

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

May 14, 1997

## this week's news

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CELEBRATION

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

## 1996 reports show Brotherhood, DT, baptisms up

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Annual reports on the involvement of Tennessee Baptists in several areas have been provided to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

During the 1995-96 church year, more Tennessee Baptists were involved in four of five church organizations than in the previous year, the 1996 Annual Church Profile showed. And the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive

Board has reported throughout the year that giving has been up.

Enrollment/participation in discipleship training and Brotherhood showed the largest increases. One broad area of church work, baptisms, also showed an increase.

Brotherhood enrollment/participation increased by 9 percent (4,110) and discipleship training increased by 6.6 percent (9,933). State baptisms increased by 5.2 percent (1,314).

The next highest increases

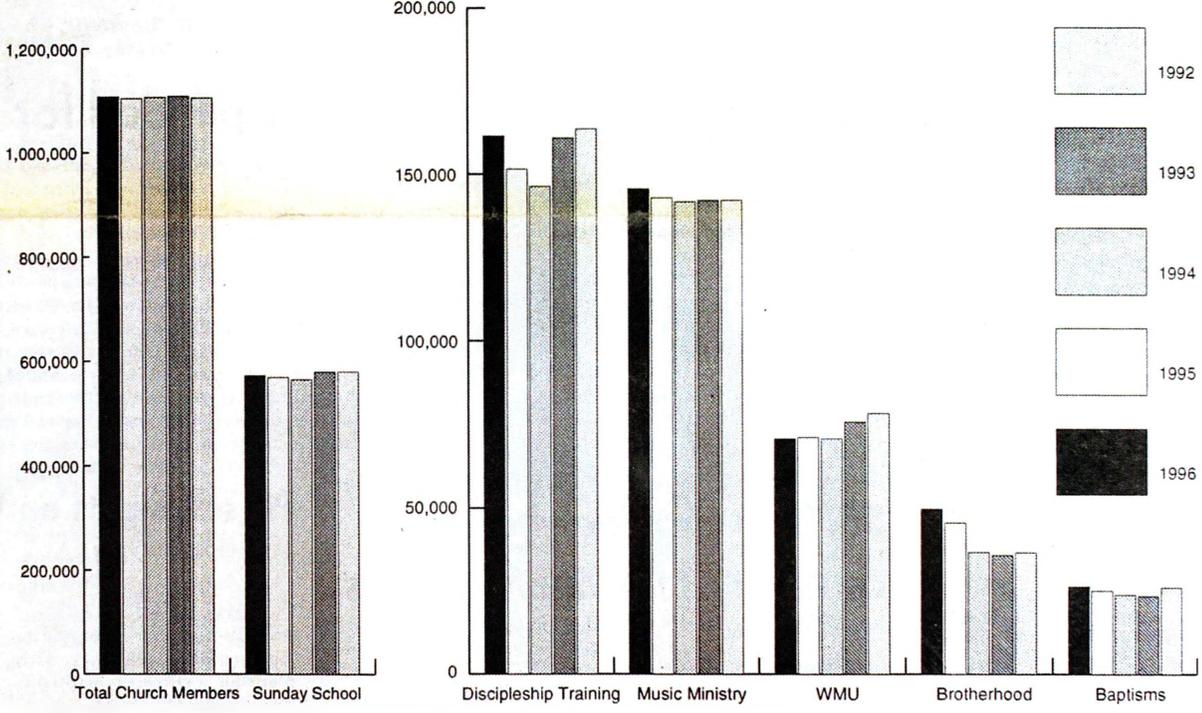
were in music ministry enrollment/participation — 1.8 percent (2,629) and total church membership — .28 percent (3,089). Sunday School enrollment was up .58 percent (3,295). WMU enrollment was down .61 percent (436).

WMU participation is measured strictly by enrollment, as is involvement in Sunday School. Other organizations are measured by enrollment and participation.

The state report is similar to the national report by the

Baptist Sunday School Board. Discipleship training had the highest increase, 8.1 percent, followed by Brotherhood, 2.7 percent; music ministry, 1.8 percent; WMU, .94 percent; total church membership, .17 percent; and Sunday School, .42 percent. Baptisms fell 3.7 percent nationally so Tennessee bucked that trend.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention keeps its own financial records. See rankings of churches in two areas and further 1996 reports on page 6. *B&R*



## Extends partnership with Canadian Baptists

## TBC Executive Board approves new partnership in Brazil

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board approved a new partnership with Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and the International Mission Board and extended its partnership with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists during their May 6 meeting at the Baptist Center.

The partnership in Brazil will begin Jan. 1, 1998 and run through Dec. 21, 2,000. Priority concerns in the new partnership will be to win the lost to Christ and to integrate the new converts into existing or new churches to be planted; to in-

still a greater love and appreciation between North and South American brothers and sisters by working alongside each other in Rio de Janeiro; to respond adequately to the human needs in Rio de Janeiro; to discover new ways of reaching people; and to help strengthen small churches.

Tennessee Baptists' three-year partnership in Canada concludes at the end of December this year. The partnership will be extended another three years, from Jan. 1, 1998 to Dec. 31, 2,000.

Both partnerships will be coordinated by the TBC partnership/volunteer missions team of the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.

Final approval for both partnerships must be given by messengers to the TBC

annual meeting in November.

In other actions, board members heard a report from a committee studying the feasibility of relocating the Executive Board offices (see separate story on page 3) and an update on a communications audit being conducted for the Executive Board.

Board members also were informed Bill Wilson, TBC ministry coordinator, will retire Sept. 30. Wilson, former pastor of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, has served on the TBC Executive Board staff since 1990.

In a related matter, the board voted to expand the position of ministry coordinator to include the duties assigned to — See TBC, page 3

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# Texas standoff allows Baptists to minister

By Dan Martin  
For Baptist Press

FORT DAVIS, Texas — Texas Baptists provided physical and spiritual food for participants on both sides of the tense, week-long Davis Mountain Resort standoff in far West Texas.

Ed Jennings, director of missions of the Big Bend Association, which covers Marfa, Alpine, and Fort Davis, was on-site with the estimated 200 to 300 lawmen during most of the standoff between officers and heavily armed Republic of Texas separatists holed up in their "embassy" in the mountains near Fort Davis.

Eight Texas Baptist men — led by Dick Jenkins of Odessa — brought an 8- by 24-foot trailer to the command post two miles from the "embassy" to provide food, prayer, and encouragement to the officers. It was the first time a TBM disaster relief unit has been used in such a standoff, Jenkins said.

Jennings has been chaplain for seven years to the Presidio

County sheriff's department and has ministered during those years to lawmen who serve in the sprawling area larger than most eastern states.

He helped with logistics and ministry during the tense standoff, helping provide beds, toiletries, food, counseling, and prayer to the lawmen from numerous federal and state organizations gathered to serve arrest warrants on Richard McLaren, the separatists' so-called ambassador, and his followers holed up in the ramshackle trailer they called the Republic of Texas "embassy."

Part of Jennings' contribution was "two to three prayer walks" each day as he walked around the area, "especially when the men were about to move forward or to make another thrust" toward the ROT compound.

"I would just walk and pray, giving the operation to God and lifting it all up to the Lord," Jennings said.

He was on hand when McLaren and most of his fol-

lowers surrendered, and ministered to them — offering prayer, counsel and Bibles — after they were incarcerated in the Presidio County Jail in Marfa.

Jennings said the most difficult thing he did during the standoff was to "visit with the officer who had to shoot one of the guys who had run off" after the majority of the separatists had surrendered peacefully. Two separatists escaped into the wilderness, and one — a 41-year-old California man — was shot and killed after he fired at his pursuers, wounding two tracking dogs.

The officer who killed him is a corrections officer who serves as a dog handler.

"That was the most difficult thing of the whole event," Jennings said. "This man wasn't trigger-happy or anything like that. He was just put in a position where he had no choice."

From his position as chaplain to the lawmen, Jennings was able to offer the services of the TBM feeding unit. The siege started Sunday, April 27,

after the Republic of Texas separatists held two residents of the Davis Mountains Resort hostage for 12 hours in retaliation for the arrest of one of their followers on weapons charges.

At first, Salvation Army units tried to keep up with the task of feeding the lawmen, but by Wednesday the task had become impossible, so Jennings asked coordinators if they would like to have another unit. When they said yes, he contacted TBM offices and arranged for the unit stationed in Odessa to be sent down. It arrived on site about 1 a.m. Thursday and fed breakfast at 8 a.m. that same day.

The unit fed continuously and provided other services — such as praying with the lawmen — until coming out and returning home to Odessa Sunday, May 4.

As he looked back on the effort, Jenkins said it is "amazing how God worked it all out. I am firmly convinced that God had his hand on this operation the entire time." ■

# Albania evangelism project suspended for this summer

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Plans to recruit 300 Southern Baptist volunteers for Albania this summer have been canceled by the Foreign Mission Board, after the looting of equipment and materials in March that had been used for showing the "Jesus" film in Albanian villages.

The looting occurred in the midst of chaos and anarchy that engulfed Europe's poorest nation, sparked by the collapse of a widespread "pyramid" scheme in which

many Albanians lost all their savings.

Equipment and materials, valued at \$120,000, used in the yearly Albania Evangelical Rural Outreach (AERO) effort in Albanian villages for showing the "Jesus" film were looted from a storage facility in Tirana, the nation's capital, according to a March 21 report by European Baptist Press Service. More than 67,000 Albanians have seen the film since 1994.

More than 830 villages in Albania's rugged countryside have been the focus of Project AERO, a cooperative venture in-

volving the FMB, Campus Crusade for Christ, Helimission, various other evangelical organizations, and Albanian believers.

Project AERO has been one of many evangelistic thrusts in Albania, which have yielded up to 100 churches and 8,000 believers in the former atheistic, communist country of 3.4 million people.

Don Mansfield, who directs Campus Crusade ministry in Albania, said he hopes Project AERO can resume in the summer of 1998. ■

# SBHS to provide churches certificates for anniversaries

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southside Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, received a piece of history after a March 26 phone call to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission: It received the last church anniversary certificate to be given by the SBC agency.

Each year as a service to churches, the Historical Commission has given a free anniversary certificate to churches celebrating 25, 50, 75, 100, and other such anniversaries and has published resource material on how to celebrate a church anniversary. The commission has mailed hundreds of these certificates to churches across

the Southern Baptist Convention in the past decade alone.

The Historical Commission will be unable to provide anniversary certificates to churches in the future because the agency is being closed June 19 by SBC messenger approval of the convention's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring.

However, church anniversary certificates will now be provided by the Southern Baptist Historical Society.

Churches wishing to receive an anniversary certificate should call the SBHS toll-free at 1 (800) 966-2278 with the date and/or year their church was organized or constituted. ■

# PK sets sights on Washington rally

Associated Baptist Press

LOS ANGELES — The Christian men's movement, Promise Keepers, has begun its stadium-filling 1997 tour, with plans for a climactic, multiethnic, nondenominational gathering of men Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C.

The May 2-3 weekend saw the Promise Keepers regional conferences begin with a combined 100,000 men at two stadiums in Detroit, Mich., and at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Some Baptists say Promise Keepers could become a possible unifying point for Southern Baptists torn asunder by more than a decade of denominational division.

"God's the only one who's gonna bring Baptists or any other denomination together," said Tony Forehand, assistant pastor

from Desert Hills Church in Las Vegas.

Jim Rice, a Baptist minister from Orange County, Calif., said the PK emphasis on men supporting their local church pushed men to create "a personal relationship with Christ; that's what the Baptists preach," he said.

Promise Keepers organizers say anecdotal reports have Washington-bound flights and trains from Dallas and the East Coast getting

sold out for October's "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men" gathering. Officials say some men are foregoing the regional stadium conferences to save money and time off for the Washington event.

Among the 1997 stadium events planned will be one at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville on June 6-7. ■



# Union trustees approve \$21 million budget; appoint director for Lee center

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University's board of trustees recently met for their spring meeting, approving the university's 1997-98 budget.

The operating budget of \$21,532,517 represents a \$1,746,806 increase over the 1996-97 budget of \$19,785,711.

In other business, trustees formally announced the appointment of John Adams, vice president of campus ministries and church services, as the new director of the R.G. Lee Center.

The center is projected to open this fall and will serve area churches through three major continuing education emphases. Included among those is a Christian education center designed to host conferences and seminars for the purpose of updating and retooling church

leadership. Off-campus extension programs will equip bivocational pastors with formal Biblical training leading to a diploma or associate's degree in Christian studies. Similar training for church leadership for laypersons is also planned through conferences and extension centers.

"The R.G. Lee Center underscores Union's commitment to finding new ways to serve the local church," Union President David S. Dockery said.

In faculty-related matters, David Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies, was named the director of Union's new Center for Christian Lead-



DOCKERY

ership. The purpose of this center is to serve the overall mission of the university by equipping the Union community and other interested individuals with the world view and skills necessary to be authentically Christian servant-leaders and change agents in the 21st century. He will be installed at the Sept. 8 convocation.

Cynthia Jayne, professor and chair of Union's languages department, was formally appointed as the director for the new Center for International Studies. The center is designed to strengthen the university's commitment to academic excellence through various international programs.

Wayne Wofford, associate professor of biology, was named the director of a new Center for Scientific Research and Christian Studies. ■

## Resumes sought for position

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A search subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Executive Board will be receiving nominations and resumes for the Ministry Coordinator position. Bill Wilson, current Ministry Coordinator, will retire Sept. 30.

During the May 6 Executive Board meeting, action was taken to combine the position of Cooperative Program Promotion and Development Specialist with the Ministry Coordinator position.

The Ministry Coordinator will provide support, direction, and coordination for the Christian Growth Development, Church Staff Leadership, Evangelism/Missions, and Missions Awareness and Involvement Groups. In addition, this person will provide leadership of the development of Cooperative Program sup-

port and resources with Tennessee Baptist churches. Also, the Ministry Coordinator position will include providing assistance to churches needing help in implementing Vision 2000, the convention-adopted Long-Range Plan.

The search subcommittee is comprised of Bill Northcott, chairman; Hinton Climer, Paul Medley, Ray Newcomb, Charles Parker, and Betty Summers.

The subcommittee will receive nominations for the position through June 15. According to policy, each nominee will receive a standard Executive Board ministry application form. All nominees will be requested to fill out the form.

Nominations for the position should be sent to Bill Northcott, chairman, Ministry Coordinator Search Subcommittee, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ■

## Koreans have food, thanks to Southern Baptists' gifts

Baptist Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Starving North Koreans are receiving millions of meals because Southern Baptists gave generously and joined hands with others to share the good news of God's love with people in need.

More than 1.8 million servings of dehydrated vegetable soup mix were shipped in April to the reclusive Asian nation — at a cost of 3.6 cents per meal — because of a remarkable partnership between Southern Baptists, American farmers, and an international food bank.

The project was possible because Southern Baptist churches gave generously to their

World Hunger Fund in 1996, reversing several years of declining gifts.

North Korea teeters on the brink of famine after two years of massive crop failures. Eyewitnesses say as many as 20 million people are going to bed hungry every night, many reduced to eating grass, tree bark, and even soil.

Three overseas freight containers, containing 1.86 million meals total, were shipped in April for only \$60,000, said Bill Cashian, a Southern Baptist human needs consultant. Expenses were minimized because farmers in Colorado and Texas donated surplus crops and a Texas dehydrating plant provided its services at no cost. ■

## SBC shuttle service in place

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Shuttle service during the Southern Baptist Convention's June 17-19 annual meeting and pre-SBC meetings June 15-16 has been arranged for 22 Dallas-area hotels to the Dallas Convention Center.

Additionally, a shuttle discount will be available to the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport and Love Field.

Tickets for the shuttles from 11 Market Center-area hotels may be purchased in the convention center's registration area at a cost of \$10 for four days, \$8 for three days, both with unlimited service from Monday, June 15,

through Thursday. Shuttles will run from 7 a.m. until one hour after each day's closing sessions.

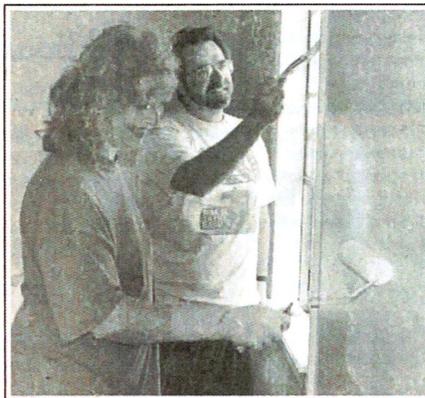
For 10 hotels in downtown Dallas, an \$8 pass for four days for the DART/Light Rail System also will be sold in the SBC registration area.

Travelodge Hotel will provide its own shuttle service to the convention center. Shuttle service will not be available for the Fairfield Inn Regal Row or Stoneleigh.

For airport service, messengers and other SBC guests can use Discount Shuttle, which operates orange-colored vehicles, at one-way fares of \$8 for DFW and \$7 for Love Field to and from any Dallas-area hotel. ■

## TBC group puts words into action

For Baptist and Reflector



TBC MISSIONS AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT GROUP members Terry Sharp and Glenda Palmer hone up their painting skills at Woodcock Church's mission center in Nashville.

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Missions Awareness and Involvement Group can't be accused of not "practicing what they preach."

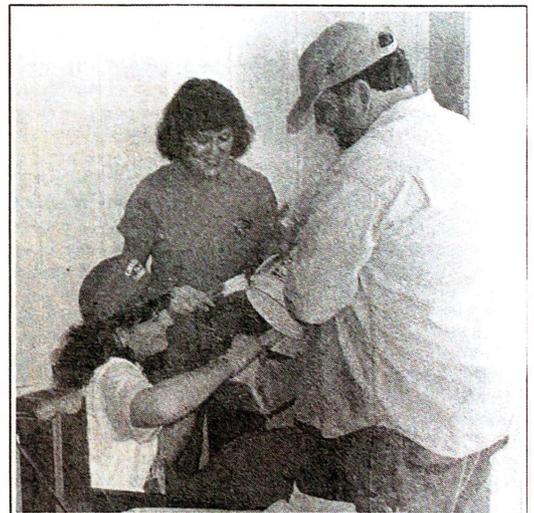
The TBC group charged with encouraging involvement in missions did some "hands-on" missions work themselves May 2 at Woodcock Church here.

Members of the TBC Executive Board staff painted an apartment where volunteers at Woodcock will be staying this summer, said group leader Tim Bearden.

He said the project served two purposes — building team spirit in the group and putting words into action.

"We promote missions so we felt we needed to be involved in missions to show we mean what we say," Bearden said. ■

MAKING SURE not to leave any paint in the bucket are, from left, Amanda Day, Dianna Hughes, and Tim Bearden. They were among employees of the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group who participated in hands-on missions recently at Woodcock Church. Other group members who worked at Woodcock were Marcia Knox, Bob Davison, Carol Davidson, Rodney Wilson, Bernie Morgan, Vickie Anderson, Glenda Palmer, Gayle Ingram, Andrea Lake, Dene Mashburn, Terry Sharp, Christie Hendricks, and Christina Peters.





## opinion

### about letters to the editor

- ▶ Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length and wording.
- ▶ Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- ▶ Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- ▶ Send original copy. Form letters and 'open' letters will not be published.
- ▶ Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- ▶ If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- ▶ Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.

### Partnership Prayer Requests

#### May

- 14 — Praise the Lord for the recent increased participation in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's new pastor orientation.
- 15 — Praise God for the recent revival at First Church, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada, and Pastor Mike McElroy. Ask God for life changing results in the individual lives effected by the revival.
- 16 — Pray for Baptist representatives in Poland, Doug and Marcy Shaw, as they seek the location where God would have them serve after language school.
- 17 — Pray for missionaries Larry and Mary Hendricks in Costa Rica as they look for rental housing in Residential Cartago subdivision, and for the salvation of families in that neighborhood.
- 18 — Pray for Woodland Association in Michigan as it seeks a new director of missions.
- 19 — Praise God for the recent "Evangelism Through Prayer" conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Several churches in the Northern Lights Association attended the conference.
- 20 — Pray for the pastorless churches who are members of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

### Grandparents

Over the hill and through the woods to grandparents' house ... we go? Remember the love, fun, and memories? What if all this has been taken away from your family? Did you know that our great state of Tennessee does not give visitation rights to grandparents?

I lost my own daughter in a fatal accident one year ago. Struggling with all the sorrow of losing her, I now find it unbearable not being allowed to see, visit, or even talk with her children (my grandchildren). There are many families who believe this could never happen to them. Only a short year ago, I was one of them. Today, I'm pleading with government officials to get the visitation rights of grandparents legalized in our state as they are in other states across our nation.

State Legislature now has Bill 1065 and 1660 that would allow visitation rights to grandparents. I urge all grandparents and others as well to contact each of your senators and representatives and ask

them to vote yes on these important bills.

If you would like more information and need someone to talk to, please call me at (615) 233-5218. I look forward to hearing from each of you.

Betty Cates  
Bell Buckle 37020

### Good news

For two years I have been writing you to ask your help in letting the churches in your state know about our project. We've been saving Campbell's soup labels to get a new van for the mission work here.

I have good news. We received confirmation today that Campbell's has ordered the van for us. It will arrive here in October or November.

We are so grateful for your help in the area of publicity. We have had 1,617 churches and individuals send us labels. The majority of these people wouldn't have been able to be a part of this movement without your help.

God has already blessed us with an additional 100,000 la-

els so we are now saving for van number two. This has been an incredible faith experience for me. Missionaries aren't sent to places that are spiritually strong and it has been a blessing to be reminded daily of Baptists' support and prayers.

Thanks again for your ministry to me and the people of my community.

Debbie Wohler,  
home missionary  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

### Support TBCH

With Mother's Day just passed I wanted to write concerning Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. For the last five years I have worked as a case manager with children who have come into the custody of the state of Tennessee. As part of my job, I help place these children and then monitor them afterwards.

I have had the opportunity to go around the state and visit many of these group homes where children go after being removed from their own home. In that context I have noted

that Tennessee Baptist Children's Home has one of the best programs in the state for children in need.

There is a need in the state. I have met parents who thought that discipline should be delivered with a 2 x 4 or an undone coat hanger. I have met teens who have been thrown out of their own homes because they were inconvenient. I have dealt with children who have been the targets of sexual predators in their own home. I have also seen families trying to work through their problems where a short break and some counseling is all that is needed. TBCH ministry takes care of all of these children and they do their job well.

As Tennessee Baptists we have a program that is well worth our support. Jesus told us to let the children come to him. We as Christians are encouraged to support the weak, those who cannot take care of themselves. TBCH is doing this in the best way possible.

Richard Feist  
Oak Ridge 37830

## TBC Executive Board approves new partnership in ...

— Continued from page 1  
Cooperative Program Promotion and Development Specialist and the Long-Range Planning consultation service.

The board also approved the following recommendations:

- ▶ Elected members to serve on the board of directors for the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Memphis corporation in response to an action of the Executive Board last December authorizing the creation of BCMM. Local association members are Danny Sinquefield, Bartlett; Rob Mullins, Cordova; Mark O'Brien, Memphis; and Mike Smith, Memphis. Executive Board members are Lawrence Hudson and Joey Rosas, Memphis, and Executive Board staff members are Ircel Harrison and William Maxwell.

- ▶ Approved a recommendation to amend the Church Annuity Plan to allow for greater flexibility in regard to required distribution option: at age 70 and one-half years.

- ▶ Approved a master of arts in English degree program for Belmont University Nashville.

- ▶ Authorized the use of capital reserve funds resulting from the sale of property off Peytonsville Road in 1992 for implementation of the master development plans at Camps Linden and Carson.

- ▶ Approved the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts for budget year 1997-98 be: TBC, 62.5 percent and SBC, 37.5 percent. Part two of

### Executive Board members hear feasibility study report

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board heard a progress report on a feasibility study about possible relocation of Executive Board operations during their May 6 meeting.

The study committee was established last year over concerns about the city of Brentwood taking Executive Board property to widen city streets and roads.

Russ Dunham of LaFollette, chairman of the Feasibility Study Subcommittee, noted the committee hired an appraiser who appraised the Brentwood property at \$8.75 million. The city had the property appraised at \$4.5 million. Dunham noted the city government has

offered the Executive Board \$240,000 for damages to the property caused by the road construction. The appraiser, however, estimated the damage at \$400,000, Dunham said.

Dunham said the city says the traffic flow will again be a problem in five-seven years and that additional property could be taken to expand the roads in the future. "We are studying this," he told Executive Board members.

Dunham cited several options: purchase an existing facility out of the area; purchase land elsewhere and build a new facility; lease an existing or proposed new facility; or stay in the present building and update the facilities.

The LaFollette layman said the committee will continue to study the matter. No deadline for a decision has been made, he said. ■

the recommendation which was approved agreed to transfer 25 percent of the preferred item into the TBC budget.

- ▶ Approved a Committee on Boards report filling vacancies at three institutions: Children's Homes — Shelby Lord, First Church, Lenoir City, filling vacancy of Nancy Persons; John Segree, pastor, First Church, Estill Springs, filling vacancy of Ron Galyon; Belmont — Stan Hardaway, First Church, Hendersonville, filling vacancy of Robert H. Williams of the same church; Carson-Newman — Sonny Griffin, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, filling vacancy of Henry Blanc.

The Executive Board's next scheduled meeting is slated for Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Baptist Center. ■



KATHARINE BRYAN, who will retire in July as executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, was presented a gift during the Executive Board meeting last week by TBC Executive Director James Porch.

# What's going on all around us?

**B**aptists are busy people — and most of the time they are busy on priorities.

There is always something for Tennessee Baptists to do, things that are worthy. Tennessee Baptists have enough "on the plate" to keep busy for years, but we also have a heart for needs outside our own state. So Tennessee Baptist involvement in God's work circles the globe, spans the continents, crosses state, national, and international boundaries.

The real busyness of the ministry groups here at the Baptist Center, when added to the daily work of putting together the weekly paper, makes the task of the *Baptist and Reflector* staff hard but exciting.

We are all involved in Kingdom ministries. And the involvement must be wholistic. We must be as committed in giving as in going, in ministering as in praying. We can never reach the multitudes for Christ until we use every resource available — and that includes stout-hearted Christians that are eager to go anywhere, at any time, at any sacrifice to reach one lost soul.

The giving of self and money must be committed, unstintingly, selfless, willing, constant, caring, with love and courage. So what's going on that should interest and involve Tennessee Baptists?

■ Last week's Executive Board meeting took the first step in approving a three — year Partnership Mission with the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and extended the current partnership with Canadian Baptists. *Will we pray, give, go?*

■ The Executive Board also heard a progress report from a feasibility study about whether to relocate the Executive Board offices. The story on page 2 explains the need for the study and gives a report on the study thus far.

The committee is not ready to give any recommendation. *Will we pray about this, and make any suggestions in the spirit of love?*

■ Tennessee Baptist churches, in the first half of the convention's fiscal year have given a record \$15,293,000. This amount is considerably over budget requirements and \$672,000 over last year's giving at this time. *Will we thank God and pray to give even more for his work?*

■ Many Tennessee Baptist churches are without pastors. This can slow down the ministries of the churches. Participation and income sometimes wanes, and members may lose interest in what the church should be doing. This also can be a time of recommitment, reassessment, spiritual renewal. *Will we pray for and affirm churches without pastors and pastors without churches?*

■ Tennessee Baptist churches are beginning the budgeting process, and many also are beginning the search to place the right people in the right places of service for the coming year. It sometimes happens, but these processes don't have to have a negative impact on church life.

Placing the spiritual welfare of the church above the personal interests of any individual, including the pastor, or group, will hasten the molding of Spirit-led decisions. *Will we be a positive influence for Christ in*

*this molding?*

■ The State General Assembly is in its last weeks of the current session. The likelihood of some strong but quiet push for approving a vote on a state lottery is certain. Tennessee Baptists and other Christians need to stay informed and alert. A state lottery is anti-family, unethical, and culture-blighting. It offers nothing but heartache and agony for those who constantly lose in life and cannot afford it. It promises income for education derived from GAMBLING, income from losers, people left destitute with no personal gain — not even for education.

There is no sane reason for instituting a lottery in Tennessee. Every argument from legislators who are pro-gambling neglects the physical, spiritual, and financial welfare of the gamblers. There is no reward for those who lose and lose and lose and lose. The few who win are touted as examples of "this could be you, you can be an instant millionaire."

But in reality, it only happens to a miniscule number of people, and in many cases it does not really improve their lives.

Legislators need to know that people are watching, wanting to believe that the lawmakers will put the wellbeing of all Tennessee citizens above the tantalizing idea of a quick financial fix and the lust for money and betting.

*Will we pray and work for a lottery-free state? B&R*



**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**

## Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

First doctor: "I don't give my patients a chemical anesthetic any longer. I have a new procedure."

Second doctor: "That sounds interesting. What is it?"

First doctor: "I just give them an estimate of their bill."

### Take this truth



WOOD

Do you have a problem? How much worse could your problem be? Think about that for a moment. Now, is it as bad as you thought it was?

### Memorize this Scripture

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." — Philippians 4:13

### Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to be a part of the solution to my problem not the cause of it becoming greater. With Christ's help, may I do something about it. ■

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

## Taking risks and pursuing God's holy vision

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

On a rainy Saturday in April, missionaries Elizabeth Oates and Marilois Kirksey, by van, were showing five Tennesseans the "broader" view of Rio de Janeiro.

We were in Rio to explore the possibility of a partnership mission with Baptists of the Carioca Baptist Convention. I was one of the five.

The idea was to give us a close-up picture of the enormity of the city — and the need for churches to be placed where there is a dire need. Think of trying to plant churches in a city of some 12 million people.

Though the rain prevented our seeing Rio from some beautiful vistas, we saw enough to grasp the needs.

In our traveling that day, we saw several existing churches. We talked with a few pastors, and among other sites, I saw the buildings of the churches where I had been assigned to speak the next day.

Both were almost in the midst of slum areas, where drugs are prominent and drug wars are commonplace.

Nelson Ichter, my translator and son of Baptist missionaries, hailed a taxi early

Sunday morning and picked me up for a 20 minute ride to Igreja Batista da Amizade — my preaching point. The cab driver had never been there, and we weren't surprised.

We found Pastor Esequias Santana counseling with a young wife — who was crying with despair. She was having a domestic dispute, and we prayed with her.

It was a great service, because the people, about 70 of them, had joy in the Lord. Their inward happiness shone on their faces. Esequias had coached them to welcome me by name in unison. What a beginning for Sunday.

He stood in the street and pointed out to us the boundaries of the drug bosses. "Strange thing," he told us, "but they trust us." Some of their ministries reach out to the entire neighborhood, including the addicts.



ALLEN

Esequias wants to study theology and communications in an American Baptist college.

That night, it was raining again as Pastor Magdiel Lemos da Silva and his wife picked me up to drive 15 miles through heavy Rio traffic to a happy group at Mis-sao Batista no Horto — a mission. The welcome again was warm, and we sang for 45 minutes before the service began. Silvia was my translator.

I had changed my message, because I'd left my Bible, with notes, in the taxi that morning.

It may have been the singing, or perhaps the Holy Spirit worked really hard on my message — but he was present.

Silvia probably added a few expert touches to the words. She could because she is a theology student. As we did Sunday morning, we lingered long in the church-house and just had some warm Christian fellowship.

I learned anew that God's Spirit can overcome slum atmosphere, drug traffic, and rainy days when people genuinely want the joy of the Lord to dwell in them. ■

## Real love is the glue that binds families together

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Spring is a season of renewal, of beginning again. Flowers begin blooming, birds singing, bees buzzing. Many weddings are being planned.

As a pastor for 25 years I had many young couples go through premarital counseling and stand before me to pledge their love to each other. In their wide-eyed excitement, many of them thought they could "live on love."

What is the love that becomes the foundation of health and happiness in the home?

There is a view of love today that perceives it as weak, waffling and wavering, totally undependable.

There is a difference between falling in love and falling out of love. There is great

desire to have the "in love" experience, but little understanding that the experience is intentional and "on purpose." Our culture is enamored with infatuation and confused about commitment. Love is a decision we execute, not simply a desire we experience.

In I Corinthians 13, verses 4-7 describe at least 15 characteristics of love. Let's look briefly at five: **considerate, caring, consistent, cost conscious, committed.**

**Love is considerate.** Paul says love doesn't boast, is not proud, doesn't anger easily, does not keep account. This is a bookkeeping term. Love does not remind

loved ones of past mistakes and failures. When real love is present in family, the members are considerate.

**Love is caring.** Paul says that love is patient, kind, protecting, trusting, trustworthy.

There is a tendency to say to those who are supposed to love us, "If you loved me you would ..." or, "If you loved me you would let me ..."

Real caring love does what is best for the object of love despite what it costs the lover. Christ on the cross is the ultimate example of caring love.

In the next article, we will discuss the other three characteristics — consistent, cost conscious, and committed. Real love is the glue that binds the family together. ■

## Top Reported Baptisms for 1995-96

(for year ending Sept. 30, compiled from Annual Church Profile)

Church	Ratios	
	Resident Members	Resident Members/Baptisms
Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis	58	1.29
Three Springs Church, Whitesburg	50	1.92
Faith Mission, Vanleer	68	2.27
Tar Pine Valley Church, Rogersville	58	2.52
First Church, Campaign	54	2.57
Dorothy Street Mission, Kingsport	11	2.75
Gateway Church, Atoka	84	2.90
Verble Church, Monterey	29	2.90
Crossroad Church, Cookeville	68	2.96
House of Prayer, Columbia	24	3.00
Church of Jesus Mission, Nashville	18	3.00
Bluegrass Hispanic Mission, Hendersonville	3	3.00
Contemporary Mission, Mt. Juliet	34	3.09
Marble Plains Church, Normandy	113	3.23
Lighthouse of Arlington, Arlington	26	3.25
New Chapel Church, Decaturville	37	3.36
Covenant Church, Bristol	56	3.50
Greater Tabernacle Church, Lawrenceburg	35	3.50
Antioch Church, Dandridge	14	3.50
Victory Church, Dunlap	133	3.50
East Robbins Missionary Church, Robbins	70	3.68
Cornerstone Church, Knoxville	50	3.85
Denton Church, Cosby	107	3.96
Maplewood Church, Clarksville	116	4.00
Chapel Hill Church, Pochontas	40	4.00
Calvary Church, Spring Hill	99	4.13
Lexie Cross Roads Church, Belvidere	154	4.16
First Church, Cumberland Gap	21	4.20
Central Church, Caryville	30	4.29
Bethel Church, Palmyra	272	4.32
Bethel Church, Yorkville	102	4.64
Blessed Hope Church, Kingsport	75	4.69

The Resident Members/Baptisms column represents the number of resident members required to win one person represented in the baptism column. Statewide resident membership to baptism ratio is 30.58 to 1 down from 32.61 last year.

Church	Total Baptisms	
	Resident Members	Total Baptisms
Bellevue Church, Cordova	18,591	934
Germantown Church, Germantown	5,078	205
First Church, Concord, Knoxville	3,108	203
Central Church, Hixson	4,894	190
Two Rivers Church, Nashville	4,547	186
Higher Ground Church, Kingsport	2,067	173
First Church, Hendersonville	4,247	155
First Church, Cleveland	2,808	138
First Church, Clarksville	3,442	127
Hilldale Church, Clarksville	2,411	126
First Church, Millington	1,704	125
First Church, Pigeon Forge	1,082	111
First Church, Franklin	2,658	111
Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville	2,680	111
Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol	917	104
Lakeview Church, Selmer	647	101
First Church, Joelton	1,298	95
Immanuel Church, Lebanon	2,117	95
First Church, Lexington	1,181	90
Bayside Church, Harrison	2,248	87
Westwood Church, Cleveland	2,351	85
Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville	3,435	85
First Church, LaVergne	780	85
First Church, Smyrna	1,580	83
First Church, Hixson	1,250	80
Grace Church, Knoxville	2,107	80
First Church, Shelbyville	1,077	75
Bartlett Church, Bartlett	1,941	73
Kirby Woods Church, Memphis	2,015	71
Calvary Church, Oak Ridge	1,225	71
Gladeville Church, Gladeville	817	70
First Church, Sevierville	2,096	69
First Church, Murfreesboro	1,582	67
Stevens Street Church, Cookeville	806	64
Alpha Church, Morristown	1,075	63
Bethel Church, Palmyra	272	63
Third Church, Murfreesboro	1,385	62
Sharon Church, Savannah	372	62
Skyline Heights Church, Johnson City	829	61
Silverdale Church, Chattanooga	1,202	60
West Jackson Church, Jackson	1,561	60
Central Church, Knoxville	2,678	59
Brentwood Church, Brentwood	2,261	59
First Church, St. Bethlehem	511	59
Faith Church, Bartlett	972	58
Broadmoor Church, Memphis	1,899	57
First Church, Milan	1,430	57
Leawood Church, Memphis	2,526	56
First Church, Columbia	1,139	56

## Top Cooperative Program Giving for 1995-96

(for year ending Oct. 31, compiled from TBC Exec. Bd. records)

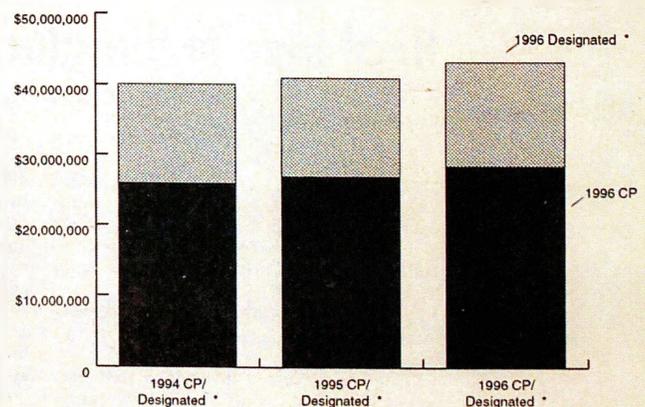
Rank	Amount of Giving	
	Church	Amount
1	Bellevue Church, Cordova	\$436,650
2	First Church, Concord, Knoxville	\$328,729
3	Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville	\$270,312
4	Germantown Church, Germantown	\$267,804
5	First Church, Clarksville	\$237,709
6	Central Church, Hixson	\$230,803
7	Brentwood Church, Brentwood	\$230,730
8	Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville	\$214,561
9	Red Bank Church, Chattanooga	\$193,056
10	Westwood Church, Cleveland	\$191,739
11	First Church, Athens	\$186,649
12	First Church, Nashville	\$175,388
13	Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel	\$158,112
14	First Church, Hendersonville	\$149,495
15	First Church, Millington	\$144,804
16	First Church, Murfreesboro	\$143,401
17	Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville	\$139,837
18	Brainerd Church, Chattanooga	\$138,735
19	Grace Church, Knoxville	\$131,792
20	Leawood Church, Memphis	\$131,344
21	Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga	\$131,115
22	Judson Church, Nashville	\$128,564
23	First Church, Kingsport	\$128,513
24	First Church, Cleveland	\$127,878
25	First Church, Mt. Juliet	\$127,012

Rank	Per Capita Giving *	
	Church	Amount
1	Lighthouse Church, Arlington	\$193
2	Northbrook Church, Jackson	\$180
3	Eastanallee Church, Riceville	\$176
4	Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel	\$172
5	Blythe Avenue Church, Cleveland	\$171
6	Keeling Church, Stanton	\$160
7	Sugar Tree Church, Holladay	\$160
8	Brunswick Church, Brunswick	\$150
9	Bethel Church, Greenbrier	\$145
10	First Church, Athens	\$141
11	Birchwood Church, Birchwood	\$136
12	First Church, Paris	\$132
13	Bethel Church, Greenfield	\$131
14	First Church, Grand Junction	\$127
15	First Church, Coolidge, LaFollette	\$121
16	First Church, Tullahoma	\$120
17	First Church, Dandridge	\$120
18	Tri Cities Church, Gray	\$120
19	Indian Springs Church, Kingsport	\$118
20	Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport	\$117
21	Armona Church, Alcoa	\$117
22	Allen Church, Brownsville	\$116
23	First Church, Kenton	\$115
24	Calvary Church, Rutherford	\$114
25	Ararat Church, Jackson	\$112

\* Resident membership information from Annual Church Profile for year ending Sept. 30, 1996. CP information from TBC Treasurer's Report for year ending Oct. 31, 1996.

## Giving to Tennessee Baptist Convention

(for year ending Oct. 31, compiled from TBC records)



\* Designated offerings include Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, Golden State Missions Offering, and funds designated to SBC/TBC institutions.

# Layman follows God to pastorate in Montana

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

SUPERIOR, Mont. — A few years ago Danny Robbins, 33, was comfortable with his life.

He had a good job as a salesman/supervisor for a vending products company in Martin. He and his wife, Trish, were raising their first child. They were comfortable in the West Tennessee community, where both Danny and Trish had been raised. And although their son had been hurt in an accident, he had recovered. The experience had caused them to return to church.

Robbins had been involved in church all of his life except for those few years before his son's accident. It felt comfortable to be back. However, he soon learned that Central Church, Martin, was different from other churches he had attended.

Soon after he joined the church, he learned about the annual missions effort led by laymen in the church. They invited him to join them.

That year, in 1991, the laymen's group of Central Church traveled here to help build a meeting house for Superior Church. And Robbins was part of the group.

The experience wasn't without obstacles. Just before he left, his mother became seriously ill. But he followed God's direction, and the experience began to change his life.

During just one week in Montana, Robbins learned about the needs of Montanans and the work of Christians there like Bruce Adkins, pastor of Superior Church.

Robbins learned that Adkins had started the congregation by sharing the Gospel and then meeting with people who were interested in the Gospel in homes.

When Robbins returned home, he said he began seeing things differently. Laymen like Bob Johnson, Joe Vinson, Dan Blake, and Bob Hathcock of Central Church and Adkins back in Montana encouraged him and prayed for him. Just a few months later, he responded to God's calling by making a commitment to full-time ministry.

To prepare for his life change, he enrolled at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky., and began speaking at area churches. And he was in constant contact with Adkins, who had become his mentor in the ministry.

Several years later, Adkins retired as pastor of the church because of his health. The church needed a pastor, but Robbins wasn't finished with school, so he continued his studies. A few years passed and then Superior Church contacted Robbins and asked him to apply for the position of pastor.

Robbins felt this might be an answer to prayer. He had finished his college studies and he felt such a strong connection with the work in Superior because of his experience there. He applied and the congregation asked him to visit and preach during a service.

However, the congregation called another pastor. Robbins was discouraged. But he continued his preparation for ministry by enrolling at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Several months later, after Robbins had begun his studies there, he received notice from Superior Church that they wished to call him as pastor.

In November 1996, Robbins and his family, which now included a second son, began their ministry at the church where his calling began. It all seems so right, he told the *Baptist and Reflector* recently.

The assurance of his calling has been needed at times as the family endured one of the worst winters suffered by the area, he said. Besides coping with the isolation caused by snow, Robbins had to watch the congregation suffer because of increased expenses to clear its parking lot and heat the building.

But confirmations of his calling to Montana continue, said Robbins. His work in sales prepared him to work with various kinds of people. Also while he attended Bible college, he worked with people addicted to drugs at a hospital, which enables him to help the many people in the area involved with drugs.

Robbins has begun his ministry in Superior by getting involved in the community. He portrayed Santa Claus at a Christmas celebration and is leading a community soccer team. The church has sponsored a blood drive, will be offering marriage enrichment using Gary Smalley materials, and is distributing the "Jesus" film. Members also are planning a senior adult ministry. They are hoping to get a van to enhance that program.

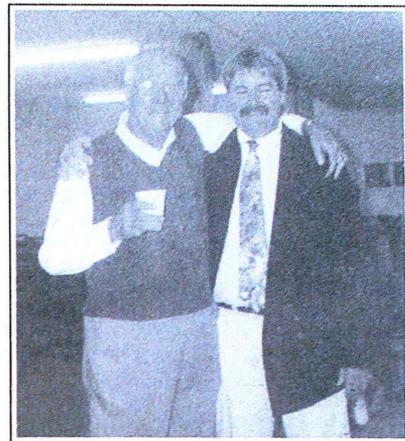
The congregation, said Robbins, includes about 70 members and is blessed by the fact that its building is debt-free because of the help of volunteers. But the members face challenges, he said.

He has learned that many Montanans don't know God and have little church experience. This fact, coupled with their independent spirits, should mean that ministry is difficult.

Yet Robbins doesn't see it that way. In the months he has lived here, he has met the "most wonderful and Godly people," he said. Those people are in his



Tennessee features



PAUSING during a visit at Superior Church are Bruce Adkins, left, pastor who has since retired, and Danny Robbins who was there to give a trial sermon before he was called as pastor.

congregation, but they also live throughout the area. For example, a Baptist congregation recently begun on a nearby Native America reservation has grown to about 60 members. It is meeting in a former saloon, he reported.

"God is really doing some things up in this part of the country."

"It's not always easy, but it's fun," he said.

"Continue to pray for us," the Tennessean requested. *B&R*

## Retreat set for mentally retarded, family, workers

For Baptist and Reflector

A retreat will be held May 30 - June 1 at Camp Carson, Newport, for mentally retarded people, their families, and those who work with them in different settings, including church.

The retreat will provide opportunities for those with special needs to have fun, fellowship, and to learn. Family members and others will exchange information and receive information about special education. Training will be offered on how to use and adapt Sunday School curriculum for mentally retarded people.

The cost is \$48, which includes lodging, meals, and a retreat souvenir. Call 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 7906, for registration information. *B&R*

## Tennessee Tech students minister in Houston

For Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — During spring break at Tennessee Technological University here 42 Baptist Student Union members traveled to Houston, Texas, to serve in various ways.

Joe Wiles, BSU director, reported that the students worked one week and provided

\$25,000 worth of labor in addition to ministering to children. The group witnessed 14 people make professions of faith.

Students served at the Fletcher Baptist Center in Houston, where they worked on the roof, retiled floors, did plumbing work, and completed other renovation efforts. The volunteers also worked in the community. Additional re-

pair work was done on an elderly woman's home. And the students led clubs for children and teenagers each afternoon.

"In ministering to others, we found that the Lord was ministering to us," reported Wiles. "Through various experiences, we learned to be thankful for what we have and

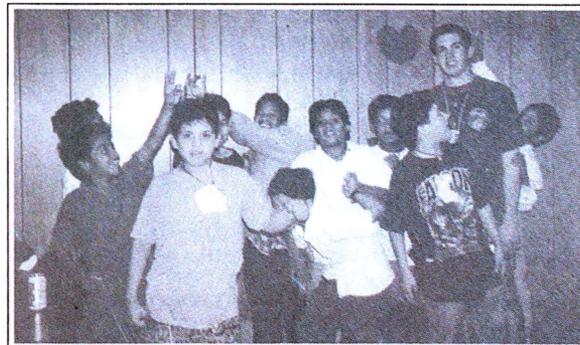
to give more to others."

Because of their experiences in Texas, the group plans to lead similar ministries at home.

Wiles encouraged Baptists to consider becoming involved in BSU ministries through informing the groups of needs, visiting BSU groups, and assisting them. *B&R*



ANNA LEE WILES, associate director of the BSU at TTU, visits those working on the roof of the Fletcher Baptist Center in Houston.



STANDING with children he led in Houston is Justin Randolph of Kingston.

# PowerSource conference begins May 19

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will present the keynote address at PowerSource, the state worship conference May 19-20. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday at Third Church, Murfreesboro.



**HEMPHILL**

"Hallelujah! Salvation and Glory and Power Belong to Our God!" (Revelations 19:1) is the Scriptural foundation for this year's conference, according to conference leader Ev Robertson, worship specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Other speakers include Dan Francis, pastor of Crossroads Church, Brentwood, a state leader in contemporary/seeker worship styles; Alan Walworth and Terry York, Park Cities Church, Dallas; Don Hustad, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Ken Story, Jim Watson, and Terry McNatt, Germantown Church, Germantown; and Ken Weathersby, TBC Executive Board staff member.

In addition to the keynote address there will be four breakout sessions with 36 conferences. Among the conference leaders are James Porch, TBC executive director; Gary Rickman, group leader, TBC; Murray Mathis, pastor, Third Church, Murfreesboro; Jerry Winfield, pastor, Forest Hills Church, Nashville; Marty Hen-

nis, specialist in praise worship, Brentwood; Scott Shepherd, director, First Church, Franklin, drama team; Drew Trotman, specialist in banners, Nashville; and Mike Vincent, specialist in Powerpoint computer software.

Cost for one person attending is \$40. Discounts available for more than one person from the same church. For more information and to register, contact the music and worship office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, at (615) 371-7909. ■

### Seeking Pastor

Blackjack Baptist Church, a rural church in Franklin, Ky., with an average attendance of 125, seeks a full-time pastor. Send resumes to Weston Smith, 220 Turnertown Road, Franklin, Ky., 42134.

### Classified

**FOR SALE:** 32 Choir Robes, antique white Collegiate — \$15 each. Call (423) 376-4689.

**POSITION:** FBC, Ashland City, seeks dedicated bivocational youth minister to coordinate activities and minister to youth, ages 12-18. Send resumes to FBC, 603 N. Main St., Ashland City, 37015 or call (615) 792-4724.

**FOR SALE:** 1986 Ford 15-passenger church van, excellent condition, low mileage. \$6,500. Call the church office at (615) 883-1856.

# Tennessee group holds assembly

For Baptist and Reflector

June 15-21 East Tennessee Habitat for Humanity Blitz.

**NASHVILLE** — Observing the theme "Participating in the Gospel," based on Philippians 1:1-6, more than 200 people gathered at Crieveewood Church here for the fifth annual Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.

Speakers included CBF-commissioned missionaries from Tennessee; Don Garner and Carolyn Blevins, faculty members from Carson-Newman College; and Alabama pastor Roger Lovette.

In other action, members approved bylaw revisions, elected 1997-98 officers, and affirmed a financial report on the

A group of 20 men and women in the "Encouraging Women in Ministry" breakout unanimously approved the idea of establishing a Tennessee Baptist Encouraging Women in Ministry group in the state.

New officers are Earl Seals, Second Church, Memphis, moderator, and Blevins, moderator-elect. Elected to the TBCF coordinating council were Earl Davis and Pamela Sewell, Memphis; Walter Smartt, Chattanooga; Alpha Patrick, Knoxville; and Tim Rayborn, Goodlettsville. Mike Smith, Second Church, Memphis, was elected to the national CBF Coordinating Council. ■

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**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

**Seeking**  
 Daviess-McLean Baptist Association is accepting resumes for director of missions. The association consists of 58 churches in Daviess and McLean counties in Western Kentucky. Mail resumes to Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, c/o Chairperson Marilyn Sanders, 1003 Scherm Road, Owensboro, KY 42301. Deadline for resumes is June 6.

  
**Tennessee Disaster Relief Rally**  
**May 30-31, 1997**  
**Camp Linden**  
**For:** All trained Disaster Relief volunteers, associational Disaster Relief directors, associational Brotherhood directors, Directors of Missions  
**Not For:** Training of new volunteers  
**Cost:** \$35 for food, lodging, and program costs; \$20 for commuters (covers food and program costs)  
**Attendees Will:** Dialogue with national SBC Disaster Relief personnel and other special guests; elect a state Disaster Relief advisory council; and more.  
**What To Bring:** Sheets or bedroll, casual clothes, toiletry items, Bible, pen and paper, and prayerful spirit.  
**For more information, call the Missions Awareness & Involvement Group, TBC, at (615) 371-2026.**

**Position Opening**  
 The Personnel Committee of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union announces that recommendations and resumes are being received for the position of Executive-Director Treasurer, Woman's Missionary Union. Anyone desiring to nominate a person for this position or those wishing to apply for the position should contact the Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for this position.

  
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## Tennesseene

### churches

■ **Oakfield Church, Oakfield**, will hold revival May 25-28. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.

■ **Bordeaux Church, Nashville**, will hold a special event May 18. The morning worship service will be followed by a luncheon and music program. The Reynolds Family, including all of its

members, will sing.

■ **Hebron Church, Middleton**, will hold revival May 14-17. Speakers will be Mike Ashford, First Church, Crump; Fred Ward, First Church, Huntingdon; Lynn King, Maplewood Church, Paris; and Bryan Anderson, Henry Church, Henry. For more information, call (901) 376-0544.

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

■ **Evangelist Jackie Kay of Millington** will speak during revival services at **First Church, Hixson**, May 18-21. For more information, call (423) 877-2467.

■ **New Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville**, will hold its annual home-

coming June 1.

■ **Dalewood Church, Nashville**, held revival April 27-30. Henry Linginfelter, evangelist based in Alcoa, spoke and Carolyn Reed, music evangelist of Nashville, provided special music. As a result, 22 people made professions of faith, three made other spiritual decisions, and four joined the church.

■ **First Church, Hunter**, will host the Temple Quartet May 18 at 6:30 p.m. The music group specializes in traditional Gospel music. For more information, call (423) 543-1381.

■ A temporary shelter for young children removed from their homes by state officials, Noah's Inn Children's Haven in Pikeville, will be dedicated May 18 from 2-4 p.m. The shelter is sponsored by members of **First Southern Church, Pikeville**, other churches, and The Farris Foundation, Inc., of Lawrenceville, Ga., whose directors are Southern Baptists. The ministry was developed after it was found that most children placed into foster care in Bledsoe County had to be transported to other counties, reported Mike Brown, pastor.

### people

■ **Fellowship Church, Smyrna**, ordained **Ed Woodruff, Rodney Cathie, Eddie Crowel, and Tony Burnett** as deacons April 20.



**FIVE STAFF MEMBERS** from First Church, Millington, were among 575 secretaries nationwide who attended the national Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries conference April 23-26 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. The Millington group was one of the largest from a Tennessee church, conference officials said. From left are Barbara VanNeste, Franscene Autry, Betti Owens, Teresa Wells, and Patricia Balyeat.

### leaders

■ **Gary Satterfield**, pastor, New Blackwell Church, Rutledge, has resigned, effective May 18. He has served the church since 1989.

■ **Doug Westmoreland**, pastor, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, was honored recently by the church for his 22 years of service to the church and to the denomination. He also serves as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and as a trustee of Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **John Lee Taylor**, former Tennessee pastor who is now pastor, First Church,

Gainesville, Ga., will be honored June 21-22 and 29 at the church on his retirement June 29. For more information, call (770) 534-7354.

### deaths

■ **Joe Walker**, pastor, Second Church, Chattanooga, died March 2. Walker, 66, had served the church for 10 years. He also had served as pastor of churches in Mississippi and Florida. Walker had lived most of his life in Chattanooga. He was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; New Orleans (La.) Theological Seminary; and Covington Theological Seminary. Survivors include his wife, M. LeVeda Smith Walker.



**RECOGNIZED** for tenure at the Executive Board meeting on May 6 were **Melanie Allen** of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, and **Ray Gilder**, Church Staff Leadership Group, who also is pastor, Gath Church, McMinnville. Both have tenure of five years.



## Tennessee samplers

### Communicate like bees

By Virgil Peters, pastor  
First Church, Graysville

Do you know that bees talk to one another by dancing? Whenever a bee has found nectar, she returns to the hive and does "the twist" for her sisters. The direction she points her tail determines the location of the food; the length of her dance tells the others the distance to the discovery; and the type of dance communicates to the listening bees the quality of the nectar.

Communication is vital to all of life. There are many ways to communicate, and new methods are being developed daily. We have come a long way since the days of smoke signals.

God's method of communicating his truth to man is of interest to us. His early method was through the prophets; and later he spoke to man through his son. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the world" Hebrews 1:1-2.

Fortunately for us, we have many spoken words of Jesus recorded in the Bible. This is God's method of communicating with us today. Jesus used parables, stories, and other methods of communicating truth to all. The problem comes when there is a breakdown in communication.

One effective way of learning is found in times of trouble. Much as we hate trouble, our best knowledge is often communicated through it. If there is no pain there is no patience; no hardship — no strength; no fear — no character; no sorrow — no sympathy.

Truth is communicated through sorrows that could be learned in no other way. This truth is told simply and beautifully in a poem by Robert Browning Hamilton:

I walked a mile with sorrow  
And ne're a word she said;

But, oh, the things I learned from her

When sorrow walked with me. ■

### Clergy combat training

By Larry Fields, pastor  
Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville

I received an e-mail recently from a seminary student seeking counsel about a phobia concerning dogs. It seems this fear went back to childhood, and he wanted my response to what he considered an embarrassing, trivial question. At first I thought it was a practical joke, but then I realized that he had a seminary e-mail address; therefore, I sent the following message:

"Tom, every person has to deal with certain phobias and fears. A pastor is no exception. The best thing to do is what you have done; that is to admit your fear and seek advice of those who through experience may be able to help.

"It has been many years since I have had to confront a hostile dog. Most of the ones I deal with are friendly, "in house" pets when I make visits. In a rural setting, you may have to confront more belligerent canines who will not

respect a member of the clergy. I would suggest the following:

► Pray for the courage that Daniel had when he entered the lion's den (Daniel 6:22-23). (And it would not hurt to pray that God will shut the dog's mouth like he did the mouths of the lions.)

► Remember that a dog can detect when a human is afraid. When they bark, you should defiantly ignore them and walk past them to the front door and ring the door bell.

► But just in case one will ignore your courage and defiance and actually try to take a bite out of your ministerial hide, use the Sword of the Lord. Always carry a good-sized Bible and whack the infidel dog on the head. He will immediately retreat and you will have a fresh illustration about the power of the Word of God. ■

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

# Fall Creek celebrates 175th birthday

For Baptist and Reflector

**NORENE** — On a warm May day in Wilson County, Fall Creek Church looked at its past and present, and moved toward the future.

Past and present members, friends, and relatives gathered at the church May 4 to observe the church's 175th anniversary. Pastor Billy Trice welcomed former pastors T.A. Thacker, Darwin Milligan, Carl Price, Charles McKnight, and Ernest Blair.

James Williams, who was ordained by the church, preached the morning sermon. He is pastor of Whorton Springs Church, Salem Association.

The congregation noted that the church was organized in May 1822 at Copeland's Meeting House, two miles east of Norene.

A new church house was built in 1881 on the present site, and the current sanctuary was built in 1960.

Lucille Williams Edwards was baptized by Fall Creek when she was 12 — and she is still an active member at 91, and helped celebrate the 175th anniversary.



**SEVERAL FORMER PASTORS**, and James Williams who was ordained at Fall Creek, stand with Pastor Billy Trice: from left, Charles McKnight, Williams, Darwin Milligan, T.A. Thacker, Carl Price, Trice, and Ernest Blair. — Photos and story by Wm. Fletcher Allen

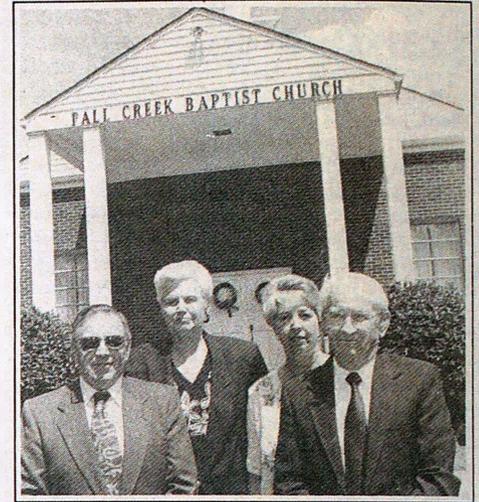
The congregation packed the sanctuary, and welcomed a large number of friends, neighbors, and former members.

Several historical artifacts were on display, including an original list of members and minutes of the first meeting. Among the first members were several Black slaves, called in the minutes, people of color. The original deed from

1824 also was on display.

The church has had 35 different pastors.

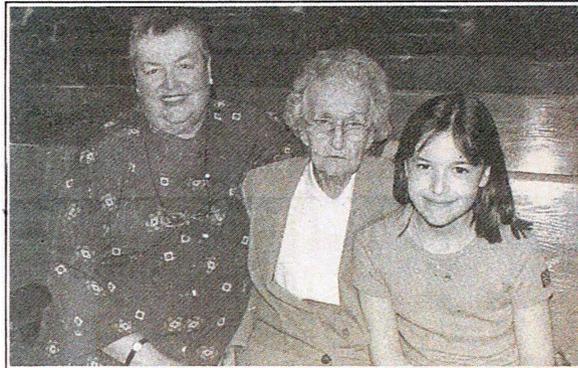
Pastor Billy Trice has been with the church for 25 years. Michael Pearson, director of missions for Wilson County Association, presented Trice with a plaque. *B&R*



**THE ANNIVERSARY** committee in above photo included, from left, Pastor Trice, Kathryn Beadle, Bettye Fitts, and Garland Hight. The afternoon program included special music and historical highlights.



**JENNIFER BEADLE**, young member at Fall Creek, studies the historical papers on display.



**THREE GENERATIONS** at the celebration: Jackie Edwards, her mother Lucille Edwards, and Tiffany Edwards, Jackie Edwards' niece and Lucille's granddaughter.

## Missions leaders meet to discuss future strategy

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Missions leaders from the Executive Board staff, the Foreign and Home Missions boards, met

with a group of Tennessee Baptist leaders recently to discuss strategies for the future of "doing missions" in the Volunteer state.

The goal is to "move mis-

sions involvement to a new level" in the next century. Plans call for developing strategies to make statewide, home, and foreign missions more user-friendly to TBC churches and

individuals. "It's our dream to help every group no matter where they want to serve, and at the same time give proper emphasis to our partnership missions," said Terry Sharp,

Partnership Missions specialist, TBC.

James Porch, TBC executive director; and Jerry Rankin, FMB president, were involved in the April 25 seminar. *B&R*



**TENNESSEANS** discuss missions strategies. From left, Roger Oldham, First Church, Martin; TBC president Herbert Higdon; Raymond Boston, First Church, Dyersburg; and Bill Northcott, First Church, Covington.



**MISSIONS PANELISTS** from left: Tim Bearden, TBC Executive Board staff; Jim Ferguson, FMB, partnership missions; Bill Wilson and Terry Sharp, TBC Executive Board staff; Elmer Goble, Home Mission Board, volunteerism.



# Made by Spirit

By Gary Rickman

**Focal passage — Galatians 5:16-26**

What are the basic principles of the Christian lifestyle? We could include Bible reading, prayer, faithful attendance, tithing, and living in service to others. Paul says, "Live by the Spirit."

Paul combated false teaching in the Galatian church which said that certain Old Testament laws still were essential to a person's salvation. Against this false teaching about salvation and the Christian life, Paul examined living in the Spirit.

He was concerned that no one interpret his emphasis on freedom to be a license to do as one pleases. He insisted that believers were to exercise their freedom by loving one another.

Paul pointed to a struggle between Spirit and flesh in the Christian's life (vv. 16-18). Some have the false idea that when a person is saved, the old sinful nature is destroyed and replaced by the regenerate nature.

This is not taught in Scripture. Scripture recognizes these two natures struggle for mastery within the believer. Paul says these two natures are with us as long as we live. So he urges Christians to "walk in the Spirit" (v. 16).

Paul used "walk" 32 times in his epistles. Walk refers to a person's lifestyle. God has given us natural desires for good purposes.

Satan seeks to get us to express things contrary to God's will. By walking in the Spirit, we will express these desires according to God's will.

Paul elaborates on the battle raging in the Christian between the Spirit and flesh (v. 17). Without the Holy Spirit's power, believers face a losing battle in resisting the impulses of their human nature.

Verses 19-21 are not pleasant to read. Here is a list of some sinful actions of unregenerated human nature, but yet not an exhaustive list.

These sins are in three categories: sex (v. 19), worship (v. 20a), and social relationships (v. 20b-21). They are worthy when expressed in God's will. But when we give in to Satan they become works of the flesh, our lower, carnal nature.

Paul then lists "the fruit of the Spirit" (vv. 22-23). The Christian virtues are like a cluster of grapes, produced inwardly by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul lists nine parts of this fruit.

Paul clearly illustrates the contrast between these two forces in terms of outcomes. He has painted an ugly picture of the results of unbridled human nature. And he portrayed the beautiful character traits produced by the Spirit's work.

In verses 24-26 Paul notes that Christians overcome the temptations of the flesh as they daily put to death their old nature. This is done by daily crucifixion of the flesh that can come only as believers rely on the Spirit.

Some committed Christians look on the actions of others and make a determination about those peoples' spiritual condition. While people's actions often are indicative of their spiritual condition, Christians are not to make such judgments about others. That function is reserved only for God.

Rather, we constantly should examine our own lives for the works of the flesh and we should seek through the Spirit's power to remove those actions that are contrary to the Spirit. ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

# The victorious Christ

By Larry Kirk

**Focal passage — Revelation 19: 11-16; 20: 11-15**

Envision heaven — what do you see? Streets of gold, gates of pearls, walls of jasper, foundations of precious stones? I would see these and other things, but never a horse. But that's what John saw. He saw two visions that bring hope to the saints and horror to the sinner.

**The final victor** — Here a dramatic scene, the emergence of the conquering Christ. He comes riding on a white horse (v. 11). Triumphant Roman generals rode a white horse. But the One who had ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey in humility now returns as the mighty Conqueror.

He who judged sin now judges the sinner. He who came in redemption now comes in retribution, retribution to be enacted on the beast and his followers, in perfect harmony with God's purposes (v. 11).

## Family Bible Lesson

The final Victor has four names — Faithful and True; first. He is faithful, can be trusted absolutely, and is truth without mixture of error. In him we find real life.

The second name is a secret. Why is unclear. But no one can have power over Christ. His piercing eyes of fire (v.12) speak of a consuming power. His many crowns (v. 12) show unlimited sovereignty.

Third, he is called The Word of God (v. 13). By his word he conquers and the sharp sword (v. 15) is his weapon. With his word he declares the finality of his rule over evil.

The armies who follow him are merely spectators. He speaks and the battle is won.

The fourth names speaks of his exalted authority

and position. He was once crowned with thorns as King of the Jews, but now he is declared to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (v. 16).

**The final judgment (20:11-15)** — John's second vision is of a great white throne. We don't know the full meaning of "dead, small and great, stand before God" (v. 12), but we do understand that all will be judged.

Some think this judgment is for lost people, others say it is for all people. No one is immune, and no one is so unimportant as to make judgment inappropriate.

It is clear that all in this passage shall be judged "according to their works" (v. 12-13).

This is not salvation by works, but works as the irrefutable evidence of man's actual relationship to God. Man is saved by grace, but faith is revealed by the works it produces.

At this final judgment, there will be no condoning of sin, no excusing on that day; judgment shall be according to truth. Judgment will be based on the evidence written by the life of the person.

Verse 14 speaks of the second death. The first death is separation of body and spirit. The second death of the separation of unholy man and holy God for eternity. There is no resurrection from the second death as in the first. After the second, there is no more life.

All who preferred their sins to salvation, all who procrastinated until the door of mercy was shut, all who spurned his grace and thus had not there names "written in the Book of Life" were "cast in the lake of fire." Indeed, the final Victor will have the final judgment.

Where will you spend eternity? ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



**Bible study  
for May 18**

# Gaining true confidence

By Tim Holcomb

**Focal Passage — Jeremiah 7:8-15; 9:23-24**

## Explore the Bible Lesson

Practice makes perfect! This truth is preached in all eras. Repetition provides confidence. What happens when repetition involves incorrect or misunderstood issues or tools? The perfection is perfect ... perfectly wrong. For instance many sports and games require practice. However, if a certain part of a game is practiced with poor technique, that game is played incorrectly, enjoyment/fulfillment is missed, and quite possibly without knowing it. The truth is, perfect practice makes practice perfect!

Four truths are borrowed from the teacher's resource to order this session's scriptural content:

God expects our lives and worship to be consistent, God persistently calls his people to repentance, the history of God's people can teach a new generation, and God's revelation gives his own a reason to rejoice.

**God expects our lives and worship to be consistent.** Ask yourself this question: Am I equal to what I say I am? If a pattern for Christian living were made and a life were laid beside it, would that life fit the pattern? Perfect practice makes practice perfect. Jeremiah de-

finied how to live consistently with God.

The people of God were to practice justice.

The people of God were to show concern for aliens, orphans and widows.

The people of God were to refrain from shedding innocent blood.

The people of God were to abandon false gods.

Consistent living before God required obedience to these issues. In other words, practice these things that make life perfect.

**God persistently calls his people to repentance.** A unique phrase of Jeremiah, "rising up early and speaking," describes God's activity in warning his people about how they were living. God regularly has engaged his people to turn from their "sorry ways." God's engagement with his people started early and continues again and again. His offer to turn, is an opportunity the people of God have refused. "... I called you, but ye answered not" — Jeremiah 7:13c.

**The history of God's people can teach a new generation.** There will be a shocking discovery one day that regular church atten-

dance does not make a Christian. Being a Christian drives participation in God's kingdom, his church, and life among his

people. However, simply attending church without the motivation of God's Spirit is as empty as Jeremiah describing the people of God. Apparently, the people of God practiced living corruptly and would show up at the temple thinking this would make a difference. Jeremiah said, "I will do to the house which is called by my name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. I will cast you out of my sight..." — Jeremiah 7:15.

God's cycle of care, sin, repentance, forgiveness, restoration, is repeated throughout the Bible. Apparently this is the only way a new generation learns.

**God's revelation a reason to rejoice.** His revelation does give us his reason to rejoice. If perfect practice makes perfect, what does God want us to do? Jeremiah 9:24 is the answer.

To live confidently we must practice those things which God desires.

**So what?** What's your spiritual journey about? Explore your walk with God. What have you learned, practiced? ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



world news

SBC president hosts pre-SBC prayer meeting

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — At the invitation of Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff, about 65 SBC leaders gathered here May 5 for a pre-convention prayer meeting for spiritual awakening.

"This meeting was focused on prayer for revival," Elliff told the Indiana Baptist newspaper.

The meeting began at 10 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m.

A broad spectrum of Southern Baptist attended, including representatives of churches ranging from only a few hundred in attendance to mega churches. Also attending were several agency heads, seminary presidents, former SBC presidents, directors of missions, and retired pastors. ■

276 accept Christ through 'BreakOut '97'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 1,300 college students and students workers from across the United States participated in a spring break outreach program conducted by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry.

The results of "BreakOut '97" were 276 professions of faith in Christ, according to Bob Hartman, NSM consultant. The project was conducted in five locations in Louisiana, Florida, and Arizona. ■

Bill prohibits funds for assisted suicide

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has signed into law a bill prohibiting federal funds for assisted suicide.

"While I have deep sympathy for those who suffer greatly from incurable illnesses, I believe that to endorse assisted suicide would set us on a disturbing and perhaps dangerous path," Clinton said April 30 in a prepared statement.

The president's action followed easy approval in Congress. In mid-April the Senate approved the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act in a 99-0 vote after the House of Representatives passed it 398-16.

The legislation bans the use of federal funds and facilities to promote, subsidize, or provide assisted suicide or euthanasia. ■

SBC music leader Hines Sims dies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Walter Hines Sims, 89, retired leader of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music program, died April 30 at a retirement center in Chattanooga.

Sims, former minister of music at First Church, Nashville, led the board's music department from 1952 until his retirement in 1970, serving as editor of the 1956 Baptist Hymnal as well as author and compiler of a wide range of music and music education books.

The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference's annual award for outstanding contributions to Southern Baptist music life is named in Sims' honor.

Sims was married for more

than 50 years to Ann Brown Sims who died in 1988. He is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. ■

Bluefield College taps C-N alum as new president

Baptist Press

BLUEFIELD, Va. — Daniel G. MacMillan has been named president of Bluefield College.

MacMillan, director of community relations for Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., will become the ninth president of the 75-year-old Virginia Baptist-related school.

He is a 1967 graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. ■

Quadruplets among Baylor's May graduates

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — A unique event in Baptist college history will take place when four identical sisters, the Hansen quadruplets, receive their diplomas during May 17 commencement exercises at Baylor University here.

Originally from San Anto-

nio, Texas, the sisters were born within 15 minutes of each other on Oct. 24, 1974.

Alison, Brooke, Claire, and Darcy Hansen have maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average and all pursued majors with an international flavor.

The Hansens have appeared on numerous television shows and have been featured in commercials for various products.

Although the quadruplets have not set long-term goals, each plans to attend graduate school. ■

Former Tennessee educator new president at SBU

Baptist Press

BOLIVAR, Mo. — C. Pat Taylor was inaugurated April 25 as the 24th president of Southwest Baptist University here.

A native of Kentucky, Taylor, is a former faculty member and administrator at Belmont University, Nashville, and Union University, Jackson.

Taylor became SBU's president last October after serving 10 years as chief academic officer at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. OBU President Bob Agee was keynote speaker for the event. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of John

Fill in the blanks, then arrange the numbered letters to solve the Key Verse.

Jesus said, "I am the..."

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ -John 6:35
6 9 3
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ -John 8:12
8 5
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ -John 10:7
12
\_\_\_\_\_ -John 10:14
11 7 2 13
\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_
10
\_\_\_\_\_ -John 11:25
\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_
4 1
\_\_\_\_\_ -John 14:6
\_\_\_\_\_ -John 15:1

Key Verse:

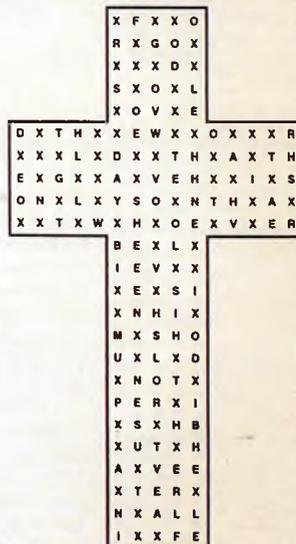
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Fun for the Family

Just for Kids

The Book of John

Cross out the Xs, and write the message on the lines below.



\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_ -John 3:16

"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.