

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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Legislators vote for religious rights for students

Lottery issue fails to come up for vote in 1997

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee legislators in 1997 struck a blow against abortion and gambling and said yes to religious rights for students.

The 100th General Assembly ended May 31 with the state budget taking priority as legislators "worked overtime" to pass a balanced budget of \$14.5 billion before going home for the year. State law requires both houses to pass a balanced budget before adjourning for the year.

Legislators passed several bills favoring moral and ethical issues in 1997.

For Tennessee Baptists and others opposed to a state lottery, an action not taken was

major news. An anticipated attempt to remove the word "lottery" from the state constitution failed to materialize.

Removing the word would open the state up to not just a lottery, but to any and all forms of gambling, said Bill Bates, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He cautioned Tennessee Baptists that the issue is far from being dead.

Bates predicted gambling proponents will "pull out all stops next year." Because the move to legalize the lottery requires a change in the state

constitution, it must be voted on and approved by legislators next year to be placed on the governor's ballot in 1998, he explained.

Such a vote only removes the prohibition against a lottery from the constitution, Bates continued. Voters would not actually be voting on whether to have a lottery, he said.

Senator Gene Elsea, a layman at First Church, Spring City, agreed.

"The message that has gone out leads the public to think that when they vote that gives them a lottery." That's not the case, he said, adding that removing the word from the constitution would open up the state for casinos, roulette, video poker, and more. Any

form of gambling would be determined by the legislature.

"If it (the lottery) does not pass next year, I think it will cool off," Elsea said.

In another action against gambling legislators did not extend the Tennessee Racing Commission which was created in 1988 to regulate applications for racing tracks in Tennessee. Without the commission future applications for tracks could not be approved and betting on simulcast races in Tennessee would be moot.

"A couple of years ago that action would have been unheard of," Elsea told the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Elsea credited churches and pastors for getting the message out that "gambling is wrong." — See Lottery, page 2



BATES

Tennessee Baptists teach disaster relief to Costa Ricans

By Wally Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — A team of volunteers from Tennessee recently led Costa Rican Baptists and other evangelicals in their first ever disaster relief workshop.

Led by Tim Bearden, state disaster relief director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the group instructed representatives of some 14 evangelical groups in disaster relief fundamentals.

In addition to Bearden, Tennessee volunteers included Mike and Connie Stricklin of Hopewell Church, Savannah, and Michael Bonner of King's Cross Church, Tullahoma.

The Stricklins talked to the group about child care and setting up emergency feeding stations while Bonner taught first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

The team, part of Tennessee Baptists' ongoing partnership with Costa Rican Baptists, worked with Southern Baptist

Foreign Mission Board missionaries Ben Argil, Sue Smith, and Keith Travis.

Reuben Quesada, president of the Costa Rican Evangelical Alliance's emergency commission, was jubilant about the interdenominational cooperation for the workshop.

"This is the first time we've had such a



TENNESSEE BAPTIST volunteer Mike Stricklin unloads supplies as fellow volunteer Mike Bonner, center, and missionaries Sue Smith and Steve Sloas watch.

representative group and the first time for evangelicals to get training on disaster relief," Quesada said. "I was gratified to see the good response to the workshop," he added. The Evangelical Alliance is the umbrella group for evangelicals in dealing with the Costa Rican government which, along with the Costa Rican Red Cross, supported the workshop.

Bearden said the Red Cross has asked Tennessee Baptists to return this fall to conduct workshops in first aid and CPR.

Tennessee Baptists also will help Costa Rican Baptists to equip an emergency feeding kitchen capable of producing 2,000 to 3,000 meals per day.

The group also traveled to Guapiles to visit Argil, the Costa Rica Baptist mission's disaster relief chairman, to see what equipment Costa Rican Baptists already have.

The augmenting of existing equipment will be a priority, Bearden said. "God's working across denominational lines to minister to people in time of disaster," Bearden observed. ■

Resumes sought for successor to TBC's Bill Wilson

For Baptist and Reflector

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

The Ministry Coordinator will provide support, direction,

and coordination for the Christian Growth Development, Church Staff Leadership, Evangelism/Missions, and Missions Awareness and Involvement Groups. In addition, this person will provide leadership of the development of Cooperative Program support and resources with Tennessee Baptist churches. Also, the Ministry Coordinator position will include provid-

ing assistance to churches needing help in implementing Vision 2000, the convention-adopted Long-Range Plan.

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

The subcommittee will receive nominations for the position through June 15. Accord-

ing to policy, each nominee will receive a standard Executive Board ministry application form. All nominees will be requested to fill out the form.

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

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Bible society stops NIV revision

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A surprise announcement by the International Bible Society May 27 to “forgo all plans” to revise the New International Version Bible translation prompted a wave of positive reactions among Southern Baptist leaders.

The Colorado-based IBS in its May 27 statement, also committed to revising its New International Readers Version (NIRv) Bible “to reflect a treatment of gender consistent with the NIV.” The NIRv is a gender-neutral translation already used in a Zondervan Publishing House Children’s Bible.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Commit-

tee, said, “The sensitivity of the IBS to the concerns of the evangelical public is commendable, and we believe very wise. I expect the decision to be applauded by all those who hold a high view of the Scripture. The NIV has enjoyed a very high level of confidence and acceptance among evangelical Christians, and this decision should serve to bolster that confidence.”

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, commended the IBS for its “sensitivity to the desires of Christian people to have a translation that adheres to the original languages of the Word of God.

Victor L. Oliver, chairman of the IBS’ 18-member board, said in the IBS statement: “The NIV

doesn’t belong to IBS or our licensed publishers, it belongs to the people.

“Virtually all other contemporary Bible translations already reflect gender treatments consistent with the language of today. However, the NIV has essentially become the Bible of the evangelical church, which has come to trust in and depend upon the NIV’s current accuracy, clarity, and readability.”

The BSSB uses the NIV text in many of its resources and in various texts and Bible commentaries.

First published in 1978 and revised in 1983, the current NIV translation holds a 45 percent share of all Bibles sold in the United States. ■

Candidates announced for SBC vice presidents

Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Two men have recently announced they will be candidates for the two vice presidency positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miles Seaborn, a layman from Fort Worth, Texas, and president of the statewide conservative organization Southern Baptists of Texas, will be nominated as first vice president.

J.C. Mitchell, former president of the Florida Baptist Convention and retired pastor of First Church, Winter Park, Fla., will be a nominee for second vice president.

Current SBC president Tom Elliff of Oklahoma will be nominated for a second term as convention president.

Elections for the SBC offices will come during the convention’s annual meeting June 17-19 in Dallas. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

May-June

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

29 — Pray for Billy Whitt, Baptist State Convention of Michigan missions director, who will retire in June.

30 — Praise God for the Pastor’s Sunday School class at Friendship Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The class, led by Trey Atkins, is designed to be a bridge for individuals attending the church.

31 — Praise God for Coach Betty Wiseman and Belmont University’s sports/evangelism team which recently returned from sharing the Gospel through sports and personal testimonies in Tarnow, Poland.

June 1 — Pray for Bruce Potterton, a member of Riverview Church in Johnstown, Ontario, Canada, who has congestive heart failure.

2 — Pray for missionary Greg Smith in Costa Rica who is beginning prayer walks. Ask God that a new work will be established as a result of this ministry.

3 — Pray for missionaries Pam and Keith Travis as they lead a Discipleship Training class in San Rafael de Guapiles, Costa Rica.

10 members killed

Baptist church bears brunt of Texas killer tornado

Associated Baptist Press

JARRELL, Texas — A May 28 tornado spared the red-brick building of First Church here, but took the lives of 10 members of the small congregation, including its minister of music and his family.

The tornado — one of the most powerful ever observed in Texas — wiped out a subdivision near Jarrell, a small town 40 miles north of Austin on Interstate 35. At least 27 residents were killed. Among those

killed were Larry Igo, minister of music at the church, his wife, and three children, said Pastor Max Johnson.

Texas Baptist disaster relief units came from Tyler and Fort Worth to set up feeding operations in the aftermath of the storm.

Baptists were among the approximately 30 ministers who offered counseling and family assistance to the residents of the unincorporated town with population estimates ranging from 400 to 1,000. ■

Lottery issue fails to come up for vote ...

— Continued from page 1

At press time on Monday, the exact status of bills was still being compiled. The following bills were approved, according to news reports:

▶ Both the Senate and House approved legislation that details when students can pray and participate in other religious activities in public schools.

Tennessee Attorney General John Knox Walkup has issued an opinion that the bill, as passed with amendments, is constitutionally defensible.

Under the bill students have the right to pray, share religious beliefs, distribute religious literature, and be absent, in accordance with local attendance policies, to observe religious holidays and participate in other religious practices. Students can do all the above to the same extent as they would be allowed to do in non-religious matters.

Senator Elsea said he was “tickled to see that it

passed with the numbers that it did. It is a good indication people are becoming to come off this feeling that we are infringing on others’ rights if we want to pray or talk about our God.”

▶ Both houses of government also approved legislation outlawing “partial-birth” abortions in Tennessee. A partial-birth abortion is a gruesome late-term procedure.

▶ The Senate and House passed different versions of a bill giving grandparents the right to petition to see their grandchildren, even over objections from the children’s parents.

All bills passed will be sent to Governor Don Sundquist for his signature if he chooses.

Overall, it was a good year in the legislature, Bates said.

“They have passed some pieces of legislation that are important,” Bates said.

“The benefit of this year’s actions will show more in the future than right now,” he predicted. ■

TBC volunteers assist in clean-up efforts in N.D.

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The state’s first “mud-out” volunteer team left May 31 for Grand Forks, N.D., to help with the Red River flood clean-up effort, according to Tim Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director.

The eight-member team is sponsored by Valley View Church, Nashville and will be led by pastor Chuck McElhannon. Included on the team are Ray Lincoln, Alton Lincoln, Darrell Pridy, Tommy Smith, Martha Stanley, Carolyn Jackson, all members of Valley View, and Joan LaPlante, a member of Piney Grove Church, Harriman.

The Tennessee volunteers will join other state units already in operation in the northwest, according to Mickey Caison, SBC Brotherhood Commission National Disaster Relief director. Caison anticipates a need for 40 mud-out volunteers each week for up to six weeks.

All mud-out volunteers are responsible for their own transportation to the flood area and must be prepared to “rough it” while on site.

For information, contact Bearden at 1 (800) 558-2090.

Those who wish to supply clean-up supplies such as mops, buckets, etc., should call Marilyn Pope at the Dakota Fellowship at (701) 255-7465.

The fellowship has secured a warehouse in Hillsboro, N.D., to receive these items. ■

Marching like God's mighty army

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war — with the cross of Jesus going on before!

In defense of the faith, the best spiritual posture of Christians is to be offensive, that is, to push forward. Phalanx after phalanx, in mighty array, attacking the strongholds of evil in the world.

There is another army, a spiritual army powered by God's Holy Spirit and active in the hearts of believers. That's God's army. Tennessee Baptists are a part of it.

In the long hall at the Baptist Center, the hall with many windows, we've stationed flags of the people we march with in Partnership Missions and Volunteers.

Alongside the Tennessee standard hang the brightly-colored flags of Canada, Poland, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Michigan. Partners — that's a proper way of saying we work together for the Savior and Lord of the world. We share his Word, his love, his resurrected authenticity as Victor over death and sin.

The flags represent Baptist co-laborers in those nations; they also represent millions of people who do not know the Lord Christ as Savior. And we can't boast, because almost half the population in Tennessee is not evangelized.

In recent weeks, we have added another bold declaration, a reminder of sorts, to those flags in the hall. On the opposite wall, facing the flags, a huge map of the world is posted.

The map is not an ordinary map because it shows

less interest in national and international boundaries and more interest in the areas where there is no Christian witness.

The map's colors depict the areas in the world where the Christian witness has or has not moved, and to what extent.

The startling attention-getter is the color red. Red dominates the map, and represents World A, 30 percent of the world's population, or 1.6 billion people, in 2,161 people groups. They have no access to the Gospel! That spells danger, alarm, and that's why red is the chosen color.

Another color represents unreached people, 24 percent of the population, some 1.3 billion people. They have no church with any viable strength.

And there are 1.4 billion unevangelized people, about 26 percent of the population.

Evangelized people total about 1.1 billion, or 20 percent. They have heard the Gospel and have enough knowledge to make a choice. Most of North America falls in this

group.

Christian? Forming less than 1 percent, the Christians have made a choice, accepting Christ. That's another story, a very small part of the worldwide picture.

It is heartbreaking to look at that great swath of red, covering the northern half of Africa, a huge portion of Asia, and swinging across the Far East.

When we read the history of the early church, right from the pages of Acts, we know the world was not nearly as densely populated as it is today. As we

read about the personality, the make-up, and variety of spiritual gifts in the early church, we see the Spirit moving with authority, power, and freedom.

The church celebrated life in Christ by real servanthood and an amazing unity. Those who were not in harmony, either moved out or were moved out. There was a sense of awe about what the Lord was doing. The steady, bold, and selflessness of prayer stimulated every action.

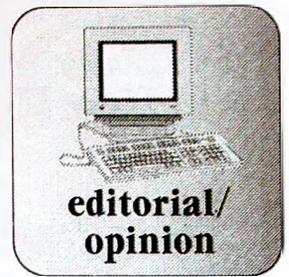
They were so successful in their spiritual adventure that the world soon began to notice them, and persecute them.

The early church celebrated life in Christ with the boldness that marks true Christianity, a lifestyle that has no fear and is prone to sacrifice — even to giving oneself for the Gospel!

In our partnerships, most of the volunteers have seen that kind of lifestyle. Some of them have it themselves.

Conversations today are dominated by the advent of another century, a third millennium in the history of Christ's church. The driving force of all our efforts should be an overpowering concern for World A, for the unreached, for the "so-so" groups, for our own nation.

Standing on the promises is not enough. The Long Hall, or the Long Haul? The long hall view should startle Tennessee Baptists to real awakening. **B&R**



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

First Bum: "I wish I had \$10 million."

Second Bum: "If you did, would you give me \$1 million of it?"

First Bum: "Naw, if you're too lazy to wish for your own million, you can't have any of mine."

Take this truth

Kipling advised us to "dream, but not make dreams our master." You've built air castles? That's fine. Now, put a foundation under them by hard work!



WOOD

Memorize this Scripture

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." — Proverbs 29:18

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me always to be aware you have a wonderful future for me. May I also realize, however, I must do my part to make your plans for me become a reality." ■

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

Every kid should have a friendly creek to wade in

I was "baptized" in a creek — not a spiritual baptism though. It was a baptism in adventure, wanderlust, freedom of a sort.

Some folks didn't call it a creek. For some reason we called it a canal, fed by a little "branch," close by home.

Not too far away Black Creek meandered through farmland, interrupting roads, following the pull to the Atlantic eventually as a part of a great river.

Spashing in that friendly stream afforded countless hours of pleasure and joy to a little sister and a barely younger brother. We probably thought the older four siblings had never been young enough to appreciate our ownership.

Unless there was a summer cloud-burst, the stream was never deeper than halfway to our knees. And it was always clear, seemingly pure though Mama cautioned us not to drink from it.

On hot afternoons, we probably did. There were a couple of healthy-sized fallen trees that spanned the stream. There were several huge chunks of petrified wood where shallow pools formed and crawfish

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

and minnows played hide-and-seek.

We hung out on the section from where our back pasture fence abutted — a few hundred yards to the "big" bridge. We didn't venture often near the big bridge — someone had said snakes liked that dark and shadowy place.

The rumble of the big bridge and the smaller one signaled the nearness of Daddy as his truck crossed on the way home at eventide. If we were there in the stream, we raced up the hill, just to get there for his big hugs when he reached home.

Black Creek was another story. The dark waters, the swift current, the width, were too much for us. That was the place the older ones swam and "socialized."

Well, I grew up liking streams, and creeks, and rivers. The awesome power and strength of the Mississippi, the Pee Dee, the Tennessee, and matched by the mystic

and age of the Nile and the raw turbulence and continental personality of the Amazon.

The grandeur of earth-moving rivers gives them a presence seldom matched. The friendliness of the little streams and creeks breeds friendship.

The magnificence of all those waterways that join together trickle by trickle, brook by brook, creek by creek, river by river — well, it's God's own plan to irrigate and navigate the earth he made.

Though the bridges that man makes to get us from one side to the other and back again, though they often are marvels of engineering and beauty — nothing matches the rivers that etch their own beauty on earth's face.

Christians are like rivers. One by one, two by two, we become a mighty force for the Lord. Banded together, we too can change earth's face.

How do we do that? Simple. We share his love by sharing what the Lord has done for us — little people who together demonstrate his power and his love. ■



ALLEN

Grandmother voices concern over grandchildren

families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

first address his own emotional state.

If he has financial concerns, he can inquire with a legal aid office about free legal service. If he does not qualify, he should borrow the money or seek financial help from other Christians, in order to obtain legal representation and move to get custody of his children.

Delay under such circumstances works against the welfare of the children and undermines the father's position in court. It is assumed that if a father loves his children and if the circumstances are truly detrimental to their well-being, he will take ac-

tion promptly. Further, the moral character of children will be eroded with continual exposure to the behavior you described, and their bond with their father is likely to be weakened, possibly broken.

Your son certainly has biblical as well as legal grounds for divorce. If he is refraining from acting because he believes his wife may change her mind, he is failing to accept her choice — foolish and evil though it may be — despite the fact she has communicated for two years that choice. If he is concerned about what others may think, he would be wiser to focus on what he believes God would have him do for his children. Ultimately, all of humanity — him, her, you, and me — must answer only to God. ■

As home missionary in Chattanooga, Cleveland

'Miss Eunice' serves families for 37 years

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Home missionary Eunice Heath can be described as a cross between Aunt Bea from TV's "The Andy Giffith Show" and an Army sergeant who issues orders following a blow of her whistle.

Both personas have been needed by Heath during her 37 years of service to children and women through Baptist centers in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Although she retired Dec. 31 of last year, she continues her work on an interim basis for Bradley County Association.

"I know we need it (weekday ministry) in this community," said Heath. She has discovered

the many needs of people here by working 16 years at Blythe Avenue Mission and Center. "That's what he (the Lord) told us to do — minister to others."

Children's Clubs

Each Monday and Thursday afternoon Heath jumps in the center's van and drives a half mile to a school building. Her presence on a sidewalk near the school's front doors and the van serves as a reminder to the students of that day's children's club.

One recent Thursday afternoon children rushed up to Heath to show her school work or tell her about events of the day. Her monosyllabic responses were all that was needed as soon the children, black and white, including one who was barefoot, were rushing off to the van.

The whistle around her neck came in handy as the about 20 children in grades 1-3 converged on the fel-

lowship hall of the mission/center. Soon the cacophony of voices and feet on tile and slamming doors had quieted and "Miss Eunice," as she was called, told a Bible story. Questions about the story had to be answered, but soon it was time for refreshments.

The youngest quickly sat at a table which was surrounded with small chairs and the older children gathered at a bigger table. Helpers Tabatha Blankenship, Keisha Wooten, and Brooke Emerson, members of the older children's club which meets on Monday afternoons, joined the group bearing trays of cup cakes.

They and Miss Eunice called out the names of children because each had a cup cake made to order, often with two kinds of icing which divided the cake into halves. When cake and drinks were consumed, the crowd was dismissed to outdoor activities.

Later, after delivering children to their homes and promising to return to a home with a hat left by a child at the center, Heath admitted it can be a discouraging job.

One boy, who has been part of the children's club, told Heath his father didn't want to have anything more to do with him. Heath knew the father — he had been one of her students at the center. She told the

boy that his father didn't know what he was missing by deciding not to spend time with him.

The expression on that child's face is what makes it all worthwhile, she said, as her face crinkled into a smile.

Over the years

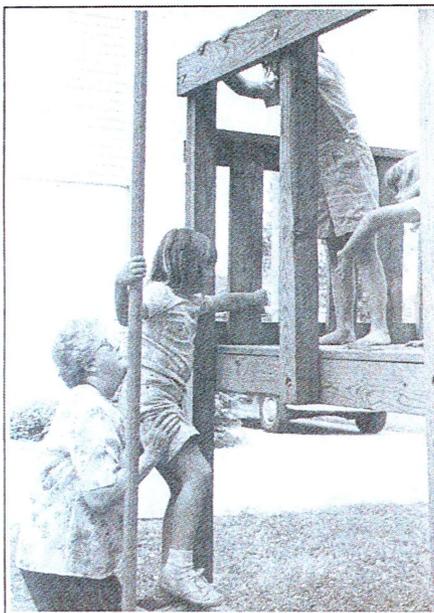
Heath said she has seen society change for the worse during her tenure as a missionary. Many children today have no family support system, she said, as opposed to the early years of her ministry when even poor family members could rely on each other and the help of relatives. Heath also served Bankston Memorial Center, Chattanooga, from 1960-81.

People today also seem less receptive to church-sponsored activities, she said. Parents who wouldn't attend church would send their children, but she has seen that support of church decline.

One thing that hasn't changed, said Heath, is that poor people exist and they need help, just as the Bible says, she added. Blythe Avenue Mission/Center offers food and clothes to people and other services in addition to the children's clubs.

She has had some memorable experiences over the years, said Heath, who is a graduate of the Carver School of Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. One night she followed a car of young men whom she suspected were vandals until they stopped and she could get to a phone at a residence. And she fondly recalled the week-long trips she and a friend, Carol Clevenger of Cleveland, would lead for teenagers.

"I've just tried to help people," she said. *B&R*



BY GIVING A BOOST Heath helps a girl climb into the loft of playground equipment.



HEATH comforts a child after a fall during outdoor activities of the children's club.



CLASPING HANDS with a boy, Heath involves him in a game.



HEATH distributes drinks and visits with children at the children's club.



Tennessee
features

Heath changed her life, says Cleveland woman

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Lori O'Neal Williams met Eunice Heath when she was 8 years old. She and her parents and five siblings lived in a government-subsidized housing project in Chattanooga.

Nearby was Bankston Memorial Baptist Center led by Heath. The O'Neal family visited the center often. They came for the free clothes. The children came for the activities led by Miss Eunice. Lori's mom, Betty, started attending the women's club in the evenings. Then she worked at the center assisting Heath. The family also attended activities of the congregation which met at the center.

"Eunice was there for every important event in my life," said Williams. Heath helped Williams get a high school class ring and a prom dress. And Heath hosted the mother and children several times in her home.

After Williams married, Heath and her long-time friend and housemate, Carol Clevenger, helped Williams get a job at Bradley Memorial Hospital in the medical records department. A few years ago, Williams got to thank Heath by helping her at the center for seven years along with her husband, Ricky.

Heath is an unsung hero, said Williams. She works with children most people don't want their children to associate with and with adults who often take advantage of her, but she continues despite it all. "She is a most humble, gracious lady," she said. *B&R*



WILLIAMS pauses at work.

SEEDS

Matthew 13:8

A Newsletter For Church Leaders From Union University

Union Establishes Center for Christian Leadership

Union University recently established the Center for Christian Leadership. The center is designed to equip Christians with the worldview and skills necessary to be high impact servant-leaders and change agents in the 21st century.

Dr. David P. Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies, was named the director of the center. Recently, Gushee was one of 50 evangelical leaders under the age of 40 named by *Christianity Today* as "up and coming" leaders in American Christianity.

He explained that the Center for Christian Leadership will enrich the educational and scholarly experience of students and faculty at Union. "It will foster a climate of Christ-centered excellence and leadership development at every level of university life," Gushee said.

Through a variety of high-quality academic and non-academic programs, conferences and other initiatives in the area of Christian leadership, the center will serve the campus and broader public. Plans include dynamic conferences led by prominent Christian leaders. "We want these programs to get built into the calendars and consciousness of Christian leaders throughout the nation," Gushee said.

"Today, our society is in need of dynamic Christians who possess the knowledge and skills to answer the call of the Great Commission and positively influence the world around them," Gushee said. "The Center will encourage leadership development through all of its activities, conferences and programs."

President David S. Dockery explained the center will develop and enhance relationships with local, regional and national media in order to be "in the loop" when Christian opinion is sought on issues of the day.

"The center will establish Union's presence as a key national location for Christ-centered, intellectually responsible dialogue about major issues affecting the church, the academy, and American society," Dockery said.



Using the resources available through Union's R. G. Lee Center, Dr. Roy Graves, pastor of First Baptist Church, McKenzie, Tennessee, spent several days on campus in research and Bible study. He wrote the first sermon published in the R. G. Lee Center's Papers for Christian Ministry.

Graves First R.G. Lee Fellow

Dr. Roy Graves, pastor of First Baptist Church, McKenzie, Tennessee, was the first inductee into The R. G. Lee Society of Fellows.

The Society of Fellows is part of Union's new R. G. Lee Center, designed to encourage and enhance the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fellows are invited and welcomed by the administration to visit Union University for a two or three-day retreat. The University provides lodging and meals while the pastor utilizes campus resources, including the R. G. Lee Library and interviews with Christian studies faculty members, for Bible study and research.

Following Graves' mini-retreat earlier this year, he wrote a sermon brief titled "Making Tough Decisions is Tough" which was published in the R. G. Lee Center's Papers for Christian Ministry and distributed to West Tennessee pastors.

The Society of Fellows assists in fulfilling the Center's mission by providing Christian communicators with resources that can further enable them to write dynamic sermons. "We pray that other pastors will be inspired and encouraged by the sermons they read in the Papers," Dr. John Adams, vice president for campus ministries and church services, said.

Prominent Church Leaders Join Union Faculty

Union University will welcome two prominent church leaders to the faculty in the fall of 1997. "Students will be able to draw upon years of Christian service and scholarly achievement with both of these new faculty members," President David S. Dockery said.



Ken Story

Dr. Ken Story, who recently retired as pastor at Germantown Baptist Church, will join the Union faculty as a visiting university professor of Christian studies. Story obtained his bachelor of arts from Union University and his master and doctorate of ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Our students will benefit from Dr. Story's 30-plus years of pastoral experience at Germantown and his involvement in denominational activities. He will provide valuable insight to our students in all aspects of pastoral life," Dockery added.

Prior to becoming pastor at Germantown, Story served Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Covington, Tennessee; French Quarter Baptist Chapel, a mission of First Baptist, New Orleans; and New Hope Baptist Church, Paris, Tennessee.

He has been involved in local, state and national denominational activities, including service as moderator in the Shelby Baptist Association, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's credential committee.

As a visiting professor at Union, Story will teach courses in pastoral ministry, evangelism and preaching.

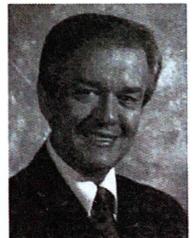
Mr. Wayne Johnson, who has served as minister of media at First Baptist Church, Orlando, since 1973, will be welcomed as an associate professor of communication arts where he will assist Theatre Director David Burke in the enhancement of Union's theatre program.

Burke said the University will add an additional show next year to total four productions, and Johnson will direct two of the four. Johnson will also teach courses in theatre, public communication and interpersonal communication.

Johnson, who graduated from Union University in 1962 with a bachelor of arts, said, "My Southern Baptist Christian college days were the most influential factors of my early years." He received his master of arts in theatre from Purdue University. Other graduate work has included courses at the University of Central Florida.

As media minister at First Baptist, Orlando, Johnson directs the drama ministry involving 250 adults in instruction and performances. He wrote and directed *The Light: The Story of Our Christ*, a holiday drama produced at the Orlando church.

Further, he authored *The Pageant Workbook*, a resource of dramatic materials published by the Southern Baptist Convention, and served as editor of *Monologues for Ministry*. Johnson, who is an active member of Christians in the Theatre Arts (CITA), also writes special curriculum, television and dramatic productions.



Wayne Johnson

Union Named Best College Buy

Union was recently recognized for its commitment to academic excellence at an affordable cost and named one of the one-hundred best college buys in the U.S. by a new publication that rates America's colleges and universities.

The Student Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys profiles schools that are the highest rated academically but have the lowest total cost for the college years. Showing a wide geographic diversity, schools from 40 states are represented, from New Jersey to Hawaii.

"This is a prestigious honor for Union University to be ranked among 100 top schools in the nation," President David S. Dockery said. "Union is very committed to the highest academic standards while maintaining an affordable cost for our students."

Union was ranked with schools including the University of Kentucky, University of Mississippi, Louisiana State, Rutgers University, Samford University, Baylor University, Clemson, Texas A&M and Auburn.

To be considered for *America's 100 Best College Buys*, a college must meet specific requirements. They must be an accredited, four-year institution; offer full residential opportunities to qualified students for need-based, academic-based and athletic-based financial aid; have an entering freshman class with a high school grade point average and SAT or ACT score above the national average; and the cost of attendance must be below the national average.

Union's total undergraduate enrollment for fall 1996 was 1,832 with the average first-time freshman ACT score being 24.2. The University is committed to academic excellence and strong Christian values.

"Ideally, your college experience will help you define who you are and where you're going next. In order to help you accomplish those critical life steps, the college you select should reflect and respect your values, but at the same time it should offer you opportunities for critical evaluation and inquiry," the publication declares. "This is just part of what Union University offers students who are motivated by a Christian college with high academic standards."

Compiled by Institutional Research and Evaluation in Gainesville, Ga., the guide not only lists the one-hundred best college buys, it gives complete information on each one, giving cost.

Scholarship available to Tennessee Baptists

If you're a member of a Tennessee Baptist church, then you're automatically guaranteed a scholarship at Union University in 1997-98.

This fall Union will offer the Tennessee Baptist Convention scholarship to students who have been a member of a Tennessee Baptist church since September 1, 1996.

The institutional scholarship will be given to all students who complete the financial aid application process and whose church simply verifies their membership.

"About 80% of Union students receive some form of financial aid," Becky Wilson, grant coordinator, said. "This scholarship is just another way Union is able to demonstrate its commitment to providing affordable education to all students, especially those from across Tennessee."

For more information about the TBC scholarship or other financial aid opportunities, contact Union's Financial Aid Office at (901) 661-5015.

sources of financial aid, majors offered and information on campus life at each school.

The company researched almost 1,800 colleges, according to John Culler, publisher. "Our research has shown that a prospective student could save 30 to 50 thousand dollars or more on a quality college education," he said.

Previously, Union was recognized in *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* in 1996-1997. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the University in the top five best values among liberal arts colleges in the South.



R.G. Lee Center Offers Classes For Church Leaders

Union University will sponsor classes for West Tennessee church leaders this fall. Classes will be taught through Union's R.G. Lee Center in three locations across the state. Courses will begin after Labor Day. Specific dates and times will be announced at a later date.

Covington, Tennessee

Christian Doctrine will be taught by Paul Moore. The class will meet at the Big Hatchie Associational Center.

Dyersburg, Tennessee

Introduction to Christian Evangelism and Introduction to Christian Education will be taught by Dr. Charles Halliburton. Classes will meet at the Baptist Student Union Center on the campus of Dyersburg State Community College.

Trenton, Tennessee

Introduction to Christian Evangelism will be taught by Dr. James Adams. The class will meet at the Gibson Baptist Associational Center.

Each course is available to Tennessee church leaders for \$60 each plus the cost of textbooks. Scholarships are available to help defray the tuition fee. Credit from these courses may be applied to the Associate of Divinity or Diploma in Ministry degrees offered by the University.

For more information about classes, registration, scholarships, dates, and times, contact Dr. John Adams, vice president for campus ministries and church services, at (901) 661-5160.

Southern Baptist Convention Alumni and Friends Dinner

Tuesday, June 17 • 5:00 pm
The Ramada Plaza, Dallas, Texas
\$15 per person

To make reservations call
1-800-338-6644

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Dr. John Adams, Vice President for Campus Ministries and Church Services
Aug. 10-13 Madison/Chester Association, Unity Baptist Church

Todd Brady, Campus Minister
June 15 Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Bolivar, Tennessee

June 23-27 Raleigh Baptist (Memphis, Tennessee) Youth Camp, Panama City Beach, Florida

June 30-July 4 First Baptist Church (Jacksboro, Tennessee) Youth Camp, Panama City Beach, Florida

July 13-18 Jerusalem Project, Madison-Chester Association

July 20 Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville

July 21-25 TBC Youth Music Week, Camp Carson

Dr. David S. Dockery, President
June 2-7 Grace College and Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana

June 8 Parkway Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi

June 12 Union University Night at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Jackson Mini-lecture and book signing, 6:30 p.m.

June 20 Union Alumni & Friends Chapter Meeting, Dallas, Texas

June 21 Union Alumni & Friends Chapter Meeting, Houston, Texas

Aug. 4-8 Union University Pastors School

Aug. 5-6 Union University Senior Adult Conference

Dr. Michael Dudit, Executive Vice President
June 12 Union University Night at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Jackson Mini-lecture and book signing, 6:30 p.m.

July 28-31 Summer Ministry Institute, John Hopkins University

Aug. 5-6 Union University Senior Adult Conference

Dr. David P. Gushee, Associate Professor of Christian Studies

June 12 Union University Night at Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Jackson Mini-lecture and book signing, 6:30 p.m.

July 3-9 Baptist World Alliance, Ethics Study Commission, Vancouver, Canada

July 24-27 Crossroads Program, Empowering the Poor Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. George Guthrie, Chair, Department of Christian Studies

June 15 Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson, Tennessee

July 13-15 Ephesians Study, First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, Tennessee

Aug. 5-6 Union University Senior Adult Conference

Campus Ministry Breathes Life Into the Freshman Year

Each fall, many students across the nation embark upon what is frequently called "the best years of their life." But all too often the college days have a rough start. New friends, new classes, new teachers, a new room and, in most cases, a new town add to the big change new college students face.

"I came to college and then left after my first semester, because I didn't know that many people and it was a really tough start," Steve Moses, said. "I wish I'd had a core group of friends to whom I could have turned for encouragement and advice."

Moses, a senior and a LIFE group student director, wants to make the start of life at Union smoother than when he first came to college.

Union's LIFE Group Ministry is a student-led small group ministry for freshman and transfer students which provides encouragement, assistance and support for those beginning college life.

More than 40 upperclassmen will serve as LIFE group leaders and will be charged with helping incoming students assimilate into the culture of a Christian college.

There are six primary goals the ministry will seek to provide:

First, LIFE groups will provide an immediate place of belonging. The fall semester is a time for new students to acclimate themselves to campus life and to find their niche. The LIFE Group Ministry provides the opportunity for students to meet other students within the context of a small community in a way that is organized and comfortable.

Natalie Nelson, a Union sophomore, is one of the LIFE group leaders. "I remember when I first came to Union. I was a little nervous at first," she said. "The LIFE groups will help new students develop close friendships with other students, almost like a second family."

Union Offers New Christian Ethics Major and Minor

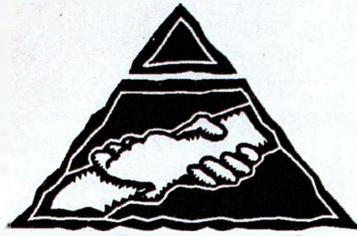
Beginning this fall students will have the option to major or minor in Christian ethics, the newest program in the Department of Christian Studies at Union University.

"There are many new and exciting developments within the Christian studies department," Dr. George Guthrie, assistant professor of Christian studies and department chair, said. "The new major and minor is designed for students who seek a greater understanding of the moral dimensions of Christian faith."

Those who choose this major and minor will have an opportunity to experience growth in Christian character as well as deeper knowledge of contemporary moral issues facing the church and the nation.

Dr. David P. Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies, will supervise the program. "Majors in Christian ethics will grow in critical thinking and research skills, preparing themselves either for further seminary or graduate study in ethics and related fields, or for a more thoughtful and informed approach to their Christian discipleship, church membership and citizenship," he said.

Christian ethics, as a discipline, can be divided into four subfields: history, methodology, issues and practice. Study in the history of Christian ethics introduces students to the moral heritage of the Christian church. Methodological study invites students to explore the manner in which Christian morality should be approached. Further, the issues



Students Reaching Students...

Second, the ministry will aid in the transition being made to a new environment. Change is usually difficult, especially if you're in unfamiliar surroundings. Moses said the student-directed ministry is ideal because as students experience their first year, they will be led by upperclassmen who have walked the same path before.

Third, LIFE groups will provide a place that fosters genuineness and sincerity. The primary perceived need of students on the Christian campus is for authenticity. The LIFE group is the place where students can be real with themselves, real with others and real with God.

Fourth, incoming students will have a place in which to discuss and grow in the Christian faith. Nelson said she plans to meet with her group once or twice each week. "I just want to give them an opportunity to talk about what's going on in their lives and what's on their mind - the good and the bad - whether it's directly related to school or not," she said.

Fifth, the upperclassmen leaders will serve as models and exemplify Christian life and leadership at Union University. They will be the ones who model to the group members a balanced Christian life on the college campus - a life of faith marked by personal devotion and public expression.

Nelson said the ministry will also serve as an accountability for the group leaders. "We'll be looked to as leaders and role models who must provide a Christ-like example in everything we do," she said.

Finally, the LIFE Group Ministry will provide peer encouragement, assistance and guidance in personal spiritual formation. New students will receive motivation and accountability in the areas of personal spiritual growth from both leaders and their group members.

Moses said that new student will have someone he can count on. "We [the LIFE group leaders] will be there for them anytime they need us, and we'll be praying for them daily throughout their first semester."

"We are committed to reaching students for Christ on the campus of Union University," Todd Brady, campus minister, said. "This ministry seeks to positively impact students' lives from the first day they walk on campus."

Brady explained that LIFE group leaders were selected after an intensive application and interview process. The 42 upperclassmen have spent extensive time preparing for the responsibilities. In April, they attended a weekend leadership retreat to kick-off their plans for the ministry. The leaders will also meet regularly throughout the semester to discuss any issues that may have surfaced.

"Perhaps the best knowledge and training comes from experience," Moses said. "It was only a few years ago that we were in their shoes, experiencing the same things all new students go through."

Moses said, "We don't know the answers to all of the problems but we've been through them, and we can be there for Union's freshman and transfer students."

of Christian ethics involve the most important contemporary moral concerns facing church and society. Finally, the practical dimension of Christian ethics will assist students in identifying the concrete, lived-out forms of conduct and behavior appropriate as children of God.

The 37-hour major includes 19 hours of the Christian studies curriculum core, including a senior seminar, plus 18 hours of Christian ethics courses. The minor in Christian ethics includes 20 hours of required courses that will expose the student to each of the four subfields.

Course offerings for Fall 1997 include the following:

Approaches to Moral Decision Making (3 hours). An introduction to Christian ethics, focusing on ethical methodology, begins with a survey and comparison of philosophical, secular and theistic perspectives on the moral life, then moves on to develop a comprehensive evangelical approach to ethics.

History of Christian Ethics (3 hours). This course explores the heritage of Christian moral reflection, from the early church through the modern era, with attention to a wide range of Christian traditions, thinkers and movements.

Thinkers and Movements in Christian Ethics (3 hours). This seminar-style course will feature a thorough examination of major movements or thinkers in historic or contemporary Christian ethics. The topic will change each time it is taught. In fall 1997, the course will focus on evangelical ethics.

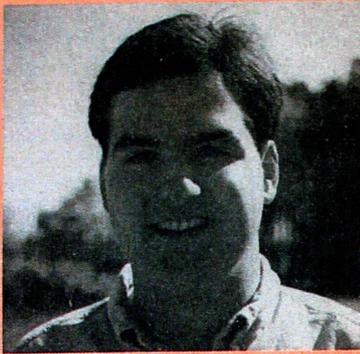
The
Union University
Pastors School
August 4-8, 1997



Sponsored by
The R.G. Lee Center
for Christian Ministry

For more information
call (901) 661-5162

**The Churches On This Page
Made A Dream Come True**



Trey Brady, a Union University senior and member of West Jackson Baptist Church, dreams of making an impact for Christ in the business world. A management/marketing major, Trey has learned the value of hard work through his involvement in Union's Students in Free Enterprise team. While Trey has been a member, the SIFE team has been involved in more than 100 projects to educate the community about the importance of the free enterprise system. Their hard work paid off—on this May as Union's SIFE team ranked in the top 10 in competition against more than 500 colleges worldwide.

Thanks to the generosity of his home church and other churches throughout Tennessee who provide money for scholarships, Trey's dream of climbing the corporate ladder is well on its way. You can make a dream come true, too. For more information on how you or your church can help, send in the coupon below or call Paul Veazey in the Office of Development at 1-800-338-6644 or 901-661-5050.

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come true at Union University.**

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Including Union in my will.

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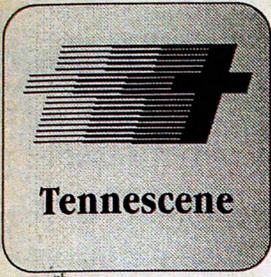
Please mail coupon to:

Office of Development
Union University
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305-3697

UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH GIVING REPORT

January 1, 1997 to April 30, 1997

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
BEECH RIVER			MADISON-CHESTER		
Bear Creek	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	Ararat	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,733.34
Corinth	0.00	150.00	Beech Bluff	1,153.21	0.00
Crossroads	0.00	100.00	Calvary	300.00	600.00
Lexington, First	1,100.00	0.00	East Union	1,219.91	0.00
Mt. Ararat	300.00	0.00	Englewood	0.00	4,250.00
Sand Ridge	0.00	200.00	Enville	0.00	206.00
Sardis	226.03	0.00	Jackson, First	9,000.00	100.00
Union	125.00	150.00	Madison	240.00	0.00
Wildersville	0.00	419.60	Madison-Chester Bapt. Assoc.	0.00	120.00
	\$ 1,801.03	\$ 1,019.60	Malesus	100.00	0.00
BEULAH			Meridian	300.00	0.00
Martin, First	900.00	0.00	North Jackson	250.00	750.00
Mt. Olive	25.00	0.00	Poplar Heights	660.00	0.00
Obion, First	100.00	1,000.00	Unity	0.00	100.00
Ridgely, First	659.69	636.62	Wards Grove	300.00	0.00
South Fulton	0.00	1,225.00	West Jackson	6,941.27	0.00
Tiptonville, First	423.21	1,056.98	Woodland	250.00	0.00
Union City, First	1,950.00	0.00		\$ 20,714.3	\$ 7,859.34
Union City, Second	187.50	8,857.50	SHELBY		
Woodland Mills, First	239.22	0.00	Ardmore	342.03	0.00
	\$ 4,484.62	\$ 12,776.10	Audubon Park	400.00	0.00
BIG HATCHIE			Bartlett	0.00	249.99
Ashport	0.00	150.00	Brookside	25.00	0.00
Covington, First	1,333.32	1,333.32	Central North	0.00	250.00
Faith	166.64	0.00	Cherry Road	833.31	0.00
Grace	120.00	0.00	East Acres	70.84	0.00
Henning	193.95	0.00	Leawood	374.99	150.00
Pleasant Grove	1,015.14	0.00	Millington, First	125.00	915.00
Ripley, First	501.00	48.25	Raleigh	584.00	0.00
	\$ 3,330.05	\$ 1,531.57	Scenic Hills	0.00	50.00
CARROLL-BENTON			Trafalgar Village	280.11	0.00
Camden, First	0.00	324.00	Union Avenue	500.00	0.00
Howse	500.00	105.00		\$ 3,535.28	\$ 1,614.99
Huntingdon, First	0.00	2,598.48	SHILOH		
McKenzie, First	375.00	27,377.73	Adamsville, First	1,000.00	0.00
	\$ 875.00	\$ 30,405.21	Clear Creek	0.00	140.00
CROCKETT			Counce, First	369.27	0.00
Alamo, First	400.00	0.00	Good Hope	150.00	0.00
Friendship	40.00	0.00	Gravel Hill	500.00	0.00
Maurycy City, First	833.00	0.00	Mt. Zion	40.00	0.00
	\$ 1,273.80	\$ 0.00	Savannah, Second	0.00	94.00
DYER			Selmer, First	0.00	2,333.32
Dyersburg, First	0.00	1,250.01		\$ 2,059.27	\$ 2,567.32
Finley	480.00	0.00	WEAKLEY		
Fowlkes	0.00	250.00	Bethel, Greenfield	0.00	500.00
Macedonia	0.00	100.00	Central, Martin	400.00	256.16
Newbern, First	923.00	2,620.72	Dresden, First	0.00	336.00
	\$ 1,403.00	\$ 4,220.73	Jolley Springs	100.00	0.00
FAYETTE				\$ 500.00	\$ 1,092.16
Hickory Withe, First	0.00	416.40	WESTERN DISTRICT		
Somerville, First	1,500.00	2,000.00	Maplewood	200.76	1,065.22
	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,416.40	Paris, First	680.00	1,653.36
GIBSON			Puryear	400.00	0.00
Bethpage	50.00	0.00	Ramble Creek	0.00	250.00
Bradford, First	200.00	600.00		\$ 1,280.76	\$ 2,968.58
Calvary, Humboldt	291.21	0.00	OTHER TN CHURCHES		
Clear Creek	0.00	278.53	Abundant Life Christian Fellowship	0.00	75.00
Fellowship	100.00	0.00	College Heights (Bledsoe)	288.25	0.00
Humboldt, First	2,666.68	0.00	Hohenwald, First (Alpha)	0.00	140.00
Kenton, First	1,250.00	0.00	Indian Creek Baptist Assoc.	0.00	176.00
Milan, First	450.00	450.00	Lawrenceburg, First (Lawrence)	0.00	200.00
New Bethlehem	500.22	0.00	Trace Creek (Truett)	0.00	60.00
Northside	300.00	0.00	Trinity (Duck River)	0.00	251.20
Oak Grove	151.18	0.00		\$ 288.25	\$ 902.20
Poplar Grove	400.00	1,055.10	OTHER STATES		
Poplar Springs	200.00	0.00	Caruthersville, First (MO)	0.00	100.00
Salem	0.00	1,181.05	Longview Heights (MS)	0.00	200.00
Trenton, First	398.23	0.00	Poplar Bluff United Meth. (MO)	0.00	25.00
	\$ 6,957.52	\$ 3,564.68	Senath (MO)	0.00	200.00
HARDEMAN			Shades Mountain (AL)	0.00	200.00
Bolivar, First	200.00	0.00	Southeast Missouri Bapt Assoc.	0.00	100.00
Grand Junction, First	664.00	0.00	Wickliffe, First (KY)	0.00	400.00
Hornsby	250.00	0.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 1,225.00
Parrans Chapel	0.00	100.00	UNRESTRICTED TOTAL		
Saulsbury	100.00	0.00		\$ 52,305.70	
Silerton	0.00	100.00	RESTRICTED TOTAL		
Toone	484.70	100.00		\$ 76,184.13	
Trinity	150.00	0.00	CHURCH GIVING TOTAL		
West Memorial	0.00	108.25		\$ 128,489.83	
Whiteville, First	0.00	600.00			
	\$ 1,848.70	\$ 1,008.25			
HAYWOOD					
Holly Grove	0.00	300.00			
Shaw's Chapel	250.00	0.00			
Woodland	0.00	500.00			
Zion	204.00	212.00			
	\$ 454.00	\$ 1,012.00			



Tennescene

Leaders

■ First Church, Lobelville, has called **Ronnie Brewer** as pastor.

■ **The Day Family**, bivocational music evangelists of Ball Play Church, Old Fort, were honored by the church and a local funeral home May

4 for their service to churches. Kenneth Day, music director of the church, is joined by his wife, Essie, and six children and grandchildren to form the music group. The family has a long tradition as music evangelists, dating back to The Day Brothers, which included Kenneth, which began service in 1952. The family was recognized by the Tennessee legislature and other local government officials.

■ Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport, has called **Jason Whitson** as minister of music and youth for the summer, effective June 1. Whitson is a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. Also the church honored **Dorothy McCurry**, who re-



PAUSING during its 35th anniversary celebration are members of International Bible Church which meets at Colonial Heights Church, Kingsport. Honored during the occasion were, seated, from left, Marion Dykes, Heddie Deskins, and Setsuko Kilgore, who have helped the congregation. Also honored were Peter Yun, far left, pastor, and Jim Royston, to his right, pastor, Colonial Heights Church, which started the ethnic congregation. It has members from Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.



MAKING True Love Waits commitments recently at Westover Church, Jackson, are, from left, seated, Tom Cummings and Summer Griffin; standing, Matt Booth, Stephanie Griffin, and Keith Hall. Their commitment was to sexual abstinence until marriage.

tired May 31 after serving 26 years as secretary at the church.

■ Nashville native and former Tennessee Baptist pastor **Eldridge L. Miller** was honored May 18 by First Church, Sallisaw, Okla. Miller was honored on his retirement after 23 years of service at the church and on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Special speaker was J. Harold Stephens of Shelbyville who was pastor of Inglewood Church, Nashville, when Miller was ordained. Miller and his wife, Jene, also of Nashville, will continue to reside in Sallisaw.

■ **L. Joseph Rosas III**, pastor, Union Avenue Church,

Memphis, has been elected president of the Memphis Ministers' Association for the 1997-98 year. Rosas also has been invited to be part of the 1998 Class of Leadership Memphis, a group of community leaders who receive training on the city and cultural differences.

■ **David Tydings**, director of missions, Grainger Association, has been called as interim pastor, New Blackwell Church, Rutledge.

■ **Vencent Jones**, pastor, Helton Springs Church, Rutledge, has resigned, effective May 4, after serving three years.

■ **Holly Creek Church**, Chatsworth, Ga., has called **Don Edwards**, pastor, Blue Springs Church, Rutledge, as pastor. Edwards has served the church for two years. His last Sunday is June 15.

■ **Jeff Story**, youth minister, Crivewood Church, Nashville, has been called as minister to college students and church recreation, Calvary Church, Lexington, Ky., effective July 6.

■ **Virginia Avenue Church**,

Bristol, has called **Tom Elam** as minister of music.

■ **Charles Crocker**, minister of music, First Church, Asheville, N.C., for 29 years, retired May 25. His ministry had grown to include 11 choirs of about 300 members and he was an author. From 1965-68 Crocker was on the staff of Immanuel Church, Nashville, and a student at Belmont University, Nashville.

churches

■ Rutherford Mass Praise Choir held its second benefit concert of 1997 May 31 at Murfreesboro's Riverdale High School Gymnasium. Prior to the event, **Southeast Church, Murfreesboro**, held children's activities at the church. The events are to aid Rutherford County children under age 13. The choir has raised over \$12,000 to help nine children with catastrophic illnesses. Donations may be made to the choir at Box 2536, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2536. For more information, call (615) 904-2165.

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LEADING activities or being honored at the 75th anniversary celebration of Central Church, Martin, on May 4 are, from left, Raymon Carneal, pastor; Lillian Coleman, the only known living charter member; Lyndel Littleton, minister of music; and Mike Spikes, minister of education and youth. Coleman was honored and David Dockery, president, Union University, Jackson, spoke.

Campers on Mission combine leisure, ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — Their name says it all — Campers on Mission.

Campers on Mission is just that — men and women who love to camp and who at the same time want to do something to glorify Christ.

Tennessee Campers on Mission held their state rally in mid-May at Cedars of Lebanon Park, Lebanon. Twenty-nine campers came together for worship and fellowship.

A Saturday morning Bible study was led by Kevin Goza, pastor of First Church, Lebanon. A Sunday morning worship service in the campground, led by Mike Cantrell, pastor of Barton's Creek Church, Lebanon, drew 43 participants, according to Beverly Smothers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

The week prior to the weekend rally about 15 campers came early to set up their RVs on the Franklin campus of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. While there they spruced up the campus, doing needed repair work along with painting some of the cottages.

"Anybody who can camp can be a member," said Joe Little of First Church, Sweetwater, president of the Tennessee COM chapter.

"It's a fellowship any Christian can be involved in. If you

like to camp and to be involved in missions, this is for you," he said.

The Tennessee chapter is part of the national organization which is sponsored and promoted by the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the church recreation program of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The organization began in 1971. It requires no membership dues, only a willingness to join other campers in fellowship and service.

One of the Tennessee Campers on Mission — Sam Wynn of Woodlawn, along with his wife, Linda, are so sold on the idea they sold their home, bought an RV, and travel constantly.

Wynn, who is retired from the Army, is a jack-of-all trades, who can do anything from welding, carpentry, and electrical work, to operating a backhoe or laying blocks.

He is popular among fellow campers because if they have a problem with their RV, Wynn usually can fix it. "We don't have a home," Wynn acknowledged. "We go from mission project to mission project."

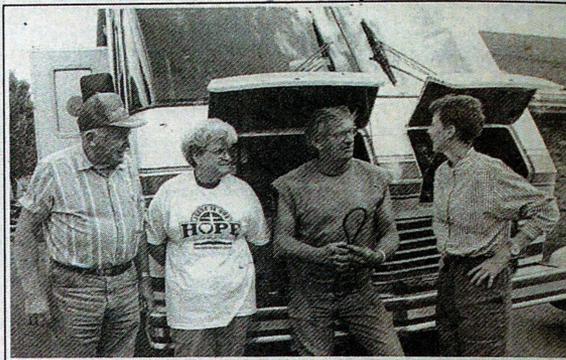
Kenneth Mashburn of Reed Springs Church, Philadelphia, noted his church has long supported TBCH. "Now I can give a first-hand report of what the TBCH ministry is all about," he said.

Smothers, who works with Campers on Mission, as part of her group assignment, is impressed with the commitment

of the campers.

"One of their strong suits is their positive work ethic. They mean business," she said.

"They don't come to compare RVs. They come to glorify God," she added. ■



BEVERLY SMOTHERS, right, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board staff, visits with campers, from left, Kenneth and Kittie Mashburn of Reed Springs Church, Philadelphia, and Sam Wynn of First Church, Woodlawn.



JOEL O'BRIEN, left, and Bob Woodside, both of First Church, Hixson, paint a kitchen of a cottage on the TBCH campus in Franklin. The two men were joined by their wives as they spent a week camping and ministering through missions activity.



EDWINA JENNINGS of First Church, Woodbury, paints the outside of a cottage on the campus of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Franklin.

Fellowship Church celebrates 125 years of ministry in Allons

For Baptist and Reflector

ALLONS — Fellowship Church in Riverside Association celebrated 125 years of history May 18.

The morning service kicked off a spring revival led by Phil Neighbors, pastor of Valley Church, Bakersfield, Calif., and great grandson of N.E.

Neighbors, an early pastor of Fellowship Church.

The church got its beginning in the shop of Thomas Howard, a blacksmith in Overton County. It is believed the church began with 17 charter members under the leadership of William S. Guthrie. Three Howard brothers — William, Baalem, and Thomas — gave

land to the church and a log building was constructed on the present site.

A new church building was erected in 1919 and it has since gone through remodeling and additions.

The church has been an integral part of Riverside Association. Guthrie, Fellowship's first pastor is credited as being "the father of the association."

The church has had 27 pastors in its 125-year history, including present pastor Ron Harris, who has served at Fellowship since 1990.

During the May 18 service Ken McMillen, director of missions for Riverside Association, presented the church a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. ■



JOINING IN the 125th anniversary celebration at Fellowship Church, Allons, on May 18 were, from left, Ken McMillen, director of missions, Riverside Association; Pastor Ron Harris; Phil Neighbors, guest speaker; Frank Martin of Arkansas; and DeWitt Sampley, former pastor.



RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION Director of Missions Ken McMillen, left, presents a plaque on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to the Billy Maynard family. Maynard is the great grandson of W.S. Guthrie, the founder and first pastor of Fellowship Church. Maynard's aunt, Nora Reeder, the church's oldest living member, was unable to attend. With Maynard is his wife, Esther, and children, Andrew and Meriam.

Bible study

By Gary Rickman

Focal Passage — Psalm 119:10-11, 16, 18, 33-37, 57-60, 89, 137-138

I hope there been times in your life when you have experienced a deep hunger for reading and studying God's Word. For you see a spiritually healthy person has a good appetite for the things of God and especially for his Word. It is our spiritual nourishment and encourages our spiritual growth. The Bible is not merely a book to be read or studied but it is a book to be put into practice.

This week's study of Psalm 119 hopefully will call you to commit to the spiritual discipline of Bible study. Such study will help you know God, obey him, and grow spiritually.

Psalm 119 is an extensive meditation on God's Word. The point that is being made is that the instruction of God contains everything humankind needs to know. This truth should lead all of us to place a priority on the study of God's Word.

Making Bible study a priority is a problem for many people. So how do we make it a priority? The psalmist accomplished this as he sought the Lord "with [his] whole heart"; he sought God earnestly and sincerely, with a deep desire to know him better through his Word. Are you coming before the Lord seeking him in this way?

The psalmist mentioned the single most powerful force that keeps us from sinning against God: hiding God's Word in our hearts. This is how Jesus dealt with his temptation in the wilderness. Should we not give more priority to the study of God's Word in our lives? How are you at hiding God's Word in your heart?

In verse 18, we find a prayer for understanding the marvelous truths in God's Word. If we come to God's Word with such a desire to find something valuable, then we will find it. How do you come to God's Word?

Verses 33-37 deal with the application of what we learn by reading and studying God's Word. Once the psalmist understood, he promised he would "keep it to the end." The psalmist delighted to do God's will as revealed in his Word. How are you doing at keeping God's Word?

Knowing God's will does not come naturally or easily. It requires earnest seeking and careful study. When we read and study prayerfully, we are assured that we will find that for which we search. When it is found, we must apply it to our living. How are you applying God's Word to your daily living?

The psalmist reminds us of the importance of obedience. God makes himself known to us according to our willingness to put into practice what he already has taught us. What God requires is far more than knowing how to answer questions about doctrine; he wants justice and love in our dealings with others and moral values in our decision-making based on his values. How do you use God's Word in making your decisions?

This study concludes by reminding us that the character of God's Word is eternal. The Hebrew word translated settled comes from a term that means to stand firm. God's principles and precepts apply to all people in every age and throughout eternity. God's Word is described as "righteous and ever faithful." His teachings are just because they are right. They are reliable because you can depend on God's instruction to bring the results they promise. Therefore, why not study your Bible more seriously? ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

Pursue Godliness

By Lonnie Wilkey

Focal Passage — 1 Timothy 6:2b-12

A recent accident forced me to replace my old truck which had been totaled. I bought an extended cab model, something I have never owned before. It's amazing how my two children — Joanna and Daniel — reacted to that truck. Usually they always fight to see who is going to sit in the front. But because that new truck had jump seats in the back, they actually argued over who would sit in the back. As it turned out on their first ride, both sat in the jump seats in the back and the front passenger seat was empty. They pursued the back seats because that was new — something different.

Family Bible Lesson

We, as Christians, should not pursue Godliness because it is something new or different; rather we should pursue Godliness because that is the ideal God has set before us.

Godliness is translated from the Greek word *eusebeia*. It is made up of *eu*, meaning well, and *sebomai*, meaning to be devout. Basically it means that to live a Godly life is to live a holy life. The pursuit of Godliness cannot be confined to book study. It involves the pursuit of truth, contentment, true riches, and Christian character.

Pursue truth: Verses 2-5 show two opposing forces at work — the truth taught by Jesus as compared to that which was taught by false teachers. In our world today we are bombarded with "false teachers." Cults, such as the Heaven's Gate group, would be almost nonexistent today if people relied on the truth found in Scripture.

Pursue contentment: Verses 6-8 remind us that

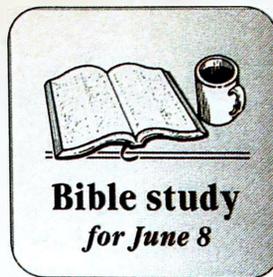
those who pursue Godliness experience contentment. A person who is truly content in life is one who has given his or her life completely to the Lord, without conditions.

Contentment is not material possessions; rather it is the peace we have when we have a trust and obey relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pursue true riches: True contentment also is not having a lot of money. We try to justify our want of money. How many of you are guilty like me of sending in the sweepstake entry with the prayer, "Lord, if you let me win all this money, just think of the good I could do for you." The reality is the Lord doesn't need for us to win a lot of money so he can accomplish something good. He can do that through us, rich or poor, if we are willing to be used. Those who drive themselves to be "rich" may discover too late that true riches is not money and wealth, but rather it is a life lived for the Lord. God promises to supply our needs, not our wants. Verses 9-10 remind us that "the love of money is the root of all evil."

Pursue Christian character: Are you the person that you appear to be? In other words, do you practice what you preach? Do your actions back up your words? Verse 11 reminds us to "follow after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness." These are qualities of Christian character.

Pursuing Godliness is not something a person can do on a whim. It requires effort and a desire to do God's will. Satan does not want us to pursue Godliness. Because of that, he is quick to send temptations and de-tours along the way. The pursuit of Godliness calls us to live a life devoted to God so others can come to know Jesus through us. ■ — Wilkey is associate editor, *Baptist and Reflector*.



Living moral lives

By Jerry Chapman

Focal — 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-13; 6:9-11

Prostitution flourished! Homosexuality was a growing threat to society. Almost every household had experienced some kind of extra-marital affair. Abortion was easy. Sexual diseases were rampant. Even though the government and the military were cracking down on sexual problems it was difficult to make any changes. And the church was sitting idle. In fact they were so caught up in the culture of their day that no one heard a word from the church as to what God wanted. This could easily describe today's world. Yet, this was the life and times of Corinth.

Paul wanted the church members to relate together as God's people. But there was a major problem in the church, sexual immorality. Paul's words are words of wisdom to the church today. Listen.

The church cannot tolerate sin — ch. 5:2

A man in the church was living with his father's wife. No one said or did anything about it. In essence this was an acceptance of the act and they were proud of it. Paul's word was to excommunicate the person in order to bring him to salvation. Paul wanted the man disci-

Explore the Bible Lesson

plined in order "that his spirit may be saved." Church discipline was the order of the day. But is it today? The church cannot afford to tolerate sin of this magnitude. So the word of wisdom is discipline for the sake of salvation.

The church must maintain purity — vv. 2-5, 13

When Christ changes a life controlled by sexual desires then a dramatic change takes place from sexual immorality to sexual purity. On many occasions Paul referred to the world. Words such as flesh, idolaters, adulterers, swindlers, and the like all indicate the world had invaded the church. Paul did not want the church so tainted with the world that it had no power. His word of wisdom is to be pure and maintain purity.

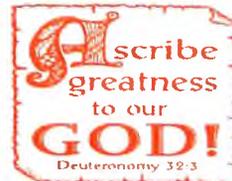
The church must model Godly behavior — v. 13, ch. 6:9-11

All around the church at Corinth were worldly lifestyles. It was the responsibility of the church to influence the world for Christ. In addition to the sexual problems there were Christians wanting to take other Christians to a pagan court to solve their differences. Paul argues

against this. Not just because of a pagan court system but because of faith in Christ. They could not be effective witnesses by declaring a faith founded on love and then taking a brother to court. Where is the witness for Christ in this action? The word of wisdom is to model a Godly lifestyle before the world.

The church must proclaim the difference Christ makes — vv. 9-11

Paul uses three words of action to describe what Christ does in an individual's life: washed, sanctified, and justified. This is the good news for today's world. Christ will wash any person clean of the sins in their lives, set them apart as new creatures, and declare them righteous for service. This is God's gift to anyone who turns to him. This was the task of the Christians in Corinth and continues to be our responsibility today. ■ — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.





world news

Arkansas volunteers hurt in car accident

GIURGIU, Romania — Two Arkansas Baptist missions volunteers and an independent missionary based in Romania were injured in mid-May in an automobile accident here. They were taken to a Bucharest hospital.

The volunteers — Steve Glidewell and Samantha Neal — suffered various injuries including broken bones as did missionary Jim Hornsby.

The missions volunteers were part of a 22-member Arkansas Baptist missions team scheduled to serve in Giurgiu and surrounding villages as part of the Arkansas convention's partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and the European Baptist Convention. ■

Mobile president steps down

Baptist Press

MOBILE, Ala. — The 13-year presidency of Michael Magnoli at the University of Mobile ended during a four-hour trustee meeting May 13.

According to a university news release, Magnoli, 50, and the 46-member trustee board decided "it is time for the institution and the president to move in separate directions." Mobile is an Alabama Baptist-affiliated university.

The departure of Magnoli, who had two years remaining on his contract, was "hastened" by a cash flow crunch expected to exceed \$4 million over the next four months, unidentified board members were quoted as telling the Mobile Register daily newspaper. ■

FMB assigns Dilks to Tennessee

FMB News Office

RICHMOND — Charles R. "Bob" Dilks of Warner Robins, Ga., has been named a candidate consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department, effective June 18.

Dilks and his wife have

been missionaries to Japan since 1981. He will work throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas and at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, to identify and encourage men and women pursuing missionary careers.



DILKS

Dilks is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. ■

FFRP Act introduced

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation designed to lessen religious persecution in foreign countries has been introduced in both houses of Congress.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., introduced the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act May 20. The legislation is S. 772 in the Senate and H.R. 1685 in the House of Representatives.

Each bill will establish a new White House position to report on persecution overseas, provide for sanctions against

governments that support or fail to prevent persecution, and improve asylum proceedings for victims of religious persecution.

The bills have bipartisan support. ■

Northwest editor seeks disability

Baptist Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — James L. Watters, editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness the past 13 years, has filed for medical disability following a recurrence of cancer.

Watters, 65, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, had hoped to work beyond the normal retirement age, but a recurrence of a cancer first detected last year hampered his hopes for continuing as editor. Watters is receiving a second round of treatment for cancer in the bladder.

A search for his successor already has been initiated by Jeff Iorg, executive director of the Oregon-Washington convention. ■

Oklahoma editor to retire Sept. 30

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Glenn Brown, editor of Okla-

homa's Baptist Messenger since 1987, has announced his retirement, effective Sept. 30.

Brown, who turns 65 on Sept. 6, cited the health of his wife, Jean, as a contributing factor in his decision.

A former education and music minister in the state, Brown had been on the staff of the Oklahoma convention 16 years when he became editor in 1987 of the fifth largest Baptist state newspaper. ■

State college hosts Crosspoint

BSSB News Office

NASHVILLE — Crosspoint, a week-long Christian sports camp for older children and younger youth, will be held at Hiwassee College in Madisonville June 16-20.

Crosspoint includes daily Bible study, worship, fellowship, and sports activities. Campers may choose from 11 different sports to learn and/or improve skills in a particular area of interest.

The theme of the camps, which begin their 12th consecutive summer, is "XLR8" (Accelerate).

Churches are invited to be a part of a sports outreach experience. For more information about Crosspoint, call (615) 251-3834. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of 1 Corinthians

Write the correct word in the blank, then circle it in the puzzle.

- 1. _____ wrote two letters to the Christians in Corinth. 1:1
2. Paul was an _____ of Jesus Christ. 1:1
3. Paul said, "I give _____ to God always." 1:4
4. The word of the cross is the _____ of God. 1:18
5. A little _____ leavens the whole lump. 5:6
6. Your body is the _____ of the Holy Spirit. 6:19
7. _____ puffs up, but love builds up. 8:1
8. Every athlete exercises _____ in all things. 9:25
9. All things are lawful, but not all things are _____. 10:23
10. Be _____ of me, as I am of Christ. 11:1
11. As often as you _____ this bread and drink this _____ you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 11:26
12. There are varieties of _____ but the same Spirit. 12:4
13. You are the _____ of Christ. 12:27
14. Love is patient and _____. 13:4
15. Love never _____. 13:8
16. _____, _____ abide, but the greatest of these is love. 13:13
17. Christ has been _____ from the dead. 15:20
18. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be _____. 15:51
19. Be steadfast, immovable, always _____ in the work of the Lord. 15:58
20. Be watchful, _____ firm in your faith. 16:13

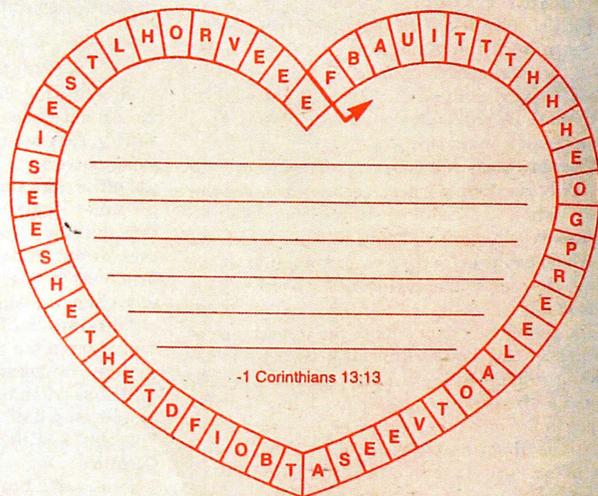
I M I T A T O R S T H A N K S
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Fun for the Family

Just for Kids

The Book of 1 Corinthians

In the heart is a special verse. Start at the arrow and write down every other letter, going around two times.



-1 Corinthians 13:13

Answers to the May 28 Fun for the Family Puzzles

"The Book of Romans" for adults — Angels, Powers, Things to Come, Depth, Life, Things Present, Height, Principalities, Death, Anything Else

"The Book of Romans" for children — "God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." — Romans 5:8

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