approve the percentages of CP funds that stay in the state and go to the Southern Baptist Convention. Until stewardship improves, there will never be enough.

Whatever we do, we must not go back to the old way of each institution or entity pleading its own case. When state conventions decide on percentages, the SBC, including seminaries should be appreciative of the CP gifts. Any discussion must take into account

the trust we have in each other.

Every state convention has priority needs. States also support SBC-related ministries as much as is feasible.

Several factors need to be considered. Until Southern Baptists become committed stewards, there will be less money than is available. And, remember that churches are autonomous, free to give according to conscience. We really must trust each other. **B&R**

Stand up and be counted

A new television show, much ballyhooed but sadly lacking in morality, is the latest tawdry development by a network.

You may read comments about the show on page 2 of this issue. Why did the show get such a buildup and applause from the Hollywood types?

Guess what! The "actress" is a lesbian, and so is the character she portrays.

If you are disgusted with the ABC network's apparent lack of concern for morality, and its disregard for Christian family values, do something.

No doubt there are thousands and thousands of people talking about the show, moaning and groaning about the sin-sick mentality that presented it. But that's not enough. Call, write your local ABC TV station. Express your views. Stand up for Christ. **B&R**



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Man's telegram to his girl friend in another town: "Received raise. Will you marry me?"

Girl's telegram: "Yes, joyfully, willingly, delightedly, adoringly, surely, certainly, yes, yes, yes!"

Take this truth

One should be careful about being too enthusiastic over any new opportunity that comes. We also need enthusiasm, however, when a "good deal" is offered to us. In other words, "Play it cool, but not so cool you freeze the other person's generosity."

Memorize this Scripture

"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer." — Romans 12:12

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to know when to get excited and when to stay calm." ■

— Comments may be addressed to Fred Wood at 726 Forest Lake Drive, Memphis.



WOOD

No matter the title, he's really just 'Brother Bob'

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I got an urgent call the other day, asking for packing boxes, the sturdy kind. When the caller said "boxes for packing away books," my mind snapped to attention.

The boxes had been requested for "Brother Bob." He is cleaning out his office in Ellersley. Free spirit that he is, he is going another direction.

Brother Bob is Bob Norman, pastor emeritus at Clearview, Franklin. But he is more than that.

Probably hundreds of pastors and lay persons across America call him pastor also. Many pastors who have been pushed aside, or who have problems they did not cause — are well acquainted with Bob Norman. A phone call, a letter, or a visit, he does all of that and more.

When Betty and I moved to Franklin, like most Baptists, we "shopped around" for a church. It didn't take long for us to realize Clearview was our new church home.

The people were meeting in Brentwood High School's cafeteria. They were moving chairs around and shuffling room assignments. When we visited, we noted the

school announcements on the walls, and the occasional splatter of ketchup on the ceiling of the "sanctuary."

But there was something about the place that made it spiritually comfortable, even joyful.

It was Brother Bob. On the day we decided to place our lives there, it's good that we didn't hesitate when we moved from our chairs to the aisle.

Bob met us practically before we started moving, and ushered us to the front. Since that day, we have understood why he is Brother Bob, and not some formal person.

From the oldest member (who at that time was about 85, to the youngest kid who could talk — the strong friendship and ebullient spirit dictated that Brother Bob was the fitting sobriquet.

So he has nurtured us for a few years, filling the role as pastor, teacher, leader,

and friend in an extraordinary fashion.

He is one of the few who can go in several directions at once and still accomplish more than most of us. Last summer he told us he and Jean wanted to retire and do some special "work." They did.

And now he is cleaning out his study in old Ellersley, that stately 1874 house where he has conversed, he says, with Truett, Spurgeon, and a host of others.

Bob and Jean are leaving posthaste for Nairn, Scotland, where the church family there will benefit from his outlandish and charismatic leadership.

We have constantly told him how much God blessed him with Jean. He knows it, calling her the Wonderful Pastor's Wife. Touche!

He loves books and words, is always on the go, is a great pastor — but most of all, he loves people and his Lord. I can see him now, preaching to the Scots, dressed in his kilt. ■



ALLEN

CP: a God-given idea whose time continues to be now

guest commentary

— by James Porch, TBC executive director

"Nothing is as valuable as an idea whose time has come." The Cooperative Program began as an idea — assuredly an idea from God. Equally important, the time was right. Certainly, in the genius of the Cooperative Program, vision and occasion complimented each other through the hand of God. The Cooperative Program, adopted during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Memphis in 1925, has played both a dynamic and increasing role in the



PORCH

drama of Tennessee Baptist mission support.

My orientation into the workings and values of the CP began as I listened to the stories of missionaries as a Sunbeam. Thus, the CP has been part of my personal Baptist heritage for over 50 years. Along the way, Lynn and I have become debtors to the CP. We received our formal education, both college and seminary, in institutions supported by the CP. In 1970, and again in 1975, we adopted children from a Home Mission Board home solely supported by the CP.

Since becoming involved in the Tennessee Baptist Convention in April 1977, I have maintained a growing support in both

principle and practice for the Cooperative Program. For over 30 years, I have been privileged to serve churches whose members were committed to the challenge to give through the CP. Such response was demonstrated through consistent and increased percentage giving.

Today, the CP is still a worthy idea — a God-given idea whose time continues to be now. I believe the CP in 1997 is the best way financially for Tennessee Baptists to accomplish together God's call to mission and ministry in our home state and even unto the world.

I invite all Tennessee Baptists to join me in affirming the Cooperative Program. — This article, prepared in mid-April, appears in the May Green Light. ■

Serve God in last years: Lotz says

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "It's not how you begin your life that counts. It's how you end your life," Anne Graham Lotz told more than 11,000 senior adults attending the closing session of the Third National Senior Adult Convention, April 28-30, here. See additional story on page 1.

"When someone younger looks at your life, allow them to see someone who is excited about Jesus, committed to him and totally surrendered and available for this service," said Lotz, an internationally known

speaker, founder of AnGel Ministries and second daughter of evangelist Billy Graham and Ruth Bell Graham.

She based her message on writings from the Apostles Peter, Paul, and John during the last year of their lives. She told Baptist Press the message grew out of devotionals she shared with her parents while staying with them in Montreat, N.C., and assisting her mother in recovering from surgery.

Lotz, who tries to limit her speaking schedule to one per week, agreed to address Southern Baptist senior adults despite other commitments dur-

ing the week.

"I just felt very called of God to be here," she said. "Senior adults have so much richness you don't want them to waste."

"What are the plans for the last years of your life?" Lotz asked the seniors, gathered at the new Nashville Arena. "Do you plan on just playing golf or playing bridge and going to the outlet malls? Have you retired, not only from your job, but from service to the Lord?"

"Stay excited about Jesus," she urged.

Never stop learning about Christ, Lotz said, and use the unique opportunities of old age to influence others.

"When you correct and rebuke and encourage, people listen," she said, noting the audiences for her father's crusades include thousands of young people. "God has given you this platform for this stage in your life. Are you using it?"

Lotz cited the Apostle Paul who spent his last year in prison without material possessions before being beheaded.

"Don't tell Paul about the health, wealth, and prosperity Gospel. He was committed to paying the cost until the day he died," she said.

She acknowledged senior years often include physical pain, suffering, and loneliness like the Apostle John. A people person, she said John was isolated on the island of Patmos and approaching 90, but God gave him the mission of sharing a fresh vision in the form of the New Testament Book of Revelation.

"Stop arguing and complaining about what God is allowing to come into your life," Lotz said. "At the end of your life as a senior citizen, you may be suffering in solitude. Would you ask him to put his hand on you to use you for his service?"

Earlier, T.W. Hunt, prayer consultant who has retired from the Baptist Sunday School

Board's discipleship and family development division and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, outlined advice from the Bible to older adults.

"According to the Bible, our senior days can be the best time of life or the worst time of life," Hunt said. "The Bible tells us we can fail in our old age or it can be the greatest time of service to the Lord."

Noting the Bible has 39 passages telling people how to grow old, he listed five pieces of advice:

- ▶ Since God lives beyond time, he is not impressed with age or accomplishments.
- ▶ Old people still need patience.
- ▶ At any age, persons should never forget that life is short.
- ▶ Righteousness in youth will become righteousness in old age.
- ▶ At every age, people must remain dependent on God. ■



STANDING TO APPLAUD and greet Joni Erikson Tada, popular author and speaker of Calabasas, Calif., as she enters the Nashville Arena are senior adults, from left, Mildred Lynch, Judson Church, Nashville; Martha E. Sprinkle, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory; Rozella Stigler, Judson Church; and Sarah and L. E. Green of Huntsville, Ala. — Photos by Connie Davis



USHER Juanita Shaver of Judson Church, Nashville, directs conferees at the Nashville Arena.



INSTRUCTING some of the senior adults from Nashville area churches who served as ushers is Johnnie Hall, recently retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board of Judson Church, Nashville. Hall stands with Ed Wakefield, who assisted him in directing the about 125 ushers they recruited. Wakefield is coordinator of the senior adult group of Woodmont Church, Nashville.



VISITING WITH friends at the conference is Jerry Winfield, left, pastor, Forest Hills Church, Nashville, with James Pulliam, minister of music, First Church, Adamsville, and his wife, Louise. Winfield and Pulliam both served on the staff of First Church, Bolivar.

Nashville pastor retires after 25 years at Hillhurst

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Retirement is bringing a series of "firsts" into the life of Richard "Dick" Adkinson.

For the first time in 46 years he won't have a regular place to preach.

But he does have his first house — and, of course, it's the first mortgage payment he has had during his 68 years of life.

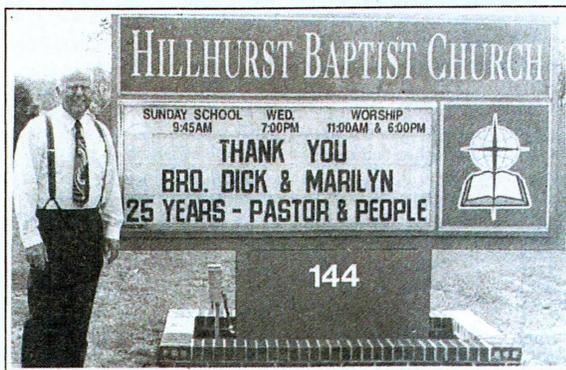
He doesn't seem to mind. For him, retirement is just another step in God's plan for his life.

Adkinson retired April 27 after 25 years as pastor of Hillhurst Church here.

A native of Memphis, Adkinson also has served as pastor of Longrest Church, Memphis; First Church, Tiptonville; and First Church, Camden, along with pastorates in Oklahoma and Mississippi.

His long tenure at Hillhurst definitely was not planned. Prior to moving to Nashville in 1972 his longest pastorate had been between five-six years.

Opportunities to move while at Hillhurst came along, but "every time a pastor search committee would contact me, it seemed the Lord just said



HILLHURST CHURCH, Nashville, let the entire community know how they feel about retiring pastor Dick Adkinson and his wife, Marilyn, after 25 years of ministry to the congregation.

stay," he recalled.

Staying at a church for a lengthy amount of time has advantages, Adkinson said.

"You really get to know the people and they get to know you," he said, adding, that the longer a pastor stays with a congregation, the easier it becomes to see the needs and hurts of the people and minister to them.

"In a short-term pastorate the pastor does not know the people that well," he observed.

And, at Hillhurst, it has been a two-way street, Adkinson

said, noting the church has ministered greatly to himself and his wife, Marilyn, who has served the church as Sunday School teacher, organist, and secretary during Adkinson's tenure.

Church members were especially of comfort to the family when their son, David, died in 1992, Adkinson said.

Perhaps another reason for 25 years of successful ministry at one church has been his approach to involve everyone. "I never saw myself as 'the' minister," he said, noting he trusted

"the Lord in his people." He noted too that he never felt he had to attend every committee meeting. Plus he has the greatest admiration for the deacons he has served with at Hillhurst. "I trust them completely."

His tenure at Hillhurst, however, has not been without challenges.

There was the time the church was having financial struggles. Despite the problems, church members committed to increase Cooperative Program giving by 1 percent each year until it reached 18 percent, Adkinson said.

"We followed the Lord's leadership when we were struggling financially to give to missions through the Cooperative Program. We stuck to that commitment and we feel the Lord blessed that decision," he said.

In addition, the community where the church is located has changed tremendously since 1972.

Many middle-to-upper-class families have left, yet some of them drive from as far away as Lebanon and Ashland City.

In spite of the transition of the area and upcoming new leadership the church is experiencing revival now, he said.



During the last three months, between 12-15 people have been baptized. Though the congregation is in a transitional community, "the Lord is still sustaining and blessing the church," Adkinson affirmed.

As for his immediate plans, he wants to enjoy doing yard work at his new home and supply and interim pastorates if that's the Lord's will for his life. "I'm his," he said with conviction.

"I thank the Lord for calling me into the pastoral ministry. That was what I wanted to do. It has not always been easy, but that's what the Lord wanted me to do."

Adkinson has one bit of advice for young ministers today.

"Every church will have problems. We are a race of fallen people. Wherever you go, there will be sin and problems.

"Don't be a part of the problem, but stay and be a part of the solution," he encouraged. ■

Inglewood layman to take testimonial walk across United States

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Oklahoma native Levi Tarapen set out on a 3,600 mile walk across the United States this week.

That in itself is not unusual; others have done it. What makes Tarapen's venture special is he's doing it for the Lord.

Tarapen literally stepped out in faith May 5 because he believes strongly the Lord called him to hike across the U.S., giving his testimony along the way.

Tarapen, a member of Inglewood Church here, was baptized last November.

"I was so grateful for what the Lord had done in my life that I prayed for a

mission that would glorify Christ," the 44-year-old truck driver said.

"About a week after I prayed, I was driving to Indiana and it came to me the Lord wanted me to walk across America to glorify Jesus Christ," he said. That realization was hard for Tarapen to accept. "I tried to talk the Lord out of having me do this," he said, citing the fact he was not in shape physically and quite frankly didn't even like to walk.

Tarapen went to his pastor, Kevin Shrum, for counsel. They decided to pray about it and about three weeks ago, during a revival at Inglewood, Tarapen made public his decision to walk across America.

He says candidly that he did not have a "burning bush" experience or hear voices. Since he made the commitment, however, he has felt an inner peace about the decision, he said.

There were important matters to consider — hard decisions and sacrifices to make. One was giving up "the best job I've ever had" and the other was leaving his wife, Bobbie, at home.

"I'm starting to feel it is something I'm destined to do," he told the *Baptist and Reflector* in an interview the week before he left.

Tarapen's pastor said he would "be skeptical" if not for Tarapen's attitude and approach to what he is doing.

"He has been thoughtful, prayerful, and meticulous in his planning," Shrum said.

"He wants to do this as an extension



PASTOR KEVIN SHRUM, left, of Inglewood Church, Nashville, looks over a map of the United States with Levi Tarapen, a member of his church. Tarapen left in early May for Sullivan's Island, S.C., where he will set out on a 3,600-mile walk across America as a testimony to Jesus Christ.

of the ministry of this church," Shrum noted. "That lends a lot of credibility to it."

The Inglewood pastor observed that sometimes God calls people to do things that may "seem to be out on the edge."

When he pulls this off, what a tremendous testimony Tarapen will have not only for the people he meets along the way, but the people of Inglewood who have rallied to support Tarapen in his venture, Shrum said.

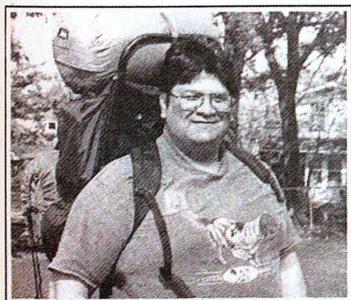
Tarapen started his trek from Sullivan's Island, near Charleston, S.C. He hopes to walk to Knoxville by June 6 in time for a Promise Keepers meeting there. He will then journey to Nashville and on to California — a 3,600 mile

trip that will take about six months, he projects.

Though traveling by himself on two-lane, primary roads, Tarapen will have a constant companion. "I plan to speak to the Lord every step of the way. This is a growing experience for me," he said.

Tarapen knows it will not be easy. "I cannot do this if the Lord is not in it," he admitted.

Tarapen plans to share his faith along the way. Churches along his route have been notified he will be coming. During his walk across America, Tarapen hopes to convey to people that there is no better life than one directed by Jesus Christ. ■



LEVI TARAPEN will walk across America with a backpack weighing more than 50 pounds, carrying clothing, sleeping gear, and about a week's food supply.

Study indicates charitable giving affected by tax deduction incentive

By Larry Chesser
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Eliminating the tax deduction for charitable gifts would reduce sharply amounts Americans donate to churches and other charities, according to a year-long study released April 28.

The study was commissioned to assess the impact on charitable giving of various tax-reform proposals before Congress. It was commissioned by two private organizations, the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector. The study was conducted by Price Waterhouse and the Washington law firm of Caplin & Drysdale.

The study, based on data from 93,000 federal income tax returns filed in 1992, concluded that eliminating the charitable-tax deduction "would place an enormous new burden on charities at the very time that the federal government is continuing to cut sharply the funding of social programs and calling on charities to pick up the slack."

Independent Sector President Sara Melendez said the study refutes the idea that the

charitable deduction has little impact on gifts to charities.

"Most people don't give because they receive a deduction," Melendez said in a prepared statement. "They give because it's the right thing to do. However, the amount they give clearly is greatly affected by the charitable deduction."

The study found that taxpayers who itemize deductions represent less than 30 percent of all taxpayers but account for 75 percent of gifts to charities.

Citing a 1995 Gallup Poll, the report noted that nonprofit groups as a whole draw about 18 percent of their income from charitable gifts, but churches and religious organizations receive 83 percent of their revenue from contributions, the study found.

"This study explodes the myth that churches will not suffer if the charitable deduction is eliminated," said Brent Walker, general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee.

Walker was one of four representatives of religious organizations serving on a 32-member Working Group on Tax Restructuring sponsored by the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector.

"Not only should we preserve the charitable deduction, we should allow non-itemizers to deduct their contributions, too," Walker said.

The study examined the potential impact of three tax-reform proposals offered in the 104th Congress that are expected to be part of a future tax-reform debate.

It concluded that a flat tax with no charitable deduction and a reduced tax rate would result in sharp declines in charitable gifts. If a flat tax with a top rate of 21 percent

had been in place in 1996, individual gifts to charities would have dropped from an estimated \$104 billion to \$71 billion, the report said.

The study did not attempt to estimate how replacing the nation's income tax system with a national retail sales tax would affect charitable gifts by individuals. Giving up a purchase to make a charitable gift or to put money in savings would reduce taxes under a system based on consumption, the study said.

But the study concluded that a national sales tax system would dramatically increase expenses of charities by requiring the collection of a 15 percent tax on revenue from most services provided by charitable groups and by possibly requiring them to pay federal and state sales tax on purchases.

Individual giving could in-

crease by as much as \$34 billion under a third tax reform proposal, known as the United Savings Allowance, or USA tax. This proposal retains the deduction for charitable gifts and allows an unlimited savings deduction.

Walker called proposals that discourage charitable gifts inconsistent with the recent national summit on volunteerism in Philadelphia. Walker referred to a meeting in late April where President Bill Clinton and past presidents from both political parties participated in a three-day summit to encourage volunteer service.

"Government cannot encourage volunteerism by discouraging giving to pay for it," he said. "It makes no sense to hold a summit on volunteering and then undercut the means to pay for it." ■



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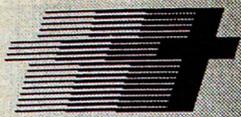
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THOMAS NELSON PUBLISHERS



Tennescene

associations

■ The April 20-24 Warren County Impact Jay Strack Crusade, an interdenominational effort which was sponsored by **Central Association**, resulted in 145 people making professions of faith and 103 making other spiritual decisions, reported Phil Dougan, crusade chairman of Cornerstone Church, McMinnville. The average attendance was 1,680 and 58 churches participated. The association has 20 churches.

leaders

■ **Wayne Stinnett**, pastor, Barnard's Grove Church, Bean Station, has been called as pastor of Beech Springs

Church, Kodak.

■ **Dalewood Church**, Nashville, will ordain **Mark Jackson**, former minister of youth/singles, to the ministry May 11 at 7 p.m.

■ **David Walters**, staff evangelist for Glendale Church, Bowling Green, Ky., has been called into full-time evangelism. Walters has served as pastor of Baptist churches for 30 years. He can be reached at (606) 864-0800.

■ **First Church**, Livingston, honored **Don Cobb**, pastor, and his wife, Jeanina, April 20 on his 10th anniversary of service. The couple received several gifts.

■ **Pete Lumpkins**, pastor, First Church, Waverly, has been called as senior pastor, Mount Zion Church and Christian Academy, Jonesboro, Ga. He has served the church since 1993.

churches

■ **First Church**, Sevierville, broke ground April 27 for its new new sanctuary and educational building, which will seat about 1,900 people and will provide class-

rooms for senior adults. On the same date in 1924 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the existing sanctuary. The church was formed in 1789 during a time of Indian unrest.

■ **Fellowship Church**, Alions, will hold revival May 18-21. The theme is "Honor Our Heritage." Phil Neighbors, a pastor in Bakersfield, Calif., and great-grandson of a former pastor, will speak.

■ **Central Church**, Oak Ridge, will celebrate its 50th anniversary May 17-18. The congregation was begun by First Church, Oak Ridge.

■ **Round Lick Church**, Watertown, will hold revival May 18-22. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, will speak.

■ **Charleston Church**, Stanton, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 3. The theme is "Cherishing Our Past — Charting Our Future." To share historical information about the church or for more information, contact Paul Moore, pastor, at (901) 476-8479.

■ **First Church**, Dresden, will hold revival May 11-14. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.



BREAKING GROUND recently are representatives of Oak Hill Church, Crossville, from left, Allen Foster, building committee; Amy Burnett, oldest charter member; Christy Taylor, youngest member; and Bill McCrary, pastor; while members stand behind them. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the congregation's new auditorium and educational building.

the schools

■ **Ross Brummett**, associate professor of religion, **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson, has been named outstanding professor for freshman by two of the school's freshman honor societies.

■ **Union University**, Jackson, has been named one of the 100 best college buys in the United States by *The Student Guide to America's 100*

Best College Buys.

state events

■ **The Church Legal Issues Workshop**, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Staff Leadership Group, scheduled May 22 at First Church, Sevierville, has been cancelled. The principle speaker was unable to attend. The event has not been rescheduled.

1997 Mother's Day Offering

Joining Hands; Healing Hearts

A mother expresses her appreciation to TBCH:

Dear Dr. Stow,

I wanted to tell you how grateful I am for your willingness and ability to help my son and me.

We think we are always in control of our lives, at least that's what I've tried to think, but being a single mother with only a high school diploma does not make a very financially secure future. I receive no child support which makes it even tougher.

I know in my heart that Daniel and I need guidance and I have checked with several counselors. But even they charge according to your salary and that is still too much.

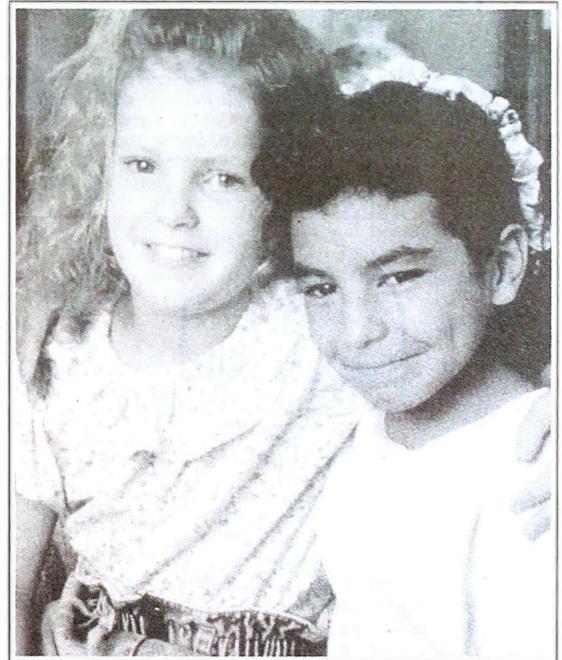
When I came to the children's homes office that day I never dreamed the Lord would be holding the door open for me. Thank you Jesus.

I am so appreciative. Thank you for helping me get help for my son. May God bless you greatly for what you have done. You gave me hope.

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A Benevolent Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Association sponsors SS revival

For Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — William Carey Association will sponsor a one-night Sunday School revival on May 29 at the Lincoln County High School gym.

Guest speaker will be Wayne Barber, pastor of Woodland Hills Church, Chattanooga. Music will be led by Mike Anderson, Woodley Church, Montgomery, Ala., and Donnie Browning of First Church, Fayetteville. The event will include one-half

hour of music featuring a 150-200 voice combined choir from the association's 35 churches.

Prior to the revival there will be an association-wide "people search," according to Aubrey Anderson, associational Sunday School director and member of First Church, Fayetteville. Churches will try to make contact with every family within the association to see if they are church members, he noted.

The purpose of the event is to

re-establish and promote Sunday School as the principle outreach branch of the churches, Anderson said. He noted the revival service also will be evangelistically oriented as well.

For more information about the one-night Sunday School revival, contact Anderson at (615) 438-0272. ■

State single adult conference planned

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — "Start a Revolution" is the theme for the 1997 Single Adult Conference scheduled for May 16-17 at First Church here.

This year's conference, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will run on two

tracts, each with separate registration fees.

Program personalities include Jerry Winfield, pastor of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, and Bubba Walden, Christian entertainer from Franklin, and other conference leaders.

For more information, call Don Mauldin at (800) 558-2090, ext. 2047. ■

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Music Worship Leader

Donahue Baptist Church, Pineville, La., a growing church with programs for all ages, is currently accepting resumes for the position, Music Worship Leader. If interested, call the church office at (318) 640-0610; fax (318) 640-0790; or mail to 2900 Donahue Ferry Road, Pineville, La 71360.

Assistant Director

The Baptist Sunday School Board is seeking an Assistant Director of the Church Leadership Services Division. This person will be responsible to the Director for the overall operation of assigned areas. Areas of responsibility could include development of strategic and business plans, budgets, reports, publishing operations, marketing, and personnel.

The ideal candidate for this position will have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration required. Master's of Business Administration preferred. Must have a minimum of 10 years strong, progressive business experience. Extensive knowledge of the Southern Baptist Convention. Function well as an assistant while still developing a team, building consensus, helping set goals, and keeping the Division focused and functioning effectively. Southern Baptist required.

If qualified and interested, please send or fax resume to:
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Human Resources Department
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For more information, call the Missions Awareness & Involvement Group, TBC, at (615) 371-2026.

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Gifted by God

By Gary Rickman

Focal passages—Romans 12:6-10a; I Corinthians 12:4-6, 8-10, 31b; Ephesians 4:11-13; I Peter 4:8, 10-11

The word "charisma" is a Biblical concept that the world has captured. So, a person with charisma is one with sex appeal, social charm, political appeal, or the like. The world has a wrong concept, and some Christians don't understand charisma. Charismatic people are thought to move on a higher spiritual orbit. Both these notions are false. Charisma and grace are built on the Greek word *charis*. The New Testament teaches every Christian has at least one God-given spiritual gift. All Christians are charismatic.

The church is blessed as believers discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts to serve Jesus, reach people for him, and strengthen his church. Consider the charisma that God has given to you.

The source of spiritual gifts is the Trinity (I Corinthians 12:4-6). To affirm and emphasize that different gifts come from a common source, Paul used three terms: Spirit, Lord, and God. He used three terms to refer to what the Trinity has given. The term gifts (v. 4) reminds us that God has given spiritual gifts to every believer on the basis of his grace, not on human merit. The term administrations (v. 5) which could be translated service or ministry helps us know the gifts are for other's benefit. Paul's term operations (v. 6) from which we get our word energy emphasizes the miraculous power behind the gifts.

Paul's words indicate the diversity in the body of Christ and how the body of Christ is similar to a human body with various functions. Gifts of the Spirit are as varied as the members of Christ's body, the church. In writing to three congregations, Paul mentioned different gifts. Because the lists differ, we can take them as representative.

The Corinthian believers thought some gifts were greater than others and to have these gifts, set you apart as spiritually elite. In I Corinthians 12-14 Paul wrote to correct this idea. In the Roman passage he emphasized gifts associated with service and leadership. Gifts in Ephesians 4:11 relate to gifted believers with specific functions. These writings emphasize a harmony of the gifts.

In Ephesians 4:12 Paul emphasized the purpose of the gifts God gives to the believer. The word perfecting can be translated equipping or preparing. This verse indicated God gives gifts to believers for the building up of the church. All of God's people are called and are equipped to do their part in building up the church.

The passage from I Peter 4:10-11 further emphasizes every believer's responsibility to use his or her gifts in serving one another. Peter also stressed using spiritual gifts as a matter of stewardship.

While love is not a spiritual gift, it is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This week's lesson closes with a series of passages that remind us that the proper context for spiritual gifts is Christlike love. Only by exercising the kind of love we see in Jesus can we expect to exercise spiritual gifts properly and use them to bring glory to God.

The Spirit has given every believer a gift. God holds us accountable for how we use what we have been given. As believers, if we use our gifts properly the body of Christ will be built up and strengthened, thus glorifying God. How are you using the charisma God has given to you? ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

Provision for the redeemed

By Larry Kirk

Focal — Revelation 7:1-3, 9-10, 13-17

It's final moments of the final quarter. It appears the Saints (of God) are destined to defeat. Suddenly the coach of the universe calls, "Time out."

The sixth seal has been opened but before the coming of the seventh, there is an interlude. The angels in verses 1-3 represent in their actions the providential delay in the final execution of judgment. When this judgment does come, what about the believers? What will be their fate? "I will seal you from defeat." No coach has ever given his team such an encouraging word during a "time out." This seal is one from "the living God" (v. 2). The God that promises to care for his own is no dead god — he is alive. When a Christian is up against it, when the work, or day, seems too hard, there is great comfort in knowing that the living God is with him. And not only is he with us, we belong to him.

Family Bible Lesson

There is much theological debate as to just who these sealed servants are. Space will not allow me the privilege of entering this debate. I do want to make some observations. First, I see in this term a remnant. When I am tempted to say, "No one understand what I am going through," I know that I am surrounded by a host of servants who have experienced all things and found God faithful to deliver them. Second, I may think that only I serve God. But a host of servants remain faithful. Third, I see these sealed as the Old Testament counterpart where the death angel passed over homes with the blood over the door posts. This term points to God who is always in control of all things.

The scene moves to the multitudes "standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (v. 9). This is an all inclusive group. They stand "clothed with white robes,

and palms in their hand" (v. 9), symbols of virtues and victory. They sing praises unto the God of their salvation (v. 10). When the Lord had been silent, while Satan's fatal blow seemed imminent, when they were tempted to believe that God might have abdicated his throne, they now see him sitting there (v. 10). The Lamb wins — and he gives victory to all his faithful servants, in any quarter of life's game.

But who are these faithful servants? "These are they who came out of great tribulations." What is meant by tribulation?

One view sees the term as representing the persecution and hostility that believers receive. Or, tribulation may be associated with end-time events and the return of Christ.

The central point is that God's provisions are greater than life's problems. In any quarter, we will live and reign with God in his glory.

How were these servants delivered? They "washed their robes ... in the blood of the Lamb." Two thoughts are clear. One, they did not wash their robes in religious waters, nor in the fountain of self-righteous living. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse one's sins. Second, while it is Christ's blood alone that cleanses, the effect is not passive. There is no automatic washing away of sin.

For those who have come through this great tribulation, God has a special place for them — in his midst, serving him. In verse 16-17a, the Bible speaks of the physical provision (using earthly language) our Lord will supply. Verse 17b assures us that God will meet all emotional needs.

What a glorious word from our coach during this time out. ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



Bible study
for May 11

Rejecting misplaced trust

By Tim Holcomb

Focal Passage — Isaiah 30:8-18, 26

What are ways we show someone they can trust us? We hold their confidences. We never tell any of their secrets. We love them in spite of what we know about them. We talk about our dreams and expectations without fear of criticism. We give ourselves confidently in love. We forgive even when we've been wronged. We build relationships based on past responses. We keep our word, we make promises we intend to keep.

Somewhere along the way the children of God forgot what they had learned about God. They failed to remember the ways God showed them that they could trust him. Our "small brains" leave us in great need.

Our text this week expands on an age-old problem — we try to trust something other than God.

Refusing to listen. When I was a child growing up, I played hard and developed a self-made hearing problem. I heard my mother call me ... Tim. But I chose not to listen. I continued to play ... then I heard Timothy James. My refusal to listen changed. I knew I had better listen fast and clear. I was in trouble.

Isaiah describes a similar setting

Explore the Bible Lesson

... "These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction," (v. 9). The children of God were not listening. They did not care to hear God's instructions. They did not recognize the seriousness of his speaking to them.

Trusting God's Word. I remember another incident as a child growing up. I was asked one evening around the meal table, if I had broken my sister's necklace. Why no, I said with indignation. I tried to shape what happened with a better story than the truth. It was not believed, no matter how I tried. I would not get out of the fact that I had broken her necklace.

This text shows the children of God trying to manipulate a story better than the truth. The children of God didn't want the truth. They didn't want God's presence active in their lives. For all the ways we try to get away from the truth; we put ourselves in great peril.

Receiving judgment. Suffice it to say, the night I tried to dodge the truth about my sister's necklace, I was in big trouble. Verses 12-14 describe the judgment dispensed from trying to build a story better than

the truth. The key word is iniquity, which is moral crookedness. What is the result of iniquity? A brokenness complete that ... "There shall not be a piece in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water without out of the pit," (v. 14c).

Refusing help. The children of God had their problem solved. We will flee faster than the enemy. This thought showed God they weren't prepared to trust him. God defines what will really happen ... "You will flee! ... One thousand shall flee at the threat of one man; you shall flee at the threat of five, until you are left as a flag on a mountain top and as a signal on a hill," (v. 17).

Security and prosperity. Even though my "better than truth story" didn't work with my father, he didn't like to discipline me. He wanted me to be truthful. He wanted me to appreciate the truth. I'm thankful to have had that model. It has helped me in trusting God.

So what? God's activity in our lives today is a precursor of his activity in the future. If anything changes in our relationship to God, it is not God who changes.

Who do you trust? What makes you trustworthy? ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



SBC '97
related meetings

SWBTS plans 'homecoming'

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Even when the Southern Baptist Convention gathers in Texas, one wouldn't expect a seminar meeting with a cowboy atop a longhorn steer.

But that and more is scheduled for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's "Homecoming III," June 18 during the SBC annual meeting.

The national alumni association meeting will take place after a full Texas barbecue dinner and before groundbreaking for phase one of the seminary's continuing education center. The 1997 distinguished alumni awards also will be announced at the meeting.

Charter buses will provide transportation from the Dallas Convention Center to the semi-

nary's Fort Worth campus beginning at 11:30 a.m. The bus fare is free with the purchase of a \$10 meal ticket, to be on sale at the seminary's booth in the convention exhibit area. ■

SEBTS luncheon set at FBC, Dallas

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's National Alumni and Friends Luncheon will be held June 18 at First Church here.

The luncheon, to be held in Coleman Hall following the morning session of the SBC, will include an address by seminary President Paige Patterson.

Cost of the luncheon is \$9. Checks should be made payable to Southeastern Seminary and mailed to the alumni office by May 30 to P. O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, N.C. 27588. A limited number of tickets will be available at the seminary's booth in the SBC exhibit hall. ■

Midwestern to honor alumni

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will recognize Indiana mis-

sions director Carrol Fowler as outstanding alumnus of the year as they gather at noon on June 18 for their annual luncheon during the SBC annual meeting.

Fowler has served as missions director for the Indiana Baptist convention since 1990.

Former public relations director Marty Blankenship will be recognized as honorary alumna of the year. She served the seminary for more than 17 years in alumni relations, development, and institutional advancement.

Midwestern President Mark Coppenger will speak during the luncheon to be held in D270-272 of Level 2 in the Dallas Convention Center.

Advance tickets are available by sending a check for \$16 to MBTS to Laura Gust, Alumni Office, MBTS, 5001, N. Oak Street Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo., 64118. Tickets will be available at MBTS' convention booth for \$20. ■

Mohler to speak at SBTS luncheon

Baptist Press

DALLAS — President R. Albert Mohler Jr. will be the featured speaker at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's June 18 luncheon for alumni and friends at the Hyatt Re-

gency in the Grand Hall from 1-3 p.m.

Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be obtained from Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Drive, Louisville, Ky., 40280. Advanced tickets must be purchased by June 2. ■

NOBTS alumni to hear Kelley

Baptist Press

DALLAS — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be a breakfast meeting on June 18.

The full-course, country-style breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency.

The meeting will include a report from President Chuck Kelley and presentation of the seminary's distinguished alumnus award.

Tickets are on sale now by mail. Tickets ordered before June 1 are \$10; afterwards the cost is \$15 each and can be purchased at the seminary's convention booth by noon on June 17.

Purchase tickets in advance by writing the Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126. ■

Golden Gate plans luncheon

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host a luncheon for alumni and friends June 18.

The luncheon begins at noon in Room D262 on Level 2 in the Dallas Convention Center. President William Crews will be the featured speaker along with other staff members.

Tickets, at \$14.50, may be purchased through Golden Gate Seminary by mailing payment to the Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, Calif., 94941. A limited number of tickets may be purchased from the seminary's booth in the exhibit area. ■

African-American Fellowship slates features McKissic

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Church, Arlington, Texas, will be the featured speaker at the African-American Fellowship meeting June 15 at Singing Hills Church here. The fellowship also will meet the next day at the Grand Hotel. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of Luke

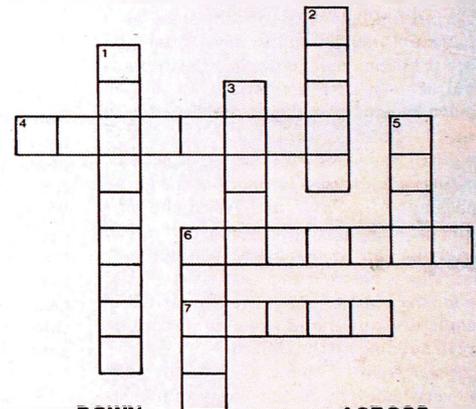
Unscramble these Parables of Jesus — without looking up the scriptures, if you can.

- Luke 15:8-10 NOISTCOL _____
- Luke 20:9-18 YAENIVDR _____
- Luke 6:39-45 DLINBDLINBLNIDEAG _____
- Luke 12:35-40 THREADISTWLUFAP _____
- Luke 15:1-7 POSEELHTS _____
- Luke 19:11-27 ESTPD'ONUN _____
- Luke 8:4-15 LOISS _____
- Luke 16:19-31 MINCHRA and SULRAAZ _____ and _____
- Luke 21:29-33 GRITEEF _____
- Luke 14:7-14 NOSEHEDROUGT _____
- Luke 15:11-32 DRIPLAGONSO _____
- Luke 10:29-37 SMARTODONAGAI _____
- Luke 5:36-39 THOCL and NEISKIWSN _____ and _____
- Luke 18:1-8 MAWON and the DUJEG _____ and the _____
- Luke 13:18-19 STARMUEESDD _____
- Luke 12:13-21 CHOLIRFO _____
- Luke 11:33-36 PTMALLHGEID _____
- Luke 18:9-14 SEAPHIER and ELLOOCCTTRAX _____ and _____

Fun for the Family

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The Book of Luke



DOWN

ACROSS

1. The small 's name
2. The man collected 
3. They went to his  for dinner.
5. The man was very 
6.  called the man down.
4. Type of 
6. Name of the 
7. The man was 

-Luke 19:1-5

"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.