

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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## this week's news

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- Kentucky pastors begin support group for divorced ministers. — Page 2
- Executive Board ministry group explored in feature. — Page 4
- Tennessee Baptist mission efforts are going strong. See 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 5-8



SERVING IN COSTA RICA

- Southern Baptist foreign missionaries with Tennessee ties minister in Uruguay. — Page 10

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

## Experiencing God required of South African diplomats

By Chip Alford  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The man who trains diplomats for the government of South Africa is requiring all trainees to take the *Experiencing God* discipleship course published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Robert Bota, an official with the South African diplomatic service corps, contacted a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary in his country about two years ago after hearing about the course.

"He was a young Christian man in his 20s, involved in his

local church. He came to meet with me in person and was asking me about *Experiencing God* and Christian books on leadership," Sylvester Grayson, literature coordinator for the Baptist Mission of South Africa, recounted. "I recommended some books from the Bible he might want to focus on and he also took a copy of *Experiencing God* with him."

"He ended up developing his own Bible study course that he required all diplomat trainees to go through. Then, after he finished going through *Experiencing God* himself, he led six other groups in the study and ended

up making that course mandatory for diplomats as well.

"He feels convicted that this is a helpful thing," Grayson explained. "Through his position, he feels that God wants him to train diplomats that will represent South Africa as Christians and as missionaries. That's a pretty bold statement for someone in his position, but he's a phenomenal gentleman."

Grayson, who is responsible for helping missionaries in southern and eastern Africa secure Christian resources, said *Experiencing God* and *MasterLife* (another discipleship course produced by the

board) "have been a tremendous blessing in South Africa." Thousands of copies have been distributed through FMB missionaries not only to members in Baptist churches, but also to Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, members of the Dutch Reformed church, and several other denominations.

Grayson shared the story while visiting the Sunday School Board in Nashville May 12-13 to discuss ways to improve shipping and distribution of board products to his country and gain a better understanding of copyright laws and licensing agreements. ■

## West, Moore take top spots in Bible Drill, Speaker's Tournament

For Baptist and Reflector



**STATE BIBLE DRILL** participants, from left, front row, Alanna Morris, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville; Lisa Mize, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville; Brittyne Smith, Allons Church, Livingston; Tara West, Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport; Crystal DeSha Skelton, Bethel Church, Greenfield; Rachel Aldridge, FBC, Lewisburg; second row, Catherine Via, Southwestern regional coordinator and State Bible Drill caller; Matt Bryson, Valley View Church, Cleveland; Heather Young, Enville Church, Enville; and Abby Green, Broadmoor Church, Memphis.



**STATE YOUTH SPEAKER'S TOURNAMENT** participants were, from left, front row; Mandy Lee Baskin, Third Church, Murfreesboro; Tim Purkey, Blairland Church, Loudon; Ryan J. Moore, FBC, McMinnville; Jonathan Schilling, Oak Grove Church, Church Hill; Mandy Dyer, Calvary Church, Union City; second row; Ashley Thomas, Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville; Melissa Alexander, Big Spring Church, Cleveland; Icie M. May, Zion Church, Brownsville; and Davie Moore, Charleston Church, Stanton. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen

BRENTWOOD — On Saturday, May 3, nine regional Youth Bible Drill winners and nine regional Speaker's Tournament winners came to the Baptist Center here for the state competition. All winners advanced from state and association events.

Youth Bible Drill is for young people in grades 7-9. The top driller for 1997 is Tara West of Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport. Taking second place was Alanna Morris of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville. The third place winner was Crystal DeSha Skelton of Bethel Church, Greenfield.

The Youth Speaker's Tournament is for youth in grades 10-12. The top speaker this year is Davie Moore of Charleston Church, Stanton. Placing second and third, respectively, were Ryan J. Moore, First Church, McMinnville, and Mandy Lee Baskin, Third Church, Murfreesboro.

Regional winners earn a \$400 scholarship from either Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, or Union University. Moore, as winner, receives an additional \$3,200 from one of the state Baptist schools.

West and Moore will represent the Tennessee Baptist Convention during Discipleship Training Week July 5-11 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. ■

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## Volunteers needed for flood relief

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Approximately 80 volunteers — 40 each for mud-out work and child care — are needed now to aid flood victims in the Dakotas and Minnesota, according to Mickey Caison, national Disaster Relief director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Tennessee Baptists who want to volunteer should call Curt Fowler in Knoxville at (423) 588-6047. Fowler is coordinating the flood relief effort in the state.

Those who wish to provide cleanup supplies, such as mops, buckets, pushbrooms, and scoops, can contact Marilyn Pope at the Dakota Fellowship at (701) 255-7465. The fellowship has secured a warehouse in Hillsboro, N.D., to receive these items. ■



### New TBC church staff members attend orientation

Forty-nine new church staff members in Tennessee and their spouses attended an orientation program at the Baptist Center in Brentwood May 12-13. The new staff were given an overview of the organization and were able to meet with the Executive Board ministry groups as well as representatives from TBC institutions and the Baptist and Reflector. Visiting with James Porch, center, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, are Phillip and Susie Gerald, left, and Mike and Dena Lee. Gerald is minister of education and youth at Alpha Church, Morristown, and Lee is pastor of Northside Church, McMinnville. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

## Divorced pastors form network to help others facing crisis

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Ky. — Impacted by harsh reactions to their divorces, four Southern Baptist ministers in Kentucky have formed a support network for divorced pastors and their families.

Paul Sowders, pastor of Gilead Church near here, remained in the pulpit after taking a six-month leave of absence following his 1994 divorce. While crediting his church with loving support, he said the reaction of other Christians was far less graceful.

"I had ministers tell me God

didn't love me anymore," said Sowders, a bivocational minister.

To counteract those kind of judgmental experiences, he and the other pastors have organized "Hope Net." The group offers counseling and other assistance to divorced pastors and their families, including several women who meet with ex-wives of clergy. Hope Net hopes to sponsor a divorce recovery workshop later this year.

"I'm dreaming some day of having a fund to help them out financially," said Sowders, who fields phone inquiries at (606) 623-7086.

He believes divorced persons should continue in ministry, referring to Romans 11:29, which says God's gifts and calling are irrevocable.

In Southern Baptist circles, pastors are more likely to fear their congregation's reaction, said the author of the Baptist Sunday School Board's divorce recovery material. Harold Ivan Smith, who wrote the adult study guide, *A Time for Healing*, knows hundreds of pastors whose churches displayed little grace in their times of distress.

"There are some divorces where pastors make bad decisions," said Smith who is divorced and has not remarried. "But there are some where it's not black and white. It's not that simple."

Many Baptist churches are losing a precious resource because they quickly expel pastors without knowing all the facts, Smith said.

Sowders said a pastor who is blatantly wrong (in an affair, for example) should be confronted within biblical guidelines and possibly expelled. "Other than that, they're simply condoning the sin," he said.

But divorce alone should not be grounds for dismissal, Sowders said. "God hates divorce. I will go so far as saying divorce is a sin," said Sowders, who preached on divorce his second Sunday back at Gilead.

"But God forgives all sin. God can use divorced people as well as he can use any other sinner."

Even a pastor expelled from a church for his sin, if truly repentant, can be used by God again, Sowders said. "When Peter denied Jesus three times, he spiritually divorced him," the pastor said, adding that Jesus nevertheless was not done with Peter. ■

## Religious indicators unchanged in 50 years, Gallup poll shows

Associated Baptist Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — The "good old days" may not have been that much different than today, according to a new Gallup poll.

A comparison of surveys from 1947 and 1997 indicates very little difference in America's "religious indicators," the Gallup organization's Princeton Religion Research Center reported in the latest issue of *Emerging Trends* newsletter.

In 1947, 95 percent of the American public said they believed in God, compared to 96 percent today, the study discovered.

Similarly, 73 percent of Americans said they believed in an afterlife in 1947. That measures up to 71 percent in 1997.

The 1947 and 1997 studies revealed an identical percentage of Americans — 41 percent — said they attend church "at least once a week" or "almost every week." And 90 percent of Americans said they prayed in 1947, the identical percentage as today.

While the indicators show "a continuing high level of attachment to religion," both surveys pointed to the same question, Gallup pollsters said: Religion is broad, but is it deep? ■

## All Nations Camp planned at Linden

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — All Nations Camp, a one-week camp for ethnic and American children, ages 7-17, will be held July 7-11 at Camp Linden in Linden.

The theme for the camp is "Up, Up, and Away."

The camp is designed to meet the specific emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of ethnic young people.

Activities during the week

include Bible study, worship services, counseling, recreation, arts and crafts, drama, music, and fellowship.

The deadline for registration is June 16. The cost is \$100 per person. However, a \$20 scholarship will be offered to the first 20 registered who request the scholarship in writing.

To receive more information, contact Gail Parrish or Tim Hill at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1 (800) 558-2090. ■

# Living with reasonable obligation



Every Christian has a reasonable obligation to be the best Christian he/she can be.

There should not be any quandary about this. We have the obligation from Christ, as stated in Matthew 28:18-20, and Luke 24:44-49, as surely as if we stood by the Resurrected Lord as he gave the Great Commission. You, me. We do.

Most Tennessee Baptists can quote the Matthew 28 command, but it's another story when we talk about obeying. Maybe we spend too much time planning meetings, organizing training sessions, showing our irritation when people don't show up for "how to do it" meetings.

All this is important, but it's really not as relative as just doing it.

## Experiencing God is OK

Did you read the astounding lead story on page 1? The story of how South African diplomats are required to study *Experiencing God* is a testimony of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of people. Robert Bota, young South African Christian in charge of training diplomats there, strongly believes in so equipping those who represent his nation abroad. Bravo! But in some nations, including the United States, this probably would be called violation of church and state beliefs. Hmmm.

## Reactions to homosexuals on TV

Many church newsletters recently have expressed strong disapproval of homosexuality displayed on television. Some of the newsletters reminded church

members to thank at least two companies who cancelled advertising for the *Ellen* show which is aired on ABC. If you wish to thank them, you may call your appreciation to J. C. Penny Company, 1-(972)-431-8500; and Chrysler Corporation, 1-800-992-1997. These and other organizations which stand for morality, should be given appreciation.

We can express disapproval to ABC Television for ignoring family values in this case and others. The address is ABC Television, Ted Harbart, President; 77 West 66th St.; New York, N.Y. 90023. It's a good move also to call or write your local ABC affiliate, as well as commercial sponsors whose money made possible the disgusting show.

**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**

Lukewarm attitudes about issues such as this one don't help Christianity at all.

## Baptist news over there

The *Baptist Times* of England reported last month that a political party has pledged to push for legislation that would offer tax relief to married partners (husband or wife) who stay at home to "look after children or ailing relatives."

The party also has plans to give breaks to people caring full time for the needy. A party spokesman called such people "heroes of our society."

The Conservative Party, however, lost the recent political elections. The paper reported that the Labour Party (May winner) also had commitments to the family. This is good news — especially if the two parties weren't just swapping pre-election promises. That's been known to happen in the United States

and elsewhere.

## Same-sex "marriages"

News services report that Hawaii legislators voted to grant homosexual couples rights and benefits that married couples receives — but did not legalize same-sex "marriages."

That could happen next year when a statewide referendum is scheduled. The new bills would make homosexual couples eligible for spousal benefits for insurance and state pensions, inheritance rights, and certain other rights.

Sources say that Hawaiian voters likely will reject a constitutional amendment legalizing same-sex "marriages," but the legal rights bill is a separate issue.

Thus far, 22 states have passed laws against recognizing same-sex "marriages."

## Religious indicators stay same

A new Gallup Poll says the "good old days" may not have been that much different than today. Surveys of 1947 and 1997 indicate very little difference in America's religious indicators, the Gallup organization's research center reported.

In 1947, 95 percent of the American public said they believed in God, compared to 96 percent today. Ninety percent said they prayed in 1947 and today.

Sounds good, but was commitment measured? *B&R*



## Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

## Start with a smile

Personnel director to prospective employee: "One of the nice benefits of this job is that after working for us a year, you receive a two-weeks paid vacation."

Prospect: (looking up with widened eye,) "That's great. Can I go anywhere I want to?"

## Take this truth

We hear what we want to hear. Or at least, we usually interpret it the way we wish for it to be. God created us in his image. Too often, we turn around and make God in our image.

## Memorize this Scripture

The people ... that stood by ... said that it thundered; others said, an angel spoke." — John 12:29

## Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be so in tune to you and so anxious to do your will that I hear you correctly when you speak to me. ■

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



WOOD

# Christians must be as committed as Olympians

## one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Have you ever noticed how Olympians train? Notice how they reach for the gold medal and as Paul wrote, refuse to submit to poorly trained bodies, weaknesses, and garbage that stand between them and victory.

Our family attended the Olympics in Atlanta for a couple of days last summer. Sixteen of us, from Poppa to the youngest, at 20 months old.

We had a great time. The weather was good, the seats were well-located, and everybody behaved.

We had chosen field and track events as our almost-unanimous choice the first day. We were in position to see the world's fastest men and women, the highest jumpers; and the longest throwers.

In the heat races, being run for the finals, strategy was involved, but often a fraction of a second separated the first three or four finishers. We also saw some relays run — in which team work and timing is extremely important.

And we saw a few runners disqualified

for bumping someone, or crossing lanes prematurely. Preparation, strategy, skill, and commitment invariably make a winning combination.

Comparing the Olympics to the Christian life is not hard to do. Some of the participants compete for the glory of gold; others for the sense of accomplishment, and the thrill of excellence. It's apparent that Christians aren't always that committed. Though the olympians are just a small segment of our lives, we all have had an opportunity to be successful. The measure of that success may depend on the arena in which we seek it.

In short, what do we want out of life?

Races and other athletic competition involve punishing hours, days, and sometimes years in practice. The practicing

may include weight maintenance, proper food diet, sufficient sleep, and much honing, fine-tuning, and unlimited dedication.

Why is all this necessary? Again, Paul talked about it, saying everything that stood in the way — had to be put aside or overcome.

In racing, a split second makes a difference. In jumping, a quarter of an inch could mean losing. In weight lifting, a half ounce could spell defeat or victory.

For Christians, the stakes are much higher; we can't afford to lose. The daily life has unlimited opportunity wrapped around a limited amount of time.

It's what we do with those hours that can make a difference in the world around us. Commitment is necessary — commitment to practice and train hard for the most difficult competition — leading people to Jesus Christ Souls or self—glory, which will it be?



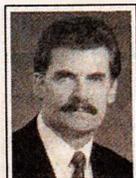
ALLEN

# How to decide on proper family insurance coverage

## families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

**Question:** We are a young couple with two children. We want to be sure we have the most needed insurance coverage for our family. What do you recommend?



SCARBOROUGH

**Answer:** I recommended in a recent column that every vehicle owner have at least \$100,000/\$300,000 liability coverage.

This is one of the most common deficiencies I see in insurance coverage.

The other two are: inadequate or zero uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, and no disability coverage for the primary breadwinner of the family.

Uninsured and underinsured motorist

coverage, as the name implies, obligates your own insurance company to compensate you for your loss if another driver was at fault in a crash, and either did not have insurance or had very little.

Most people don't realize how many drivers have no insurance coverage.

In most such cases, unless my client had uninsured or underinsured coverage, he could never recover his loss.

I recommend a bare minimum of \$100,000/\$300,00 uninsured/underinsured coverage.

The second most serious omission I see is failure to have disability income protection

for the primary breadwinner — should he or she be incapacitated and unable to work.

It is far more common, especially in younger people, to suffer a loss this way than by death, yet many people focus on life insurance and never consider disability insurance.

Many also assume that Social Security Disability will cover them if they are disabled.

The truth is that the definition for SS disability is hard to reach, the process is long and arduous, and the benefits relatively small even if you succeed.

No one should rely on it, if they can afford to do otherwise. ■

# TBC group plans to reach Tennesseans

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries has a challenging task — to tell the 3 million Tennesseans, who are not members of any church or inactive members of a church, about God's love.

But the group's staff is undaunted by the task, according to Larry Kirk, leader of the new group. The Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group was formed last fall during reorganization of the Executive Board Ministries staff.

The task is awesome, said Kirk, but it is not impossible because it is from God. God will provide, and already has, he explained. For instance, God has mobilized 1 million

Tennessee Baptists who already are in the field, Kirk said.

His use of military terms is not unusual, nor is his direct, but caring approach. Kirk has served as a chaplain through the Tennessee Air National Guard for 19 of his 41 years of Air National Guard service, which allowed him to serve as a Tennessee pastor and for the past nine years, as an Executive Board staff member.

Kirk not only speaks with conviction, but excitement of the group's mission — to help

Tennessee Baptists share the Gospel with those 3 million unreached Tennesseans by the year 2000.

Kirk said he wouldn't believe it could be done if he and his staff had not experienced God as they did. It all happened at a planning retreat for the group's 14 staff members. (Jerry King was part of the staff prior to taking disability leave.)

His goal, said Kirk, was to allow the staff members to bond relationally, but also to do some hard work. They considered current strategies of Executive Board Ministries which affected their work.

Then they began developing plans for the future of missions and evangelism work in the state.

But Kirk also directed the staff members to pray so the group could respond to God's direction for their work. They prayed, and then asked for more prayer time. They shared their impressions from God. They began to see that God had spoken to them.

Their plans

were on a bigger scale than Kirk had envisioned. But they all agreed on the concept. Soon "Tennessee Reach," a three-year plan to share the Gospel with unreached Tennesseans, was developed.

Tennessee Reach is from God, Kirk said and he is just thankful to be a part of God's work. Kirk also credited the staff for the plan, describing them as capable, creative, and committed people who need little supervision.

The three-year plan of Tennessee Reach is "Magnify Jesus," in 1998, "Mobilize the Saints," in 1999, and "Celebrate Jesus 2000." The final emphasis dovetails with the national emphasis which will be directed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (North American Mission Board in June).

The plan is a simple one, explained Kirk. During the rest of this year, the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group and other Tennessee Baptists will continue to pray for Tennessee Reach. The kick-off of Tennessee Reach will be at the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting in November 1997.

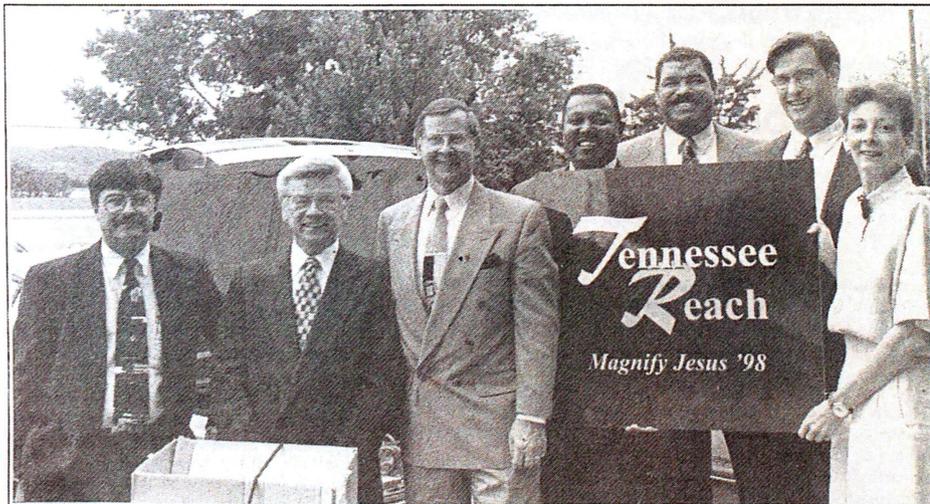
"Magnify Jesus," the first year of the emphasis in 1998, will help Tennessee Baptists to "fall in love fresh and anew with Jesus again," said Kirk. Many Baptists are doing good things but they have lost the intimacy with Jesus they once had, he said. Another way to consider this is to analyze the difference between loving Jesus and being in love with him, said Kirk. The outcome, often, is that Christians fall in love with the processes of church or living their faith rather than people.

He illustrated his point with an analogy. Kirk said he tells others about his wife or his grandchildren because he loves them, not because he ought to tell others about them. Thus, he will tell others about Jesus because his love for Jesus compels him to do so. Kirk also used a metaphor to describe his goal for Tennessee Baptists. That goal is for them to be "so saturated with Jesus that they leak," he explained.

After preparation through "Magnify Jesus" events throughout 1998, Tennessee Baptists will be ready to be trained and equipped to share the Gospel in the marketplace, which will be ac-



MINISTRY ASSISTANTS of the group are, from left, first row, Barbara Causey, Elizabeth Farmer, and Linda Estey; second row, Gail Parrish, Polly Lucht, and Melanie Allen. Allen and Farmer are on the Associational Ministries Team, Estey and Lucht serve on the Evangelism Strategies Team, and Parrish and Causey work on the New Church Starts Team.



PREPARING FOR one of many trips they make across the state are, from left, Tim Hill, Bill George, Larry Kirk, Ken Weathersby, Estriberto Britton, Jay Austin, and Beverly Smothers.



## Ministry specialists

▶ Larry Kirk — group leader

## Associational ministries team

▶ Larry Kirk — state missions  
▶ Beverly Smothers — church and community ministry

## Evangelism strategies team

▶ Jay Austin — youth evangelism  
▶ staff opening

## New Church Starts team

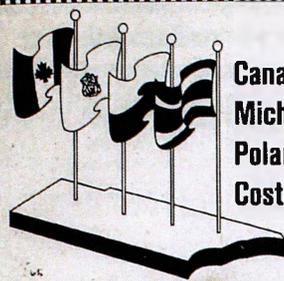
▶ Estriberto Britton — Hispanic Church Extension  
▶ Bill George — New Church Extension/Associational Ministry  
▶ Tim Hill — Language Church Extension/Interfaith Witness  
▶ Ken Weathersby — Black Church Extension

complished through "Mobilize the Saints" events.

The year of preparation and two years of work will culminate in "Celebrate Jesus 2000," Kirk continued. This will include an emphasis on evangelism throughout the state including such events as revivals and crusades.

"We feel Tennessee Reach, practically and theologically, will lead us (Tennessee Baptists) to come together in a way that we really believe God will bless," said Kirk.

"Once the system's in place, we trust that the Lord's going to honor the preparation and prayers of his people." *B&R* — This story is the second of a series on Executive Board Ministries groups formed by the reorganization of the Tennessee Baptist Convention ministries staff in November 1996.



Canada  
Michigan  
Poland  
Costa Rica

# The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships —  
Canada, Poland, Michigan, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024  
Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

## From your missionary

My heart has been glad-  
dened by the opportunity I  
have to speak in the evenings  
in various churches across the  
state. I truly  
meet some ex-  
traordinary  
volunteers.

I believe  
volunteers are  
special, and  
God is using  
volunteers in  
a wonderful  
way.

Let me share with you  
about two I have recently met.  
One is a teacher who is partic-  
ipating in the "Here's Hope  
Revivals" in Poland. The  
teacher has two weeks to be in  
class, but he is having the  
class covered. He will not be  
paid for the time he is away.  
Not only is he paying for his  
trip, but he is also giving up  
two weeks of his pay.

The other person that I met  
loves missions and believes in  
volunteerism, but she cannot  
go herself. She helps send oth-  
ers through her time and mon-  
ey. She makes crafts, sells  
them, and donates the money  
to her church. Her gifts make  
scholarship monies available  
to those volunteers who can go  
on the trips.

These two represent just a  
small sampling of the great  
volunteers that we have in  
Tennessee. Thank you for the  
privilege to serve you.

God Bless,



SHARP

## Volunteers sign up for Costa Rica revivals

By Marcia Knox  
TBC Partnership/Volunteer  
Missions Team

The response for teams to  
do simultaneous evangelistic  
revivals in Costa Rica Sept. 8-  
15 has been overwhelming, ac-  
cording to Terry Sharp, Part-  
nership/Missions state mis-  
sionary.

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

The words of encourage-  
ment from the first mission  
trip continue to come to the  
Partnership/Volunteer Mis-  
sions Team. "Brother, thank  
you for allowing us to be a part  
of such a tremendous blessing,

said Alexander Arias, pastor of  
First Church, San Jose.

"We were needing it (re-  
vival)," said Yolanda Alvarez,  
wife of the pastor at Biblical  
Church, Barranca. "It was a  
big blessing for us. The Lord  
sent these brothers just in  
time for us."

"Dad, I miss them," said An-  
drea Chavarria, daughter of  
the pastor at Tres Rios  
Church, Tres Rios. "When are  
they coming back to Costa  
Rica?"

Here is the *Macedonian  
Call*. When are you coming  
back or going to Costa Rica?

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

Each Costa Rican church  
will receive a team of two peo-  
ple to provide evangelistic cru-  
sades from Tuesday to Sunday.

The volunteers will con-  
duct worship services in the  
evening and door-to-  
door visitation in strategic  
locations during the day.

Depending on makeup  
of team and need of  
church, other possible  
ministry opportunities  
may exist such as working  
in economically disadvan-  
taged areas, working with  
street children, and work-  
ing with addicts.

If the overall team in-  
cludes pastors who speak  
Spanish fluently, then  
they may be utilized for  
radio or television mes-  
sages.

For more information  
on simultaneous revivals  
in Costa Rica, contact the  
Partnership/Volunteers  
Missions Team at 1 (800)  
558-2090. ■



**WALKING TO CHURCH ARE** Mar-  
garet Robbins, a member of FBC,  
Byrdstown, and two children from  
Mansion de Luz Church or House of  
Lights Church, in a village outside the  
town of Alejuela. Robbins was one of  
28 volunteers who worked in January  
doing revivals in Costa Rican church-  
es. — Photo by Mike Overcash

## Tennessee, Costa Rica pastors serve on island

By Etriberto Britton  
TBC Hispanic Church  
Extension Specialist

The partnership between  
Tennessee and Costa Rica  
came full circle when a team of  
Tennessee and Costa Rica pas-  
tors served on a mission trip  
March 24-30 to San Andres Is-  
land, Colombia.

The Tennessee pastor was  
Etriberto Britton, TBC His-  
panic Church Extension spe-  
cialist, and pastor of Old Hick-  
ory's Tulip Grove Church His-  
panic Mission. Britton not only  
worked on construction, but he  
also preached.

The construction project was  
organized by the Union Na-  
cional de Iglesias Bautistas  
(UNIB), the local convention of  
Baptist churches in Costa Rica.  
The UNIB had previously con-  
ducted a missionary trip to  
San Andres where they had  
worked on the Christian Uni-  
versity construction project.

We were to continue the  
work on the Christian Uni-  
versity of San Andres and Provi-  
dence. This is an exceptional  
venture for San Andres Island  
since it is the first evangelical  
university in Colombia, South  
America.

San Andres Island is one of

a string of islands off the coast  
of Costa Rica. Although the is-  
land is located in the Carib-  
bean as part of a chain of is-  
lands belonging to two Central  
American nations of Nicaragua  
and Honduras, San Andres be-  
longs to Colombia because of  
international agreements. The  
other islands that belong to  
Colombia are Providence and  
Santa Catalina.

Since these islands were col-  
onized by British settlers, Eng-  
lish is the original language. I  
was born on the island of Provi-  
dence, sister island to San An-  
dres, only 50 miles away and  
an hour by plane.

The establishment of the  
Christian University of San  
Andres was born out of a bur-  
den that God gave Rev. George  
May.

A native of San Andres,  
May served as pastor of First  
Church, San Andres, from  
1959-1966. He later traveled to  
the states and served as a pas-  
tor in Houston, Texas. After  
retiring, he returned to San  
Andres to establish the Christ-  
ian University with permission  
from the Colombian govern-  
ment.

The university uses the fa-  
cilities of First Church, but the  
— See Tennessee, page 8

## Costa Rica shoebox project for Christmas begins

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

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

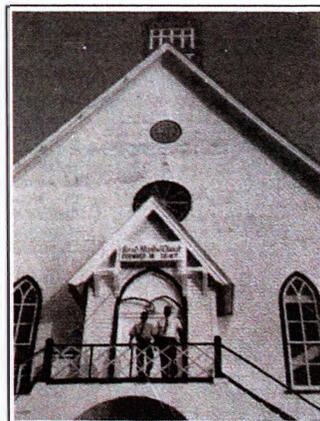
A total of 4,000 boxes is needed for Costa  
Rica. Any excess over 4,000 will be distributed to  
boys and girls in other mission areas.

Shoebox contents include: wrapped hard can-  
dy, one box of markers or crayons, five decora-

tive pencils, one Christian coloring book, stick-  
ers, one boy or girl toy, and a toothbrush. No ac-  
tivity or instructional books will be sent to Costa  
Rica. The boy or girl toy is not to be violence re-  
lated.

Boxes must be received by Aug. 1 at the state  
convention. The boxes must not be wrapped.  
They may be securely closed with rubberbands.  
Label each box as either boy box or girl box and  
note ages such as 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Include \$2  
with each box for shipping.

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



**STANDING AT THE EN-  
TRANCE** to First Church of  
San Andres Island, Colom-  
bia, are, left, Mario Alvarez,  
pastor of Puntarenas  
Church, Costa Rica, and  
Etriberto Britton, TBC His-  
panic Church Extension  
specialist. The church, orga-  
nized in 1847, was originally  
built by a church construc-  
tion company in Mobile,  
Ala., dismantled, and  
shipped to San Andres. The  
church building was dedicat-  
ed in 1896.

## Costa Rica Projects

### Special Services

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

Project #: CR71997813  
 Dates: Sept. 20-27  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Special Services  
 A team of three is requested to join local missionaries in a prayer walk through unevangelized areas.

### Music

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

### Construction/Evangelism

Project #: CR71997815  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: South Zone  
 Description: Construction/Evangelism  
 A team of 10 is needed to do construction for a public health clinic in a rural area. Ongoing and regular services will be held on the job site. Team also needs to bring two doctors. Team should be able to build from the slab up on building.

## Canada Projects

### VBS

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

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

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

### Camp

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

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

### Construction

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

### Church Planting

Project #: PM11997636  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Surrey, B.C.  
 Description: Church Planting  
 A team is needed to plant a church.

They will lead BYBC for Vietnamese children and support the church plant through prayer.

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

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

### Special Services

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

### Evangelism

Project #: CA-14  
 Dates: Oct. 4-8  
 Location: Charlottetown PEI  
 Description: Revival Renewal Services — Community Church in Charlottetown needs a team to do a renewal service.

## Poland Projects

### Music

Project #: 11997408  
 Dates: Spring  
 Location: Poznan  
 Description: Music — A team of 4-6 is needed to do preaching, personal witnessing, and music evangelism in schools and public areas.

### Evangelism

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

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

### Construction

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

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

Project #: 11997412  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Koszalin  
 Description: Construction  
 A team of 3-5 is needed to replace

## Say Yes to Michigan — Over 45 Sister Churches needed!

### For The Macedonian Call

Many Tennessee churches are needed to make the Sister Church Program with Michigan viable. Over 45 Michigan churches have requested a sister church in Tennessee to join their efforts.

The Sister Church Program is designed to bring together churches in the two states. Through this relationship and partnership, the churches will learn to support each other through prayer and frequent contacts between the pastors.

The churches may choose to assist each other through mission efforts, revivals, and VBS. For information, call the Partnership/Volunteers Missions Team at (615) 371-2021 or 1 (800) 558-2090.

## Say Yes to Michigan — All Expense Paid Trip!

### BYBC/Construction

Project #: Life Changers

Dates: June 14-21

Location: Greater Detroit Area

Description: BYBC/ Light Construction

Michigan Convention's Brotherhood Office needs a worship team and a crew chief team to supervise youth doing light construction and BYBCs in 12-18 Greater Detroit Area churches. Up to 20 volunteers needed and all expenses will be paid by HMB and Michigan Convention if traveling by car. Contact Wayne Van, Life Changers coordinator at (313) 522-9007.

the windows in a church.

Project #: 11997432  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Poznan  
 Description: Construction  
 A team of 4-6 is needed to do renovation of a church. This includes painting, repairing wood floors, and laying paving tiles for parking area.

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

Project #: 52  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Description: Renovation  
 Baptist Union needs a volunteer to replace steel grill work on all 3 floors of its building.

## Michigan Projects

### Construction

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

Project #: O-9a  
 Dates: June 2-6  
 Location: Clarkston  
 Description: Construction  
 Oakland Woods Church needs a team to pour the foundation for new building.

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

Project #: M-13c; M-13e-i  
 Dates: July 7-Aug. 31

Location: Clinton Township  
 Description: Construction  
 Central Church needs volunteers to help with construction of new sanctuary including wallboarding, painting, electrical repairs, and plumbing.

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

Project #: UP-1  
 Dates: July/August  
 Location: St. Houghton  
 Description: Construction  
 A team is needed to repair the roof of a church sanctuary by resurfacing it.

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

### Camp

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

### Summer Missionary

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

### Evangelism

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

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

### Church Planting

Project #: M-3  
 Dates: ASAP  
 Location: Port Huron  
 Description: Church Planting  
 The Macomb Association in Port Huron needs a church planter to do evangelism, leadership development and some music. Project length is 1-2 years.

Project #: O-3-O-7  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Southfield  
 Description: Church Planting  
 Oakland Association needs 10-50 volunteers to start new churches with block parties, surveys, BYBCs and witnessing. This work includes drama, music, skits, games and puppets.

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

### VBS/BYBC

Project #: O-11  
 Dates: June 22-28  
 Location: Auburn Hills  
 Description: VBS Helpers  
 The Hillcrest Church in Auburn Hills needs a team of 6-12 to help in VBS.

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

Project #: N-5  
 Dates: Early July  
 Location: Oscoda  
 Description: VBS/BYBC  
 The Huron Church in Oscoda

needs a team of 6-12 to do VBS.

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

Project #: N-6  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Lake City  
 Description: VBS/BYBC  
 Lake City Church needs a team of 6-12 to do VBS.

Project #: N-4  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Pellston  
 Description: VBS/BYBC  
 First Church, Pellston, needs a team of 6-12 to do VBS.

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

## Tennessee Projects

### Construction

Project #: T-1  
 Dates: June/August  
 Location: Crossville  
 Description: Construction  
 Oakhill Church in Crossville needs a male adult team to do bricklaying and carpet laying.  
 Contact: Bill McCrary, (615) 484-5065

Project #: T-2  
 Dates: June 2-Aug. 8  
 Location: Seymour  
 Description: Construction  
 Harrison Chilhowee Academy in Seymour needs several teams to do renovation of the old public school building.  
 Contact: Walter Grubb, (423) 573-8321

Project #: T-3  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Crossville  
 Description: Construction  
 Lanlana Road Church in Crossville needs a team to seal a roof on a metal building.  
 Contact: Brian Branam, (615) 788-1577

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

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

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

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

— See page 8 for more Tennessee projects.

# Tennessee volunteers teach intercessory prayer in Costa Rica

For The Macedonian Call

**BRENTWOOD** — Ann Davenport, a member of First Church, McMinnville, and Carolyn Outland, a member of Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, recently returned from Costa Rica after teaching at an intercessory prayer retreat at Inglesia Bautista Church in San Pedro.

Both, experienced mission volunteers and former state WMU executive board members, said their trip to Costa Rica April 12-20 was the most spiritually rewarding missions trip that they had ever taken. Though they went to teach intercessory prayer, they actually branched into other evangelistic areas. Davenport is the TBC Volunteer Coordinator for Women's Lifestyle Evangelism.

From their arrival at San Jose Airport until their departure from Costa Rica eight days later, they found the land to be a country of contrasts.

The roads are filled with honking automobiles, but the national symbol is the ox-cart that can be seen on any rural road. There are open sewers on the streets alongside modern malls and fast-food restaurants.

The people are warm and friendly, but there is a resistance to evangelical witness due to the pervasive Roman Catholic influence. They were entranced by the stark beauty of lush mountains and volcanoes, the thousand lights of valleyed cities, but overwhelmed by the spiritual need of the people.

The nature of their visit was evangelism, but not through large crusades, street evangelism, or witnessing. Their lives began to be dotted with relationships that mark the emphasis of the Lifestyle Evangelism that they came to teach.



**MISSIONARY MARY HENDRICKS**, center, interpreted for volunteers Carolyn Outland, left, and Ann Davenport.

Even before their arrival, they knew that they would be staying with a national family. The two women were apprehensive about the language barrier and possible cultural misunderstandings. All worries were forgotten when they met Roberto and Maria Emilia Salazar. Salazar is a retired horticulturist and his wife is the National WMU president.

"Never before had we been so immediately loved and accepted by anyone in their home. We found in this couple a set of Christian parents who were more than a host and hostess. We soon called them 'Mommy and Poppy,' adopted

their four grown children as our brothers and sisters, and fell in love with their 12 grandchildren," they agreed.

They also had many opportunities to visit with and minister to the faithful missionaries on the field. Larry and Mary Hendricks were the first missionaries that they met in Costa Rica at the airport. Mary Hendricks served as translator for the entire trip. The Hendrickses have three children.

The two women also met another missionary Sue Smith, who invited them to go to the Canadian International School where her sons attended. Their school is embarking on a building program and was awaiting an approval on a loan.

They entered one of the school's empty classrooms and had prayer for the school. "We prayed for the building program, the school's director who is not a Christian, and the students," they shared. These prayers were answered after they arrived home in Tennessee when Smith wrote that the loan had been approved.

The Baptist churches in Costa Rica are small and struggling. Davenport and Outland were able to share their lifestyle evangelism in four churches during their visit. One of the churches they visited was the International Church in San Jose, led by pastor Tom Hill, former director of the SBC Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. Hill and his wife Connie invited the two women to their congregation where they ministered.

At the International Church, they presented lifestyle evangelism to its

new Women on Mission group. During the conference, a woman held up her hand and asked to speak.

"While you were speaking, God spoke to me and told me to start a Friendship Coffee for the many international visitors and tourists at the hotel near my home," she said. "This Women on Mission group is going to help me."

Hill also hosts a weekly radio program, sponsored by the church, called the International Baptist Hour. The volunteers presented lifestyle evangelism on the radio program which was broadcast into Europe, Africa, Central and South America, Russia, and parts of the U.S.

At the Intercessory Prayer Retreat at Inglesia Bautista Church in San Pedro, they taught two sessions on the program. The first session was an introduction to intercessory prayer, and the second session was actual training in intercessory prayer. Also at the retreat on the music program was Anne Maria Pinnock, who will be appointed as Costa Rica's first foreign missionary. Before she is commissioned to go to Ecuador, Pinnock will work this summer in Tennessee's GA camps.

"Many times after we returned home to Tennessee, we were asked about the results of our efforts in Costa Rica. In work that is based on prayer and relationships, whose goal is to equip and inspire, results sometimes can only be measured by God. A great sense of peace pervaded us knowing that no matter what we say, it is God who does the talking," the two women said. ■

# God rocks students' lives on missions trip to Poland

By Nathan Johnson  
UT, Knoxville, student  
For The Macedonian Call

**KNOXVILLE** — "A week that God used to change our lives in a tremendous way," is the way I can best describe my recent TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions trip to Poland along with 35 fellow students and six adults.

At the end of March, we went on a partnership trip to Warsaw, Poland, financed by our church, Calvary of Knoxville, and by funds that the youth group raised on their own.

We stayed at the Baptist Seminary in Radosc, a small suburb of Warsaw. We worked with Charles and Barbara Layton, Tennessee/Poland volunteer missionary coordinators, along with seminary students and workers.

It was a week that I know I'll never forget. I'm sure that this is the sentiment of everyone else on the trip as well as the Polish people that we worked with that week.

We went there as servants to the Polish people and through that service we were hoping to be a blessing of help.

The goal was accomplished. However, as a team we were blessed and changed in more ways than we could have ever hoped. The Polish people blessed us instead of us being a blessing to them.

The believers in Poland are totally unbelievable. They love Jesus and it shows in their worship. They have a heart for their country to find salvation. I have never seen such hospitality and readiness to help outside the South.

Before we left for Poland, we really had no idea what we or God would be doing far as a daily schedule was concerned. We learned a word that all missionaries are taught in Missions 101—flexibility. We had to be ready to follow its definition whenever we did something that didn't fit our tentative schedule.

We had to be prepared for anything. We soon found that God had a few schedule changes for us. He was going to use them in ways that he knew were better for us.

We took a drama team, prepared with a myriad of different skits and mini-dramas. We also took a basketball team of about 10 guys, one of which should have been the mascot.

It was me. We took our college Sunday School! praise band consisting of four guys and one girl. Their repertoire of praise songs ranged from sweetest, heart breaking adoration to the loudest sounds of praise and glory.

One of the greatest things happened when the band performed a concert in a prison in Warsaw and presented the Gospel through music. On that same night after the concert, the warden called one of the seminary pastors. The warden said the seminary pastor's work was now cut out for him because the prisoners wanted a Bible study.

The seminary pastor went back to the prison the next day, and some of the prisoners were saved. A Bible study is now in place at the prison.

God is doing a great work in Warsaw through the Baptist seminary. He is also working through the Laytons and their fellow workers for Christ. At the end of May, there will be a Baptist evangelical outreach for the nation of Poland. It will be a great time for victory for Jesus Christ if we will unite together in prayer for Poland and for the volunteers who will be working there. ■



**ENJOYING SUNDAY LUNCH** with Polish college students are three University of Tennessee at Knoxville students. These Calvary Church, Knoxville, team members are: second from left, Jennifer Zurrwick of Kingsport; third from left, Mary Elizabeth Evans of Kingsport; and far right, Nathan Johnson of Sparta.

## Rapid Response Team formed for volunteer missions

For The Macedonian Call

**BRENTWOOD** — A new Partnership/Volunteer Missions Rapid Response Team has been established to take over missions projects that become unstaffed due to a change of plans, according to Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions state missionary.

The Rapid Response Team is an elite group of partnership/volunteer missionaries who can respond in a moment's notice to staff a mission trip which would otherwise have to be canceled.

If interested in serving, membership applications are now being accepted for the Rapid Response Team. Please indicate area of interest on forms. For more information, contact Christina Peters of the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at (615) 371-2021 or 1-(800) 558-2090. ■

## More projects ...

— Continued from page 6  
**Project #:** 95  
**Dates:** Summer  
**Location:** Memphis  
**Description:** Construction  
 Brinkley Heights Church needs teams of 10-15 youth to assist apartment management with clean-up and fix-up of apartments. Teams will also distribute meals and conduct BYBCs.  
**Contact:** Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

**Project #:** 96  
**Dates:** Open  
**Location:** Memphis  
**Description:** Construction  
 New Song Church needs team of 10 youth/adults to repair neighborhood homes  
**Contact:** Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868.

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

### Health Care

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

### BBC/VBS

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

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

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

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

**Project #:** 108  
**Dates:** Open  
**Location:** Jackson  
**Description:** VBS  
 Up to 40 teams of 6-10 youth/adult needed to hold one week VBSs or BBYCs in apart-

ment areas or housing projects for Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations.  
**Contact:** Carol Vaughan, (901) 668-5690

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

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

**Project #:** 111  
**Dates:** Open  
**Location:** Memphis  
**Description:** BYBC  
 New Song Church needs teams of 10 or more youth to do BBYCs in public housing community building in church neighborhood. In the afternoons, groups may also help in other types of projects or second BYBC at another location.  
**Contact:** Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868

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

### Miscellaneous

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

**Project #:** 114  
**Dates:** Summer  
**Location:** Memphis  
**Description:** Counseling Ministry  
 Brinkley Heights Alliance needs individual or team of 6 to talk and pray with families at clothing and food ministry. Volunteers are needed 2-3 days per week for 2 hours per day.  
**Contact:** Sam Wilson, (901) 458-0617

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

**Remember To Pray**  
 Don't forget to pray for Poland's simultaneous revivals held May 18-28.

## Tennessee needs, volunteer interest forms available

For The Macedonian Call

**BRENTWOOD** — Both the Church Needs Forms and the Volunteer Interest Forms are now available from the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team. These forms are for churches and volunteers who want to do work right here in Tennessee.

To meet those needs that exist here in Tennessee, Partnership/Volunteer Missions will try to assist churches in locating volunteers as well as helping volunteers find a project.

Partnership/Volunteer Missions

will provide churches that need volunteers with a one-page form, called the Church Needs Form. With this form the churches can make known the needs that they have.

The Church Needs Form will allow the church to indicate much needed information. Included will be: the date the project may be done, what type of work is needed, how many volunteers it will take, as well as any other pertinent details.

Once the form is returned to our office, Partnership/Volunteer Missions will promote these projects in our newsletters, and make prospective volunteers aware of the needs.

Volunteers interested in participating in a Tennessee project can contact our office. The form will allow them to indicate: the type of project they are interested in doing, how many people they have on their team, when they can do a project, and other specific information.

Partnership/Volunteer Missions will then inform the interested volunteer of any available projects that would suit their particular interests.

To obtain these forms, call the TBC's Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1 (800) 558-2090 or call your director of missions' office. ■

## Backpacking team needed in Poland

For The Macedonian Call

**BRENTWOOD** — Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team is leading a backpacking trip to Poland Aug. 8-24 in the Slovakian Mountains. This partnership volunteer opportunity is in support of the Tennessee/Poland partnership.

A total of 10 volunteers is needed to lead a five-seven day trip for 20-25 Polish students. While on the backpacking trip in southern Poland along the Czech Republic border, the team will teach backpacking/camping skills, conversational English, and evangelism/witnessing.

The team will be selected from those with proven camping and backpacking skills. Instructor level or higher level of Tennessee Adult Camp-craft training is desired. Ability to handle groups necessary.

Each team member is responsible for a list of backpacking equipment. Some of the equipment may be donated from suppliers, but there is no guarantee.

Total package costs are approximately \$1200. Costs include: airfare determined by travel agent, in country costs, and transportation costs.

For more information and a list of needed equipment, contact team leader, Bob Davison, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-(800) 558-2090. ■

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

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

For more information on TBC partnerships, call Christina Peters at (615) 371-2021 or 1 (800) 558-2090.

## Polish woman gives message of hope

By Betty Wiseman  
 For The Macedonian Call



**BETTY WISEMAN**, right, gets a hug from her new friend, Ewa.

*Betty Wiseman, Belmont University associate professor, recently led a sports/evangelism team of students to Poland where she met Ewa Ratuszynka, a survivor of the German and Soviet occupation of Poland.*

Ewa, pronounced "Eva," is the mother-in-law of Irek Skoczen, pastor of Tarnow Church in Poland. She is the smiling face behind the hand that ladles soup into the bowl or serves mashed potatoes.

She has the gift of hospitality. She waxes the floors, dusts the church sanctuary, and washes the dishes. Ewa was our cook, our friend, and our example while the Belmont University team visited Poland.

Ewa was born to a Polish family in the eastern part of the country. Her mother died when she was three-years-old. Her father remarried in a short time. She was to have four stepbrothers and sisters. She became a part of her father's family, but she felt very alone.

She lived through the Second World War

to call it "horrible." During the war she lived in fear and tragedy was constant. She remembers the Soviet and German occupation of Poland and the killing of thousands of Polish people.

One night some soldiers came and took her family from its home never to return. The memories of the work camp, starvation, and suffering from the winter cold still haunt Ewa. However, Ewa's story is one of hope. She later came to know Christ in a personal way and today her life in Poland is different.

When she meets people she tells them to expect difficult times, but she tells them God is sufficient in all things. "He is our hope in every situation," she shares openly with people. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests May

**21** — Pray for Keith Travis, missionary to the Atlantic zone in Costa Rica, as he witnesses to a young prison inmate, known as Ronald, who is in La Leticia prison.

**22** — Pray for the RA/Challengers Congress to be held May 30-31 at Westside Church in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

**23** — Pray for All Nations Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and its pastor, Moses Seo. The church recently started a youth group and is seeking Korean families in the area.

**24** — Pray for Wally Miller, former church growth ministry associate for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. He began medical retirement March 31.

**25** — Pray for missionaries Pam and Keith Travis as they lead a Discipleship Training class in San Rafael de Guapiles, Costa Rica. Ask God to give the class members clear understanding as the Traves continue to learn Spanish.

**26** — Pray for Bruce Potterton, who attends Riverview Church in Johnstown, Ontario, Canada. He has congestive heart failure. Also, pray for his wife, Nadine.

**27** — Praise God for the recent Youth Evangelism Conference in Michigan. Many decisions were made for salvation and Christian service.

## Tennessee, Costa Rica pastors serve on ...

— Continued from page 1

school plans to be in a new building by August. They have a lot of hard work ahead, and they are open to receive work groups and any other forms of help. The "exceptional adventure" of the University means that islanders may receive a college education without going away from home. In the past, college only was affordable by the financially able.

While in San Andres with the pas-

tors from Costa Rica, Jorge Arias from San Jose and Mario Alvarez from Puntarenas, we worked on construction of the University building during the day. We also participated in a young people's retreat.

I preached at First Church, San Andres, at the Good Friday service and the Easter service. Both Arias and Alvarez shared in the Sunday evening services, and I interpreted for them from Spanish to English. ■



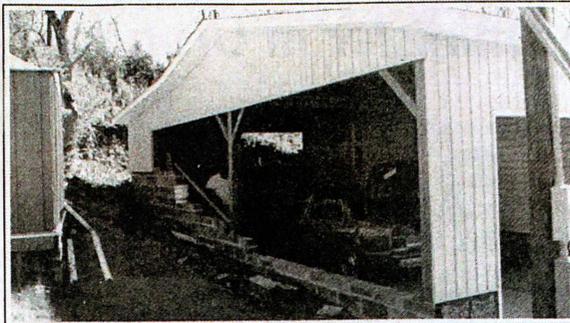
Tennescene

leaders

■ First Church, Livingston, honored Larry Mason, Brotherhood director, for 10 years of service.

■ Roger Britton, who was called as pastor of Whites Creek Church, Rockwood, May 11, where he has been interim pastor, was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Dayton, April 27.

■ Ardmore Church, Mem-



THIS CARPORT addition to the home of the late Sidney Argo, retired pastor of Bristol, was completed by Baptist Men of Volunteer Church, Bristol. Argo, former pastor, Bluff City Church, Bluff City, had ministered as a pastor for over 67 years in Tennessee and Alabama. He died May 5 after a long illness. Argo, wished the work of the Baptist Men to be reported in the Baptist and Reflector.

phis, has called Marvin Spivey as pastor. He has been a chaplain with Housecall Hospice in Nashville.

■ Michael Spikes, youth

minister, Westbury Church, Houston, Texas, has been called as minister of education and youth, Central Church, Martin.



THESE 79 students of Union University, Jackson, were commissioned May 5 as summer missionaries. They will serve in Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Hungary, Cyprus, the Philippines, and in the United States

Chattanooga. For more information, contact Alan Medders at (423) 471-3245 or through e-mail at amedders@cncadmnt-cn.edu.

Vergne, will hold revival June 8-13. Terry Wilkerson, pastor, Round Lick Church, Watertown, will speak and Charlie Smith, minister of music, Greenhill Church, Murfreesboro, will lead the music.

churches

■ The Acteens of Westover Church, Jackson, held a rummage and bake sale May 3 to help a ministry in Bangladesh. The receipts from the efforts will help buy school books for 12 children for a year and fund a church building there.

■ First Church, La-

Classified

YOUTH DIRECTOR: West Cleveland Church is searching for a full-time Youth Director. Interested and qualified individuals may submit a resume to Search Committee, 404 Hillside Place, N.E., Cleveland, TN 37312; (423) 472-0045.

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.

FOR SALE: 1987 Ford, Diamond Coach, 26-passenger, customized, with 7.2 diesel engine. Call New Salem Baptist Church at (423) 842-3078, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FOR SALE: 48-passenger Greyhound Eagle Bus. Power steering, restroom, 4 new tires, excellent condition. Price negotiable. Call Lewis Boone at (901) 794-1461.

MINISTER OF YOUTH: Bethel Church, Greenfield, is receiving resumes for Minister of Youth. For more information, or to send resume, contact Pastor Clark A. Brown, Bethel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 135, Greenfield, TN 38230.



PAUSING after breaking ground for New Song Church, Mt. Pleasant, are, from left, Robert Gamble, director of missions, Maury Association; Durwood Pankey, and Daniel D. Carlen, pastor. The April 20 ceremony marked the building of a 6,300 square foot multipurpose building. Plans include adding a school, day care center, and worship facility.

Minister of Education

FBC, Donelson, is looking for a Minister of Education. If interested, send resume to FBC, 2526 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214, Attn: Personnel Committee

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Seeking A full-time Associate Pastor with a strong music emphasis. Position will require ability to provide strong leadership, direction and training for music and education programs, plus assist pastor with overall ministries. Send resume to Morganfield FBC, 200 North Morgan Street, Morganfield, KY 42437, Attn: Search Committee

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■ Preserving church history will be the focus of the workshop, "Dust, Diaries, and Data," held by Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, May 31 at Brainerd Church.

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Is your church for everyone? Begin or strengthen a special education ministry. Special Education Today (0767346890) is the publication ministering to special education persons, their families, and other caregivers. And there's a new book to help: A Place for Everyone: A Guide for Special Education Bible Teaching-Reaching Ministry (0767318986). Contact The Sunday School Board for these resources: Email to 70423.2526@compuserve.com or fax your order to 615-251-5933.

# Missionaries with state ties minister in Uruguay

By Wally and Betty Poor  
For Baptist and Reflector

LOMAS DE SOLYMAR, Uruguay — If there is such a thing as a missions gene, Ron Roy probably has it.

The son of Claude Roy, a longtime director of missions and church starter in Michigan, Roy is a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary serving in the area east of Montevideo, Uruguay's capital and principal city.

Roy and his family have strong ties to Tennessee. His wife, Carla's parents, are from the state. They moved to Michigan to work at Battle Creek but now have retired to their native state and live in Cookeville. Two of Roy's uncles live in Tennessee — Elmer Roy, a member of First Church, Sweetwater, and Joseph Roy, a member of First Church, Athens.

The Roys have furloughed extensively in the state, first in Sweetwater and then in Morristown. This summer they will furlough once again, this

time in Maryville.

When Roy first came to Uruguay he spent two terms in the city of Rivera where he helped begin three churches and two missions and train pastors for the new works. At one time he had 18 home Bible fellowships going in Rivera.

Now he has an even more varied ministry.

He is seeking to win 10 families to Christ to serve as the nucleus of a new church in Lomas de Solymer (Baptist Church of the Coast); he heads up theological education by extension; he works with seven interdenominational pastors' mutual support groups, and much, much more.

Along with Carla, Roy seeks to win whole families to Christ. "We're living in an area that's family-oriented. I'm praying that the Lord will raise up 10 families I can work with, preferably new Christians who can be disciples," he said.

In addition to Roy's work, Carla is busy in her own right. Besides using videos to evan-



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST** missionaries Ron and Carla Roy participate in a Sunday School class at the Church of the Coast. They will furlough this summer in Maryville.

gelize her neighbors, she has disciplined the women in the Church of the Coast, using *Experiencing God* materials and other studies.

Carla Roy has especially concentrated on two women around her — Teresa, whose husband, Enrique, feels God is calling him to be a pastor, and Marlene, whom Carla calls the church's "resident evangelist" because of her effective-

ness in witnessing.

Carla Roy does not fear where the Lord might lead her as she uses her home in Uruguay as a base for reaching the families around her. She is truly a good neighbor indeed.

And, it's not surprising that Roy does it all, from starting and nurturing churches to encouraging and equipping believers. Maybe it's in his genes. ■



Tennessee  
features

## Prayerwalk helps workers in Trinidad

By Betty Poor  
For Baptist and Reflector

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad — "Awesome. Heart piercing. Humbling."

That's how Tennesseans Carter and Charlotte Davis and other participants described their first day of prayerwalking here.

The Davises are from Knoxville and Nashville, respectively, and were members of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

The couple has been serving as missionaries in Grenada until he was recently named Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board field associate for the Caribbean. They now live in the Ft. Lauderdale area.

The prayerwalk, held April 19-24, was led by Janice Wilson, who was accompanied by her husband, Ron, an FMB area director.

The event was preceded by a workshop for the missionary prayer coordinators. Then the group traveled by car or bus to some churches and mission points in Trinidad, where they met the pastors, received an overview of the work, shared prayer concerns, and walked around the area near the church, praying as they went. Then they prayed en route to the next church. They also prayed for other Baptist-related work there. They traveled all over the island, but in particular the northern part which has a high concentration of people, but few Baptist churches.

"I was just overwhelmed," Charlotte Davis said. "I had been to Trinidad many times, but I had never seen it as I saw it this time," she said. ■



C.A. DAVIS



C.H. DAVIS

## Union seeks info on missionary alumni

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University is seeking to update its information on all missionaries who attended the school.

If you or someone you know attended Union and is a current or former missionary, call Union at 1 (800) 338-6644. ■

## Children's Impact Camps set for July

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "I'm bored. There's not anything to do." Sound familiar?

If your child has completed grades 3-6, there is something to do — something fun, something hands-on. Children's Impact '97 Camps are set for July 21-25 at Camp Linden, Linden, and July 28-Aug. 1 at Camp Carson, Newport.

The Impact '97 camps encourage biblical applications in the children's lives, allows them to meet new friends, builds strong bodies through games and activities, and develops a better understanding of worship. The theme is "God Is In Charge; God's Plan: Now and Forever."

Cost for Impact '97 is \$120 per camper and \$75 per sponsor. One sponsor is needed for

up to six children. Sponsors may attend classes on leadership helps and skills for working with children while the campers are participating in their activities. Registration deadline is June 2.

For a registration form, or additional information, call the TBC Christian Growth Development Group at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2090 or (615) 371-7906. ■

## State disaster relief rally planned for May 30-31 at Camp Linden

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The first Tennessee Disaster Relief Rally will be held May 30-31 at Camp Linden, according to Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director and Missions Awareness and Involvement Team group leader.

This rally is for all trained Disaster Relief volunteers whether or not they have ever responded to a disaster. This is not a training session. Others invited are: associational Disaster Relief directors, associational Baptist Men's Ministries (Brotherhood) directors, and directors of missions.

During the rally, participants will dialogue with National SBC Disaster Relief personnel and other guests.

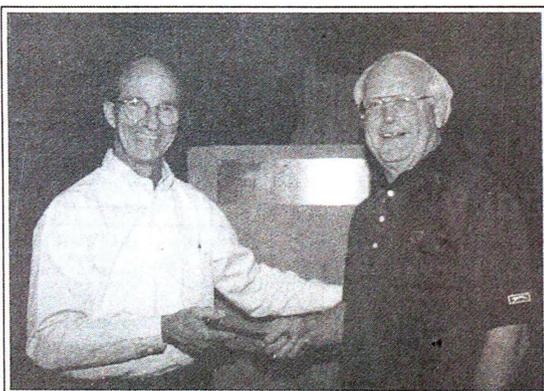
Also attendees will: elect a

state Disaster Relief advisory council, share dreams for the future, and have an update and fellowship time.

The rally opens on Friday, May 30, with registration at 3 p.m. and closes on Saturday, May 31, at 3 p.m.

Participants need to bring: sheets or bedrolls, casual clothes, toiletry items, Bibles, and pens/papers.

The cost for the rally is \$35 for food, lodging and program costs. However, commuters may attend for \$20 which covers food and program costs. Couple housing is limited and will be taken on a first come first serve basis with registration fees. Deadline for registration is May 26. Send fees to: Baptist Men's Ministries Team, TBC, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■



## Childs elected president of association

W.L. "Bo" Childs Jr., right, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, is congratulated by George Borders of Florida upon his election as president of the Association of Baptist Foundations, an organization made up of 39 state Baptist foundations across the Southern Baptist Convention. Borders is past president. The organization met recently in Boston, Mass., to celebrate 50 years of service to Southern Baptists. The theme for the meeting was "50 Golden Years — Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future."

# New heaven and earth



Bible study  
for May 25

## Sealed

By Gary Rickman

### Focal Passage — II Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:1-5; Ephesians 1:11-14

When I purchase something I think I am getting quality. I can evaluate the quality by examining the product's guarantee. A good guarantee gives me confidence in my purchase. This lesson is about God's guarantee of your eternal future.

In II Corinthians 1:22, Paul stated that God has "sealed" believers. This serves several functions. It is God's mark that sets his people apart from the rest of humanity. For Christians that mark is the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives. However, there are other functions of this sealing.

A seal may provide security or protection. God's sealing believers with his Spirit provides protection (John 10:29) and also denotes people who are truly his people (II Timothy 2:19). Immature believers wonder whether they can withstand temptation or attacks on their faith. Some wonder whether they can commit some unpardonable sin and lose their salvation. They need reminding that the Holy Spirit enables them to be confident despite temptation or persecution. It is the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives that gives assurance of the unending nature of their relationship to God.

In II Corinthians 5:1-5, Paul compared his fragile hold on life with the coming glory of resurrection. Our physical life will some day end. We are anxious as we face death, but we find strength in the promise of new life — a promise known by the believer because of the Holy Spirit.

Paul described the Spirit as an *arrabona*. This Greek word means pledge or down payment. In buying real estate, we usually have to provide earnest money. This is the pledge of future payment. Likewise, the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is the pledge or earnest money which guarantees the future fulfillment of God's promise.

Paul brought this deep theological discussion to a practical conclusion. Remembering the heavenly provision which God had prepared for him, Paul could carry out his ministry with confidence and courage. Nothing his enemies could do to him compared to what God already had done for him. Assurance of the future brings great freedom to do what God calls the believers to do.

In his letter to the Ephesian Christians, Paul elaborated on the Spirit's function in believers. Beginning in verse 11, Paul noted that believers have received an "inheritance." This inheritance is the heavenly blessings that Christ has obtained for believers. Just as we cannot collect any inheritance until all of the details of the will are completed, likewise, the believers will receive their inheritance from God when all of God's plans have been carried out. Paul affirmed that God already is at work to bring about all of these plans.

The Spirit's presence in all believers is the "earnest" or deposit "of our inheritance." The Spirit is God's guarantee that our salvation will be made complete, and that we will enjoy the fullness of eternal life.

How often have you sung the words of Fanny J. Crosby, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his spirit, washed in his blood." Believers can sing these words and truly mean them because they have the indwelling Holy Spirit as an assurance of their salvation and have a guarantee of a far better life that is to come. ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

By Larry Kirk

### Focal Passage — Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27

In court, an eye witness is credible. Before the Judge of the Universe, John declares, "I saw." As he comes to the end of his vision, John has sight of the final state of things. He seeks to describe the completion of God's redemptive work and the blessed state of his people. The first heaven and earth had fled from the presence of the one who sat on the great white throne. John sees a new heaven and earth, where there is a holy city, new Jerusalem (vv. 1-2).

This new city will not be created by human initiative. It is one "coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (v. 2). Nothing is purer or more beautiful than an innocent bride united in marriage with the groom. What an encouraging word to the reader!

John a witness by sight and hearing. He heard a great voice announcing a basic theme that of the Bible, appearing first in Leviticus 26:11-12, "I will put my dwelling place among you ... I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." God's revelation assures us that this promise is eternal.

### Family Bible Lesson

What a glorious day that will be to see our God and our Lord face to face. Look at the results of God's dwelling in our midst. He "shall wipe away all tears" (v. 4). Here is a picture of a child crying. An earthly father picks up the child and gently wipes away the tears. The father's soothing voice assures the child that all is well, and that he will remove all sources of

hurt and pain. In child-like faith, trust in the father dries up all tears. How much more will our heavenly Father remove all sources of our tears for eternity.

How can this be possible? Because God will make all things new (v. 5). Life in this new city will be as new as the city itself. On that "great gettin' up mornin'" we will be new people in a new place. This is a promise from "Alpha and Omega" (v. 6) — "the author and finisher of our faith" to those who "overcometh" (v. 7). Who is he who overcomes? Is it one who holds on until the end, working his or her way into the new city? John addressed that earlier when he wrote in I John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

This new city is unlike any before. There is no temple there (v. 22) The Jews' temple had been destroyed — surely this new Jerusalem would have a new temple. But the earthly temple was a shadow of things to come, a place where God symbolically met with his people. Now he and the Lamb will meet face to face with his people. They are the temple. Worship and praise shall be direct.

This new city will need no natural light; it will have supernatural light (v. 23). The saved multitudes from the nations shall walk in this light, enjoying a nightless eternity (vv. 24, 25). Because there will be no night, there is no need for the gates to this new city to be shut. Gates are for shutting out the intruder, the evil workers, the thief. Here there will be only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

A perfect society. God has reserved me a place. What about you? ■ — Kirk is Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

## My relationship with God

By Tim Holcomb

### Focal Passage — Nehemiah 8:9-18

Parties occur for many reasons. Weddings, birth of grandchildren, or a promotion may spark a celebration. There is joy; and memories are made. It is very likely that celebrating big events creates an environment for the celebration of smaller events. God is at work in our lives; shaping us to the image of his Son — that is the reason to celebrate.

**Facing the past.** This scene is intriguing. The great spiritual and civic leader Nehemiah and Ezra, the scribe, call the people together. Probably not the first time in this great rebuilding process that they have come together in a large group. However, now that the physical rebuilding is finished, Nehemiah senses the need for spiritual rebuilding.

When God's Word was read the people wept for the burden they were carrying. God's Word clarified how they and their ancestors had behaved before him. They were sad.

What a wonderful response to this struggle — "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." There are many ways to respond to the past in this setting — Nehemiah was leading the church of God to rejoice.

**Rejoicing in the Lord.** Imagine

### Explore the Bible Lesson

the incredible hard work that precedes this moment. Fifty plus days of focused effort and energy and the walls around Jerusalem are rebuilt. Why not celebrate?

Nehemiah encourages the celebration — "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared," (v. 10).

"For the joy of the Lord is your strength." These words gave permission to the children of God to enjoy this moment and to be full of gratitude for God's abiding presence in their lives.

The Philippians passage — "He, who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it" — is a strong illustration of what was occurring with God's people during this Scriptural confrontation.

**Obedying God's command.** History repeats itself. This Scriptural confrontation helped restore the identity of this community as God's people. This rekindling of obedience demanded a greater responsibility from each and every person.

Nehemiah and Ezra called the people to participate in the festival of booths. This "camping out" experience would remind them of how God

had provided for them during the Exodus. All the people who had returned from exile participated — "And all the

congregations of them that were come again out of captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so." This experience marked a turning point in all their lives.

**Reading God's Word.** This experience with Scriptural confrontation holds a central place in Nehemiah's story of the restored community. If Scripture reading and its confrontation to each life held so much weight in Nehemiah's time, why should it hold any less weight today?

Everyday Scripture study is essential. Group study is essential. Providing opportunities for persons to hear God's Word read and explained is essential. Scripture reading should continue to have a central place in our community of faith.

So what? In what context are you engaging God's Word in your life? Joy and celebration or grief and judgment? How has God spoken to you and confronted your life? What are the evidences (in obedience) from that Scriptural confrontation? ■ — Holcomb is Christian Growth Development Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.



world news

Baptists aid fire victims in St. Maarten area

Baptist Press

ST. MAARTEN, Netherlands Antilles — Baptists rushed aid to more than 100 families left homeless by fire in early May that swept through a Shantytown area inhabited by Haitian immigrants here.

The fire, which local news reports said was the island's worst ever, affected between 800 and 1,000 people, said Tom Higginbotham, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary who was involved with local Baptists in relief work.

Baptists provided the only relief for fire victims, Higginbotham said. Two local Baptist churches collaborated in relief efforts which included food and clothing. The FMB provided money for food. ■

FMB program to enhance leadership skills

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A new program to enhance Southern Baptist missionaries' leadership skills on their fields of service will be directed by Ben Sells, a leader in distance learning programs at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, Calif.

Sells, a Missouri native, will head the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new International Centre for Excellence in Leadership, to better equip missionaries for the challenges of starting and developing churches in other cultures.

The program is a direct response to missionaries' requests for help, said Sam James, FMB vice president for creative leadership development.

The new program will use videotape and computer-based training techniques and incorporates e-mail for feedback from instructors. ■

Clinton urged to support ban

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The current Southern Baptist Conven-

tion president, along with several former SBC presidents, have written the president of the United States for the second time in a year to urge him to support a legislative ban on a controversial abortion procedure.

Tom Elliff, serving his first year as SBC president, and nine former presidents said in a May 12 letter to President Bill Clinton they were writing "to beg you to reconsider your continued defense of the killing of living premature babies by the brutal partial-birth abortion method."

The letter came as the U.S. Senate prepared again to debate and to vote on the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. ■



ELLIFF

MBTS selects academic vp

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jim Cogdill Jr. has been appointed vice president for academic affairs at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here. He will assume his duties July 1.

Cogdill currently is pastor of Wake Cross Roads Church, Raleigh, N.C., and has been an

adjunct professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1989.

Cogdill received the unanimous support of the Midwestern Seminary faculty in a May 13 meeting. He will be recommended as a visiting professor of evangelism at an upcoming meeting of the seminary trustees' instruction committee. His election as a full professor will be considered at a regular meeting of the trustee board next fall, in keeping with bylaw requirements.

Cogdill earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. ■

Court upholds 'moment of silence' law

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Georgia's "moment of silence" law, which mandates a one-minute period at the start of every day that can be used by students for personal prayer or other forms of quiet reflection, was upheld May 6 by the federal appeals court here.

The court rejected the claim that the law violated First Amendment concerns by re-

turning prayer to public schools.

"By stating that the moment of quiet reflection shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise, the statute indicates that Georgia is not advocating the moment of quiet reflection as a time for religious activity," Judge Lanier Anderson wrote in the court's unanimous opinion. ■

CLC launches Internet page

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, anticipating a name change to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in June, has established a presence on the Internet.

The agency's home page at http://www.ericl.com made its debut May 8.

"The purpose of this new venture is to give Christians more awareness and understanding of the compelling moral and ethical issues facing society today," said Jeff Carter, CLC director of citizenship concerns, who is overseeing the design and implementation of the site on the World Wide Web. He said the web site will enable Christians "to respond in an informed and timely manner to those issues." ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of Acts



Match the clues on the right with the people of Acts on the left.

- 1. Luke
2. Simon
3. Felix
4. Sons and daughters
5. Peter
6. Apostles
7. Ananias
8. Matthias
9. Lydia
10. Philip
11. Old men
12. Festus
13. Aquila and Priscilla
14. Gamaliel
15. Stephen
16. Barnabas
17. Crispus
18. Ananias and Sapphira
19. Saul
20. Servants
21. Drusilla
22. John Mark
23. Paul
24. Young men
25. Agrippa
26. Silas

- A. Will prophesy
B. See visions
C. Dream dreams
D. Receive outpouring of the Spirit
E. First martyr of early church
F. Blind for three days
G. Governor of Caesarea
H. High priest
I. King
J. Governor after Felix
K. Wife of Felix
L. Preached to Ethiopian eunuch
M. Raised Dorcas from death
N. Apostle after Judas
O. Former magician
P. Lied to the Holy Spirit
Q. Pharisee in the council, teacher of the law
R. Went with Paul on first missionary journey
S. Caused division between Paul and Barnabas
T. Went with Paul on second missionary journey
U. Preached on Mars Hill
V. Seller of purple
W. Ruler of synagogue in Corinth
X. Author of book of Acts
Y. Miraculously freed from prison
Z. Tentmakers who opened their home to Paul

Fun for the Family

"Fun for the Family" is a feature of the Baptist and Reflector that will appear regularly.

Answers to the May 14 Fun for the Family Puzzles

"The Book of John" for adults — Bread of Life, Light of the World, Door of the Sheep, Good Shepherd, Resurrection and the Life Way, Truth and the Life True Vine, The Word Was God

"The Book of John" for children — For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Just for Kids

The Book of Acts

Use the code below to find the cities Paul visited on his missionary journeys.

Grid of numbers for a word search puzzle. Includes a code key: 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, 5=E, 6=F, 7=G, 8=H, 9=I, 10=J, 11=K, 12=L, 13=M, 14=N, 15=O, 16=P, 17=Q, 18=R, 19=S, 20=T, 21=U, 22=V, 23=W, 24=X, 25=Y, 26=Z