

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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## Couples consider their marriages

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Americans spend about the same amount of money buying cars and getting married, but people often stop investing in the marriage relationship after the initial commitment, Lane Morris of the University of Tennessee told 23 couples at the Baptist Center here.

People spend about \$30,000 each on a car and a wedding today, but most car owners maintain their cars, while most couples don't maintain their marriages, Morris told those gathered for the Marriage Enrichment Conference last weekend.

This is true despite the fact that one in two marriages fail, he said.

Morris, who attends First Church, Cleveland, and is assistant professor, child and family studies, at UT - Knoxville, led a lively discussion involving the couples. He found a receptive audience when he said it is a myth that people naturally know how to develop a successful marriage relationship. And he doesn't think self-help materials are the answer

because they focus on the problems of marriages.

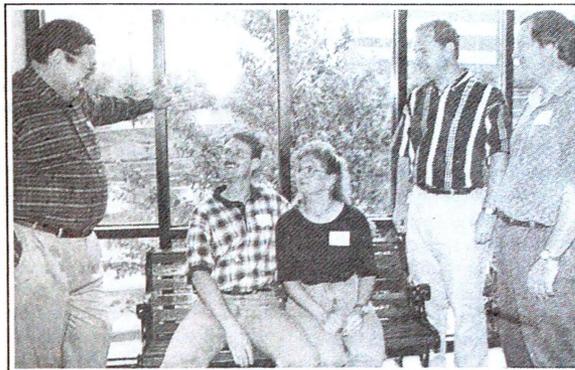
Instead, he believes couples should identify the strengths of their relationships and use those to develop their marriages. And he believes that God has a plan for marriages, but that a wide variety of ways exists to reach that ideal.

Morris pointed the participants to I Timothy 3:4 in which the apostle Paul told Timothy that church leaders can prepare for their roles by learning how to manage their families well.

This directive applies to most people, Morris noted, because 90 percent of Americans get married and a majority of those couples have children. This biblical guideline also applies to most Christians because every Christian is a leader of some kind in God's kingdom.

Yet the many people who are married are often unhappy, Morris added, which is not God's will. Author David Mace has reported that only about 5 percent of marriage relationships reach their potential.

With more knowledge of how to manage their families, Christians can fulfill God's plan for them and their fami-



VISITING WITH PARTICIPANTS Eric and Donya Drake, center, of Bethel Church, Greenbrier, are leaders Don Mauldin, left, TBC Executive Board ministries; Lane Morris, second from right, UT - Knoxville; Rusty Sumrall, left, Nashville Association.

lies. They can avoid the number one reason for divorce — unfulfilled expectations.

One thing couples need to know is that their relationship will be strained by children, he said. In fact, child-rearing is so difficult that most divorces occur by the time the children are teenagers. Couples also should know that during this period women are less satisfied.

With this knowledge, the couple can adapt by role shifting. This technique encourages flexibility and creativity, both

ingredients to healthy relationships, said Morris.

"Being a great parent is not the most important relationship. Being a good team together is indeed the most important relationship," he said.

Couples should consider the division of labor in their marriage. Research has found that women who work outside the home do two times more domestic labor than their husbands. Another factor they should consider is that men of— See Couples, page 4

## TBC's King granted medical disability

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Jerry King of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group has been granted medical disability, effective May 1.

King, who served most recently as an Evangelism Specialist in the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Executive Board ministry, has been on short-term disability since Feb. 1.

King, 55, suffered two heart attacks early in 1994 and has had heart-related problems since. The medical disability was recommended by King's doctor.

The Sevier County native joined the Executive Board staff in 1986 as program associate in the evangelism department and became department director two years later.

He served as pastor of two churches in the state — Trenton Street, Harriman, and Bethel, Parrottsville — and two churches in North Carolina. King also has served numerous churches in the state as interim pastor.



KING

King has held numerous positions on the associational and state levels both in Tennessee and North Carolina. He is a former moderator of Big Emory Association and served on the board of directors of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

"I regret that I had to take disability. I enjoyed my work immensely with the TBC," King noted. He expressed appreciation for the support he received from churches and associations across Tennessee during his 11-plus years in evangelism.

"I will always have a keen interest in evangelism in the state," King said, noting he will watch with interest the work of the TBC Evangelism Strategies Team. "I hope the best years in evangelism in the Tennessee Baptist Convention are ahead of us," he said.

James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer, affirmed King for his years of service to churches throughout the state convention.

"Across Tennessee many churches have an enhanced understanding of witness training methodology and responsibility due to the ministry of Jerry King. His service has contributed greatly to the legacy of evangelism of Tennessee Baptists," Porch said. ■

## Strong CP support continues

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$2,358,393 to the Cooperative Program in May.

For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have given \$17,651,402, an increase of \$585,759 or 3.43 percent over the same period last year.

The amount needed to meet the year-to-date budget is \$16,445,414.

"Tennessee Baptists continue to give generously and sacrificially to the Cooperative Program," said William F. Maxwell, TBC Executive Board administrative director. "The year-to-date increase demonstrates a commitment to giving beyond the income and inflationary trends currently experienced throughout most of Tennessee," he observed. ■

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# Evangelical leaders voice consensus on Bible translation

Baptist Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Key parties in a recent controversy over Bible translation of gender-related language have voiced common ground in a joint statement and a page of suggested translation guidelines.

"Specifically, we agree that it is inappropriate to use gender-related language when it diminishes accuracy in the translation of the Bible," the statement, released June 4, noted, "and we therefore agree to the attached guidelines for translation of gender-related language in Scripture."

Additionally, "We agree that Bible translations should not be influenced by illegitimate intrusions of secular culture or by political or ideological agendas."

The statement resulted from a May 27 meeting convened by James Dobson, president of the evangelical ministry, Focus on the Family.

Signers of the statement include representatives of four organizations concerning the New International Version Bible translation — a controversy so intense among evangelicals that it prompted a halt in plans for a gender-neutral NIV revision.

Among the signers were Joel Belz of *World*, an evangelical magazine which brought attention to the NIV revision in a series of stories; Bruce E. Ryskamp, president and CEO, Zondervan Publishing House, the NIV's U.S. publisher; Lars Dunberg, secretary of the International Bible So-

ciety, the NIV's copyright holder; and Ken Baker, secretary of the Committee on Bible Translation, a 15-member group of scholars with authority over the NIV translation.

While none of the signers were an official of the Southern Baptist Convention or any other denomination, two SBC seminary presidents — Mark Coppenger, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and R. Albert Mohler Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. — voiced approval over the action.

The guidelines approved entail three main headings, with 13 specific examples:

A. Gender-related renderings of biblical language which we affirm:

(1) The generic use of "he, him, his, himself" should be employed to translate generic third person masculine singular pronouns in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. However, substantival participles such as "ho pisteuon" can often be rendered in inclusive ways, such as "the one who believes" rather than "he who believes."

(2) Person and number should be retained in translation so that singulars are not changed to plurals and third-person statements are not changed to second-person or first-person statements, with only rare exceptions required in unusual cases.

(3) "Man" should ordinarily be used to designate the human race or human beings in general, for example in Genesis 1:26-27; 5:2; Ezekiel 29:11; and John 2:25.

(4) Hebrew "ish" should ordinarily be translated "man" and "men" and Greek

"aner" should almost always be so translated.

(5) In many cases, "anthropoi" refers to people in general, and can be translated "people" rather than "men." The singular "anthropos" should ordinarily be translated "man" when it refers to a male human being.

(6) Indefinite pronouns such as "tis" can be translated "anyone" rather than "any man."

(7) In many cases, pronouns such as "oudeis" can be translated "no one" rather than "no man."

(8) When "pas" is used as a substantive, it can be translated with terms such as "all people" or "everyone."

(9) The phrase "son of man" should ordinarily be preserved to retain intracanonical connections.

(10) Masculine references to God should be retained.

B. Gender-related renderings which we will generally avoid, though there may be unusual exceptions in certain contexts:

(1) "Brother" ("adelphos") and "brothers" ("adelphoi") should not be changed to "brother(s) and sister(s)."

2. "Son" ("huios," "ben") should not be changed to "child," or "sons" ("huioi") to "children" or "sons and daughters." (However, Hebrew "banim" often means "children.")

(3) "Father" ("pater," "ab") should not be changed to "parent," or "fathers" to "parents" or "ancestors."

C. We understand these guidelines to be representative and not exhaustive. ■

## FMB president learns it is no easy task to change status quo

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The last two months have taught Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin the difficulty of changing the status quo — especially when the lives of more than 4,000 missionaries are involved.

Some have questioned his motives for initiating the personnel and strategy changes now sweeping the mission agency, he admits. Some suspect

he and other top agency leaders are being manipulated. Some have accused the board of moving away from the cutting edge of missions — reaching unreached peoples — while others charge it is doing just the opposite — "selling out" to frontier missions and abandoning responsive harvest fields.

Many missionaries are simply struggling to deal with the impact new approaches will have on their ministries.

"I should have known it already, but it has been reinforced again — being a change agent is not a desirable role," Rankin told Foreign Mission Board trustees in his report June 4. "It is much easier to just keep things going, remain in a maintenance role, and enjoy the comfort of the status quo."

Board trustees approved an associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization and a new team of regional leaders. The appointments, announced during the June 2-4 trustee meeting here grew out of the reconfiguration of the board's overseas division from nine geographical areas and one non-geographical area to 14 new "regions" encompassing the world. Rankin launched the move four months ago, declaring the need for bold initiatives and methods to reach the world.

Adoption of the overall strategy at the board's April trustee meeting unleashed a daily flood of e-mail from the field, rumors, pleas, and speculation which Rankin has found overwhelming.

"I, along with many others, have experienced of necessity a revitalized prayer time with periods of fasting and pleading with God about what he has gotten us into," he said.

"Many have said, 'We don't know where this will lead, but we trust you and are confident

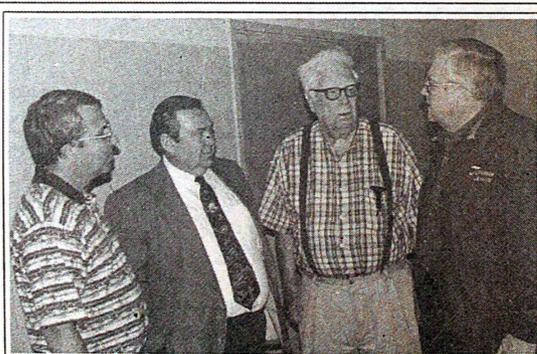
you are being led of God,' while others have expressed distrust and suspicion as to our agenda. Some suspect we are being manipulated by trustees, but most recognize that God has brought us together in unity and with a common vision to apply the resources of Southern Baptists" more effectively in global evangelization, Rankin noted.

David Garrison was named associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization.

Regional leaders include:  
Bill Fudge, Eastern Asia  
Mark Morris, Central and Southern Asia  
Tom Williams, Western Pacific  
Clyde Meador, Southeast Asia and Oceania  
John D. Floyd, Central and Eastern Europe  
Eddie W. Cox, Western Europe

J. Larry Cox, Middle East and North Africa  
R. Gordon Fort, Southern Africa  
Bill E. Phillips, Western Africa  
Jon Sapp, Eastern Africa  
Robin Hadaway, Eastern South America  
Ronald B. Wilson, Caribbean Basin

Trustees hope to soon approve regional leaders for Middle America and Western South America. ■



### Fellowship time in Concord

Concord Association recently held its annual country ham breakfast for associational pastors and for staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The event was hosted by Southeast Church, Murfreesboro. Visiting, from left, are Don Edwards, pastor of Southeast Church; Concord Association Director of Missions James Powers; Tom Bryant, former DOM who began the annual tradition; and TBC Executive Director James Porch. Bryant, a long-time fixture in the area, soon will be moving to Powell.

# Carson-Newman trustees approve record budget

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College's board of trustees ended the year in May on a note of excitement and optimism.

The group held its final meeting in the newly-dedicated Ted and Drama Russell Conference Room, adopted the largest budget in the college's history, endorsed an endowment campaign that will provide scholarship aid for East Tennessee students, and approved record enrollment projections.

Trustees, faculty, and students kicked off the morning with a reception and dedication ceremony for the high-tech Russell conference room, a teaching and learning center equipped with up-to-date communi-

cation resources. The room was funded in large part by the generosity of Ted and Drama Russell of Knoxville.

During a business session trustees approved the largest budget in the school's 146-year history. The \$28 million operating budget reflects an increase of 7.74 percent over the adjusted 1996-97 figures and forecasts C-N's 21st year in the black.

Although passing the largest budget in history, trustees also stood by their mandate of affordability. The budget includes a number of cost-saving measures, including zero budget increases in the majority of campus departments. Tuition increases were also kept to a minimum, with only a 5.5 percent rise for the 1997-98 academic term. Carson-Newman's tuition is still about \$25,000 less than the national average for private col-

leges over a four-year period.

Ed Hart, dean of enrollment services, informed trustees that the fall enrollment picture looked bright. The college is anticipating its ninth consecutive semester of record enrollment with a fall total of 2,316 students, up 51 over last year's record-breaking total.

In its final action before the commencement ceremony, trustees honored four area leaders. Retired Congressman Jimmy Quillen and Jefferson City businessmen and long-time trustees Henry Blanc and Lonas Tarr were granted honorary doctorates. Former trustee Lady Kate Catlett was honored with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in recognition of her abiding concern and work on behalf of humankind. ■

## Belmont receives \$2 million gift for scholarships

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — William E. Trout, president of Belmont University, and Cal Turner Jr., chairman and CEO of Dollar General Corporation, have announced the Turner Scholars Program at Belmont to help keep leadership education opportunities accessible to outstanding students with financial needs.

The program, which will be funded by a \$2 million gift over a five-year period by endowment and direct scholarship contributions, will create 20 scholarships worth \$7,500 annually.

"It's a great honor and privilege for Belmont to be part of such an outstanding program," Trout said. ■

# Rice bowl emphasis added to SBC hunger offering

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For more than 15 years, thousands of churches have used the "rice bowl" to raise awareness and funds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Rice bowls are small plastic banks which resemble a bowl of rice.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission recently began actively promoting the use of rice bowls, adopting the unique product through an agreement with Rice Bowls, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that previously was the sole marketer of the product.



NELSON

Rice bowl banks arose from the vision of Alastair Walker, former pastor of First Church, Spartanburg, S.C., and former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. He also is president of Rice Bowls, Inc.

While visiting India, his heart broke over the starvation he witnessed. With the support of numerous churches, the rice bowl ministry was born. More than \$1 million was raised for world hunger in South Carolina alone in the first year of the ministry. Estimates run as high as \$30 million raised through the rice bowl ministry during

## Bookstores to bolster SBC world hunger fund

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The national chain of Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores, both owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, has joined the 1997 campaign to collect funds for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Change canisters resembling soup cans will be available until December at the check-out counters of the 66 stores across the United States as a result of employees' desire to be involved in a missions endeavor outside normal retail activity, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board's retail group.

"Because Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores reach so many persons, we can

provide wide exposure to the cause of world hunger relief," Scott said. "We believe this is a project that will appeal to Southern Baptists as well as other evangelical Christians who visit our stores."

Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund received at the SBC Christian Life Commission or Executive Committee, both in Nashville, Tenn., are used completely for hunger ministry, with nothing taken for administration or promotion costs.

Unless otherwise specified by the donor, 80 percent of the funds go to the Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent to the Home Mission Board. Missionaries and volunteers, in turn, use the funds to support nearly 200 hunger ministries in the United States and 58 other countries. ■

the last 15 years.

Said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission, "God has clearly used the rice bowls in a mighty way to raise support for the nearly 300 hunger ministries sponsored by Southern Baptists both at home and abroad."

Noting the relatively low cost of the rice bowls, Nelson said the funds generated by the bowls should not diminish giving to any other special offerings.

"It is a great way for the church to do something together, with the participation of each family member. Lives can be so easily saved through just

a small amount," he said, noting \$1.49 will feed a famine victim in North Korea for one month.

In explaining how rice bowls work, Nelson suggested a four-step plan.

"Churches order rice bowls, which come 50 to a box, and give one bowl to each family. The family places the bowl in a prominent place in the home, such as on the kitchen table.

"On a predetermined Sunday, possibly World Hunger Day in October, all rice bowls are turned in with the proceeds designated for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

"The church can then re-order rice bowls and start the

process again."

Rice bowls and various other hunger materials are available by contacting the Christian Life Commission at 901 Commerce St. #550, Nashville, TN 37203; phone, (615) 244-2495; fax, (615) 242-0065; e-mail, 71134.533@compuserve.com.

Nelson emphasized 100 percent of proceeds received by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund are used for hunger ministry, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion.

"It is our prayer that God will bless this effort mightily as Southern Baptists demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to those in need," Nelson said. ■

# Elliff to request Baptists to switch arson funds to aid pastors

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff says he will ask SBC messengers at the upcoming meeting to affirm a recommendation which would use unspent SBC Arson Funds for another purpose.

The proposal, Elliff said,

means that the [unspent] gifts of Southern Baptists will be used for theological training of African American pastors.

Southern Baptists have contributed some \$724,000 to the Arson Fund since it was initiated at last year's annual meeting by then-SBC President Jim Henry.

Spent funds have been used

to restore almost 100 church buildings destroyed by arson.

Elliff said he has counsel from the Christian Life Commission and believes his decision "is the heart of Southern Baptists."

The funds would be distributed to the SBC's six seminaries according to the convention's seminary funding formula.

la.

Some states have balances after making allocations to rebuild churches, and state conventions will be asked to return unspent funds to the SBC Executive Committee for forwarding to the seminaries.

Approximately \$5,400 remains in the funds at the Executive Committee. ■

## Resumes sought for TBC Executive Board position

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A search subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Executive Board will be receiving nominations and resumes for the Ministry Coordinator position.

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 and assist 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. According to policy, each nominee will receive a standard Executive Board ministries 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. ■



## opinion

## about letters to the editor

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

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### June

- 4 — Pray for Jonathan Cheung, pastor of Vancouver Chinese Church in British Columbia, Canada, who was recently hospitalized for an unknown illness. Also, praise God for the Tennessee volunteers who taught disaster relief to Costa Ricans in May.
- 5 — Pray for the pastorless churches in Michigan and for Charles and Barbara Layton, Tennessee/Poland volunteer missionary coordinators.
- 6 — Pray for Claudia Tally, library consultant for Michigan state convention, who is recovering from pneumonia.
- 7 — Pray for the seven churches in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, that recently held their second joint baptism service. Cambrian Heights, Mountain View, Freedom, Trinity, Arabic, Filipino, and Hispanic churches baptized 13 people and more than 300 attended.
- 8 — Pray for Laura Lane, missionary to Costa Rica, as she teaches a children's class to prepare them for believer's baptism.
- 9 — Ask God to continue to work in people's lives in Poland following simultaneous revivals in May.
- 10 — Pray for James Glidewell, a DOM in Michigan.

## Tribute

An early morning call on May 1 told me that W. Hines Sims had died in Chattanooga the night before.

A thousand memories flooded my mind, and I would be true to those feelings in my heart and pay tribute to this tall man whose leadership in church music left a distinct mark on the story of Southern Baptists.

At the invitation of B.B. McKinney, Sims joined the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1946. The department was only five years old. Following McKinney's death in 1952, Sims succeeded him as department head and served in this capacity for 18 years and retired in 1970.

Under his leadership the department experienced its greatest growth and the program of church music in Southern Baptist churches developed in an extraordinary way. Sims began the monthly publication *The Church Musician* in 1950 and served as its editor for 20 years.

When he joined the department five state conventions had music leaders; when he retired every state convention had one or more persons promoting music in the churches of that state. He was editor of the 1956 *Baptist Hymnal*, which had sales of more than

## Church seeks help for members needing transplants

Thank you for your concern for people in need. I appreciate your willingness to put these two dear people needing a transplant on your prayer list and to carry their story in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Bobby Paul Rushing is the son of Jackie and Marilyn Rushing. He is 15 years old and was diagnosed with chronic renal failure on Jan. 3. He will have a kidney transplant donated by his mother this summer. He is a born again Christian whose attitude reflects the faith that he has that God will bring him through this trial in his life.

David Porrier is 41 years old and is the son of Sydney and Hilda Porrier. David is a fine Christian man with a wonderful testimony. He is the associate director of our Sunday School. David doesn't have long to live without a liver transplant. The doctors say that he is in good health outside of his



RUSHING



PORRIER

liver. His only help from insurance is Tenn-Care.

Our church is small. In fact, we only have about 40 in attendance in Sunday School. We have raised about \$5,500 for Bobby in a benefit. We have taken out of our church treasury \$5,500 for David. As you know, this will not go very far on a transplant. David is waiting to see what can be done before they will put him on a waiting list.

If you or your church can help, you will be helping two brothers in Christ, and it will be greatly appreciated.

Please send all donations to Enville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 68, Enville, Tenn., 38332, designated "transplant."

Melvin H. Williams, pastor  
Enville Church  
Enville 38332

six million copies, the greatest of any 20th century hymnal.

We thank God for Walter Hines Sims for his unquestioned character and integrity, but most of all for his commitment to the cause of Christian song.

William J. Reynolds  
Southwestern Seminary  
Fort Worth, Texas 76122

## Persecution

I just recently read a letter from Dr. James Dobson in a

Southern Baptist publication about the horrible persecution our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East, and closer by in Cuba, are suffering. Many are being imprisoned, tortured, and/or killed.

Both articles indicated that we in the western world, both Christians and government, are looking the other way. I for one did not realize how terrible and how widespread this persecution and murder has become.

What can be done about it?

I suggest that we all pray daily, that we write our Congressmen, and that our denominational leaders more widely publicize it. Perhaps we should also have a time of fasting in concert for our fellow Christians.

According to the writer, more Christians have died this century than in the first 19.

Ted Webb  
Afton 37616

## Couples consider their marriages ...

— Continued from page 2

ten lose friendships when they marry. The men's movements like Promise Keepers have been meeting this need of men, Morris reported.

Such issues must be dealt with while considering the stage or stages the relationship is in, he continued. Couples can be in several stages at one time, such as the couple who has children at home and is caring for parents.

And problems not dealt with will resurface, he added. Some partners "need to learn that it's OK to say I'm sorry and expect forgiveness," said Morris, which allows the couple to progress in their relationship.

"Healthy couples seek less problems rather than expecting a problem-free relationship," he noted, adding that he likes to conceive of problems as challenges.

Communication is the key measure of a relationship and it is composed of all actions or behavior, he said. Couples should consider how they learned their communication habits, which are formed from their family of origin

## Myths concerning gender differences

- ▶ **Women are better than men at expressing their feelings.** In-stead, women are more ready to express a wider range of feelings more openly than men.
- ▶ **Women know better how to live life, because they are more "in touch" with their feelings.** Actually, men are "in touch" with their feelings and will share them when they feel comfortable to share them.
- ▶ **Spouses who don't anticipate their partner's needs are not dedicated to or are incapable of becoming a good partner.** "Mind-reading" is not a healthy form of communication and doesn't reflect another person's commitment or competence in being a good partner.
- ▶ **Our culture asserts that masculinity means that a man must be logical, powerful, in control, and emotionless.** The rules and expectations for becoming a boy/girl begin at birth and are maintained throughout life. The psychological needs for men are basically the same as for women. ■

and by their gender.

"Men do indeed talk differently than women" and vice versa, said Morris. But that is good rather than bad, he added.

Just as communication is a learned system, it also can be a pattern and "we get tired of habits," he said. It is good to re-learn communication approaches.

Communication is impor-tant in another way, said Mor-

ris. It helps people develop healthy personalities — which are when the feelings, behavior, thoughts, and motives of a person are balanced.

Motives are often a key to a person's communication and can be unhealthy — such as a disability motive, revenge motive, attention-getting, and power. But Morris warned the group about being certain of someone's motives. "When you are interacting in a relation-

ship context, it is absolutely impossible to be aware of what a person's feelings, behaviors, thoughts, or motives are."

He encouraged the couples to be aware of their extensive use of non-verbal communication. From 85-90 percent of people's communication is that type. They should consider whether their messages are direct or indirect. The latter type is more problem-laden. And they should determine whether their messages are honest or dishonest. Finally couples should give feedback to communication.

These complex areas of relationships are where a relationship with God is very important, he explained. Prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit can reveal truth, he said.

The conference was sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, Nashville Association, and UT — Knoxville. The school and Morris developed the BEST Families (Building and Enriching Stronger Tennessee Families) program, which was the curriculum for the conference. *B&R*

# Our homes need Christian fathers

**H**eroes are made, not born; and sometimes it is by accident that heroes are born.

Most fathers are not intentionally heroes, but they are heroes nonetheless. Even patriarchs and kings of the Old Testament did not always respond to the needs of their children with the hands-on approach to fatherhood.

Sunday, June 15, has been designated across the United States as Father's Day, and fathers everywhere will be remembered and recognized.

We have millions of fathers, and even families without a living father, or in the cases of persons who live alone, can still celebrate fathers on that day. Most fathers are reluctant to take the limelight. Most will deny they are special, or that they deserve special treatment. But giving them thanks for living the role of fatherhood is not too much.

Family life has changed drastically in the last half century. Especially since the end of World War II and successive wars, more mothers have felt it necessary to work outside the home.

In many cases this is necessary. More income is needed to ensure college educations for children, and for retirement years. It's also true that family needs and "wants" have changed — often making more income necessary.

The old picture of the family is no more — waiting with open arms for Dad to come home after a long work day. So of necessity, the role of father has changed. Nevertheless, God's ideal of fatherhood has

not changed. The responsibilities have not changed. The biblical image of father in the role of leader has not changed.

Pity the family where the father has shirked the role of spiritual leader or abandoned the concept of authority blended with love. Pity the family where father spends valuable family time in pursuit of getting ahead in the business.

Pity the family where the father pays allegiance to the "boss" in lieu of spending precious time in shaping the character of the children — being the loving husband who defends the home against worldly invasions.

Mr. Macho has no place in family life. A dad who proves his stoic image by refusing to shed tears in moments of tenderness does a disservice to wife and children.

The dad who sees his son only as a successful athlete or such misses the point. The father who thinks his daughter could not possibly be a doctor or attorney needs more lessons in fatherhood.

Being a father is a God-given blessing. How men respond to this blessing is of great significance to the success of a Christian home.

Fathers have a responsibility to lead the family in recognizing the sovereignty of God. We are to emulate the leadership of God the Father. Fathers cannot admonish the family to live one lifestyle while pursuing another style themselves.

The blessings that fatherhood brings will continue long after the children have grown up, moved out, and begin making their own way in the world.

On this Father's Day, Dad, try to be graceful in accepting the love of your family — and be sure to respond with the love that God freely gives, father to children. Not only is it our responsibility, it is a blessing for the entire family when fathers are fathers every hour of every day, no matter the cost. Love the family! **B&R**



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

## Gambling issue not dead yet

Some advice to gambling opponents who successfully slugged it out with Tennessee's 100th General Assembly: don't wave the victory flag just yet, and above all, don't take too long a rest.

The ongoing debate about a state-sponsored lottery ended recently with a whimper, mainly because the conniving and strategizing of proponents was behind closed doors.

The General Assembly failed to address the lottery issue, but not because certain segments have given up the fight. It was not deemed advisable, because there is another, perhaps better, opportunity next January.

Then lottery people can act panicky and say that "this is the last chance for many years." And lottery opponents must be prepared for the biggest push ever. So, don't "go to sleep." Stay alert. Be prepared to fight a monumental push for a state lottery. **B&R**

## Here's how to make the best of your one island

Frank Black frequently talked about adding another island to his service station.

Many of his customers recommended it, and some even said he could double his income overnight. After all, Black's station had been on this prominent downtown site for more 20 years.

There was something unique about Frank Black's station. It was located on the very spot where Southern Baptist Theological Seminary put its first building in Greenville, South Carolina. (Later, of course, the seminary moved on to Louisville, Kentucky.)

An impressive plaque denoting that fact was put on the corner long after Frank's gas station had been in operation.

But that was not the reason the station did a thriving business. It was commonly known that a customer, once becoming used to "doing business" with Frank, never left unless he moved out of town.

He enjoyed telling customers about the pastor search committees that had come to his church on the previous Sunday. "I can spot 'em a mile a mile away," he said.

The reasons that brought success to

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Black's were more than good humor. Baptist churches can profit by his guidelines.

You can study many books, look at a variety of research statistics, but the simplicity of success is obvious.

(1) Every customer was treated the same. No one was superior to another. The rich downtown merchant did not get better service than the staff members of the Baptist newspaper.

(2) The service was prompt, courteous, and thorough. Not only did the work crew fill the car's gas tank, they checked oil and water levels, the belts, and cleaned the windshield, and vacuumed the car.

(3) When you needed help beyond ordinary service — it was supplied willingly and without undue fuss.

(4) No matter how long or problem-filled that workday was, the work crew was always cheerful and kind to customers. The tedium of the work load never

cracked their attitude of good service, and they seldom criticized anything.

(5) The customer always was right — but Frank insisted also that his staff was worthy of respect.

If you put all those attitudes together, they resemble the "Golden Rule." Frank Black, though he was a Baptist deacon, did not call his qualifications for workers by that name, but it fits.

It's easy to see that any commercial endeavor that uses such "strategy" will surely be successful. Of course, having good business practices are important also, but Frank knew how to bring in customers.

Think of those qualities when used by Christians. Any church that practices that kind of Christianity will grow, and bring glory to Jesus.

I was a customer of Frank Black for 25 years.

He was tough, rugged, and laconic in demeanor — but he conducted his business and his life as an ambassador for Christ. He's retired, but not forgotten. ❦



ALLEN

## Pastor turns ministry into hymn that became a favorite

While Elisha H. Hoffman served as a pastor of a church in Lebanon, Penn., he sought to minister to a woman who had experienced much sorrow and affliction.

On one particular visit she shared her burdens with him and asked, "Brother Hoffman, what shall I do? What shall I do?"

Seeking to comfort her, Hoffman replied, "You cannot do better than take all your sorrows to Jesus. You must tell Jesus."

With that inspiration, Hoffman wrote the words

### Hymns we sing

— by Wm. J. Reynolds, Southwestern Seminary

and then completed the melody for what became a very popular Gospel song.

He later published it in a hymnal that he helped to compile in 1894.

Hoffman was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia and studied for the ministry at Union Seminary of the Evangelical Association.

He served in an editorial position for the Evangelical Association Publishing House in Cleveland, Ohio, then served as pastor of

churches for a number of years.

A prolific writer, he penned the words, and sometimes the music also for many hymns.

At least one thousand of his hymns were published.

Among those published are "Down at the Cross Where My Savior Died," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,"

"Are You Washed in the Blood," and "I Must Tell Jesus." ❦

— William J. Reynolds is a professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Reynolds writes the history of many hymns that are favorites of Southern Baptist congregations.



REYNOLDS

### Just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Start with a smile

Fay: "When that guy dies, people are going to look at his body in the funeral home and say, 'There lies the truth.'"

May: "Why do you say that?"

Fay: "Because as long as he lived, the truth never came out of him."

#### Take this truth

What about your integrity? This quality involves telling the truth but even more it is implicit. A person of integrity

"acts the truth" in everyday life. When we tell the truth about something, we speak with sincerity, void of any hypocrisy. The word "authentic" is closely related. Truth is victorious ultimately. The poet said that when truth is crushed to earth, it will rise again.

#### Memorize this Scripture

If you hold to my teaching ... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. — John 8:31

#### Pray this prayer

Help me, Lord, to know the truth, to speak and live it. ❦



WOOD

# 'I was sick and you visited me'

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

**SODDY-DAISY** — Some would describe it as a nightmare which occurs in one's waking hours and from which one can't emerge.

Almost one and a half years ago Chuck Riley, 40, was stricken by Guillain-Barre syndrome, a disease which attacks the brain, nerves, and muscles causing an acute degeneration of nerves. It strikes people in a weakened state after surgery or illness. Riley had had the flu the week before.

For 17 months Riley, an employee of the Tennessee Valley Authority and member of New Salem Church here, was in a hospital. All he could move was his eye lids. And he had severe pain in his limbs and extremities.

As drugs eased the pain and it diminished weeks turned into months, and Riley learned to wait. Except for interruptions for an X ray of his lungs or for treatment, Chuck could watch TV and blink his eyes. He learned to use a system of looking toward a letter posted on a board to communicate.

Of course, he had the visits from his family to encourage him. His wife, Debbie, a licensed practical nurse, could understand his situation. And the staff was very lenient with the rules and allowed his three children, ranging in age from 6 to 11, to visit him.

Of course, he prayed, said Riley. "Nobody could get through this alone."

Then his friend from New Salem Church, Lee Wyatt, began to visit him. The Rileys were active members of the church and Riley and Wyatt were friends through Riley's work as a deacon, Sunday School class teacher, Royal Ambassador counselor, and choir member. Wyatt began coming every evening to massage Riley's muscles.

Massage was needed to inhibit deterioration of the muscles and to speed the healing process. After several weeks, Wyatt passed the word at New Salem on how others could help. Soon about 30 people had volunteered to help Riley. Wyatt trained them and assigned teams of two-four men and women to a weekly session.

At first the volunteers were afraid to touch him, Riley said, but one week the new teams began their shifts. They rotated each day. That was 17 months ago and the only



**SOME OF THE MEMBERS** of New Salem Church who help Riley are, from left, standing, Lee Wyatt, Tommie Burton, Darlene Robertson, Curtis Leatherwood, John Askew, and Ted Painter, pastor. Chuck Riley, and his wife, Debbie, are seated.

change has been the location — they have followed Riley to three Chattanooga health care institutions and, now, to his home. They even came through snow to visit him.

"All day long I would think about those who were coming to visit that night and look forward to seeing them," Riley said.

During a 10-month period someone stayed with their friend overnight when that was allowed. Others read Sunday School lessons and other materials to him. The volunteers included some church members Riley didn't know very well. Of

course, they have become good friends.

During this period, Riley lost his job. As the bills came in, so did the money to pay them, thanks to Christian people who cared about the family. They would hand Debbie money and, if she tried to refuse it, they would scold her, Riley explained. All of the family's needs have been met, he added.

Church members have installed gravel in the family's driveway. Others have moved the lawn, done auto maintenance, and transported Riley

home on weekends he could visit.

The experience has changed everyone who has been involved, even peripherally, several church members told the *Baptist and Reflector*. For example, a large crowd gathered for Easter Sunday heard Riley speak and was greatly moved, reported Ted Painter, pastor. Painter said he can relate with Riley since he has been struggling with cancer.

The church has benefited as members have developed stronger relationships. And their ministry to Riley has been a witness to the community, said Painter.

Riley, whose prognosis is complete recovery and who is progressing toward walking, said he has thought often of the biblical character, Job, especially when he lost his job. But his friends can't tell.

"He has never complained. When he could smile, he was always smiling," said Curtis Leatherwood.

Riley's current goal is to help with the church's Vacation Bible School, a job he had done in the past. *B&R* — Gloria Freeney of New Salem Church contributed to this article.



## Rural Cleveland church broadens its vision beyond community

For Baptist and Reflector

**CLEVELAND** — Candies Creek Church here is located where it has been for 163 years. To reach it one passes acreages where cattle are grazing and white frame houses which seem to stabilize the undulating hills.

One also passes subdivisions of homes which are several stories high and grouped close together, without the familiar support of trees or out-buildings. They seem to be outcroppings of an alien sort. But they are home for families, who have parked vehicles, both mechanical and plastic, in the driveways and yards.

David Landrith, pastor of Candies Creek, is aware of the subdivisions scattered throughout the area west of Cleveland, and he thinks the congregation is beginning to meet the needs of those families and others.

He has seen a transition from a church which is reaching only rural residents in the community to reaching resi-



**LANDRITH** discusses the church from his office.

dents, both urban and rural, in the county, said Landrith, who has served the congregation for six years. It's shouldn't be the goal of a church necessarily, but has been the outcome of events at Candies Creek, he explained.

First, he led the members to reach out to potential members by reinstating weekly visitation and teaching relational evangelism. Christians need to be encouraged that they can invite friends and family members and that, often, they will

come, he said.

These measures, combined with a prayer ministry, resulted in growth. The congregation when he came was composed mostly of mid-life adults and senior adults. Now young adults with children were joining.

The congregation, meeting in a sanctuary which was about 75 years old, had to begin holding two services. It renovated the sanctuary to provide more space. Then it was faced with a crucial decision. Would the original members accept leaving the traditional meeting place, which was associated with wonderful memories. And would the new members be willing to help subsidize a new building although they didn't have a long association with the church.

Candies Creek Church members were very flexible and adopted change, said Landrith. The congregation built an all-purpose building which could serve as a sanctuary, he explained. Most of it was done by members to save money.



**STANDING** in front of the church's new building with the congregation's old building in the background is the church staff, from left, Mike Friday, minister of students and education; David Dale, minister of music and administration; and David Landrith, pastor.

Since moving into the new building nine months ago, the church has added staff, educational space, and contemporary elements to its worship.

"The changes have been difficult but not divisive," said Landrith.

In the past seven years the church has moved from about 60 in Sunday School to 325.

And on Easter Sunday 700 attended worship.

Neither size nor growth are the most important factors in the transformation, he said. The congregation is stronger spiritually and, thus, ready for the growth in the area which is projected for the future. We give God the glory, Landrith added. *B&R*

## 'On the hill'

# In 10 years Bates has built many relationships

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Bill Bates of Jackson has worn many hats during his 57 years of ministry — pastor, Baptist university administrator, state convention president, lobbyist, and the list goes on.

Among Tennessee legislators, however, he is simply "preacher."

State senators, representatives, government workers, and lobbyists alike greet the 79-year-old Bates with a wave and "Hello preacher."

And, it is done with respect, something Bates has earned during his 10 years "on the hill" as public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "They know where

I stand. I don't have to carry a big Bible under my arm," said Bates, who retired as a Union University administrator in 1984 after many years as a pastor and associate pastor in the state.

Bates has earned respect by building relationships. "I've gotten to know a lot of people over the years. I've tried to be nice to them and get to know as many as I could personally," Bates said.

As Bates concludes his 10th year as public affairs consultant he recalls that he was hesitant when first approached by Tom Madden, then executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Bates felt at the time he knew so little about the role of the consultant and that it



**BILL BATES, left, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, visits with Senator Gene Eisea in his Nashville office. Eisea is a layman at First Church, Spring City.**

would consume too much time. He had some experience "on the hill" while on staff at Union, but not to the extent the new role would require.

After a meeting with Madden and Carroll Owen, former TBC staff member, Bates agreed to be the public affairs consultant. Little did he know that it would last as long as it has.

He said he accepted the role after Madden "sold me on the idea it was a ministry. And, it has turned out that way," Bates acknowledged.

The Chattanooga native has worked hard over the years to educate Tennessee legislators about "the convention and Baptist people."

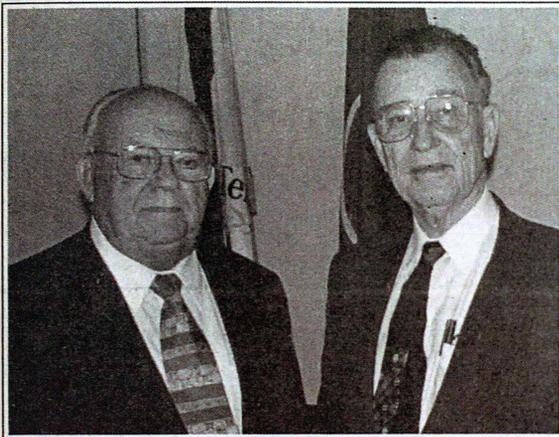
One thing he has learned in working with legislators is flexibility. "I've tried to see both sides of an issue," he said. Though he is "the preacher" he

knew legislators would be turned off if he really "preached." In a firm, but quiet way, Bates has conveyed a Christian's view on many moral and ethical issues by passing out literature and simply talking with them, sharing his views and opinions.

During his tenure attempts have been made time and time again to remove the word "lottery" from the state constitution, thus opening up the state to any form of gambling.

Bates, along with others, has worked hard to oppose the gambling proponents. And, as the 100th legislature ended last week, they were successful once again.

Bates is quick to warn, however, that the lottery is not dead and in all likelihood will be a major issue next year. The lottery issue will have to be voted on and passed next year



**AMONG THE relationships Bill Bates of Jackson has developed during 10 years as public affairs consultant is one with John Wilder, right, of Somerville. Wilder is the state's Lieutenant Governor.**

## To residents of Macon County

# SBC hunger fund provides hope

By Steven S. Nelson  
For Baptist Press

LAFAYETTE — Nestled in the scenic foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, one would think the people of Macon County would enjoy a carefree existence.

But the closing of several factories and the struggles in agriculture have placed this tranquil setting under the strain of an 11.3 percent unemployment rate — one of the highest in the state.

And recent changes in entitlement programs on the state and national levels threaten to place even more citizens of this rural community in desperate straits.

While residents of the county sponsored a local food and clothing bank known as Macon

Helps, in recent years it had become inactive and its setting outside of town makes it inaccessible to many locals.

Realizing the growing needs of the community, area churches became determined to be more involved. With the election of five area pastors to the agency's board of directors, a singular vision to aid the county's less fortunate began to unfold. The pastors, two of them Southern Baptists, were no strangers to teamwork, having labored together for years on other community projects.

Less than a year after the vision was realized, Macon Helps dedicated a new facility located one block from the square in the county seat town of Lafayette May 29, spurred by a gift from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

The thrift store and food bank occupy an abandoned storefront which has been remodeled.

"This looks more like a JC Penney's than a thrift store," said Doyle Gaines, an executive with Macon County government and a member of the town's First Church.

"It is very impressive, a facility the whole community can be proud of," Gaines added.

"Southern Baptists have been a driving force in seeing this happen," added Randy Roper, pastor of New Life Community Church.

"The grant from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund given by the Home Mission Board will greatly enhance our ability to meet the needs of people who come to us for help," he observed. ■



in order to be placed on the governor's ballot the following year, he explained.

"Gambling proponents will pull out all stops next year," he predicted.

Though this session of Congress has just ended, "it is not too early to begin contacting your senators and representatives to express your feelings on the lottery issue," he said.

One of the best things a person can do is to call or write a personal note to his or her senator or representative, Bates said.

"Legislators can't vote the way you want them to unless you make your feelings known to them. Often, they will listen to their constituents unless it conflicts with their own moral convictions," he observed.

And, when legislators pass good pieces of legislation or they work hard for something worthwhile that may or may not be voted into law, let them know you appreciate their efforts. Bates encouraged.

"One thing that we have been remiss on is that when we have asked legislators to do something and they do it, we forget to thank them," he said.

After 10 years "on the hill," Bates is glad he said yes to the consultant's role. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the relationships I've had on Capitol Hill," he said. ■

## Accident forces 'detour' in Inglewood layman's plan to walk across America

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Levi Tarapen, a member of Inglewood Church, Nashville, who set out May 4 to walk across the United States as a witness to what Christ has done in his life, has had a temporary setback.

Tarapen was walking as planned and had traveled 75 miles from near Charleston, S.C., when he stepped in a hole on the shoulder of the road and severely injured his knee.

Up to that point the trip had gone extremely well, Tarapen said. "I had witnessed to someone every day and was seeing the fruits of my labor. And, God was supplying my needs," Tarapen

said. Members of Inglewood traveled to St. George, S.C., to bring Tarapen home. He since has had knee surgery and is recuperating at home.

Despite the setback, he plans to resume his walk at the point it ended as soon as possible even though some family and friends are advising against it. He noted that God called him to do the walk and "he has not told me to stop yet. This has just been a detour. I certainly don't think it is the end of the mission," he said.

Tarapen is spending his time studying *Experiencing God* materials as he seeks a better understanding of Scripture so he can be a stronger witness along his journey when he resumes. ■

# SBC Cooperative Program gifts increase in May

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for May jumped more than 9 percent over the previous year's month and nearly \$6 million year-to-date over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

May CP gifts totaled

\$14,014,953, compared to \$12,838,700 last May.

At the end of eight months of the SBC fiscal year, total CP gifts were \$104,834,013, an increase of 5.97 percent or \$5,906,081 over the same period last year.

Designated gifts for May also topped the previous year's

May: \$21,817,238 compared to \$17,741,912, an increase of 22.97 percent. Year-to-date designated gifts total \$119,761,552, an increase of 4.8 percent over last year. ■

## Accepting resumes

Full-time music/youth minister resumes. Send to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 373, Glenwood, AR 71943.

## CCM Position

The Bradley Baptist Association Personnel Committee is seeking someone to fill the Church/Community Missionary position. Resumes may be mailed to: Personnel Search Committee, Bradley Baptist Association, 2707 Ocoee Street, NE, Cleveland, TN 37312, by July 15. No phone calls, please.

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**FOR SALE:** Sixty-eight oak finished padded church pews; good condition; \$175 each. If taken as lot, price negotiable. Forty-eight choir seats available. Call South Harriman Baptist Church at (423) 882-1816, M-F, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

## 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.

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Requirements: BS in Accounting, Finance, or related field required. MBA or CPA desired. Eight years professional experience in planning, finance, or accounting desired. Strong knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles desired. Computer (PC) proficiency and understanding of mainframe functionality. Must be a self starter, a team player, and be able to handle multiple tasks. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and great interpersonal skills.

If qualified and interested, please send or fax resume to:

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Human Resources Department  
MSN 121, 127 9th Avenue, North  
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ABSBC

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## Tennescene

### leaders

- Westwood Church, Cleveland, has called **John Waters** as minister to students, effective July 1.
- Chewalla Church, Chewalla, has called **Richard Doyle** of Bolivar as pastor.
- **Melanie and Kellye Rachel**, daughters of Danny Rachel, pastor, Eastview Church, Ramer, and Mary Rachel, are serving as summer missionaries through Home Mission Board programs. Melanie is serving in Reno, Nev., and Kellye is working in Dayton, Ohio.
- **Ashby Tillery** has been called as youth director, Grav-

el Hill Church, Ramer, effective May 18. He is a student at Union University, Jackson.

■ **Temple Church, Savannah**, has called **Clark Culver** as interim pastor.

■ **Michael Penny**, associate professor of music, Union University, Jackson, has been called as minister of music, West Shiloh Church, Stantonville.

■ **Rob Plummer**, a native of Brentwood, received the 1997 Broadman Seminarian Award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The award recognizes sound scholarship in biblical studies, exemplary leadership, and a firm commitment to ministry.

■ **Ben J. McGinnis**, a native of Nashville, received the 1997 T. Clyde Francisco Preaching Award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. McGinnis earned a master of divinity degree in May from the school.

■ **Ricky L. Scott**, pastor, First Church, Smartt, for the past five years, has been called

as pastor, Rome Church, Carthage, effective June 22.

■ **Norman L. Garner**, former minister of music in several churches in Middle Tennessee, has relocated to Naples, Fla., and can be reached at 1044 Woodshire Lane, B-107, Naples, Fla. 34105-7433.

■ **Olive Pauline Allen**, 93, a retired foreign missionary and a member of Siam Church, Elizabethton, has been inducted into the Tennessee Health Care Association's Who's Who in Tennessee Nursing Homes Hall of Fame. Allen is a resident of Life Care Center in Elizabethton. She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Allen served as a public school teacher, staff member of churches, and as a missionary in Hawaii before it was a state, Thailand, and Vietnam.

■ **Dave Ward**, minister to senior adults, First Church, Knoxville, for 33 years, has retired. He was honored by the church May 18. Ward also served the church as minister of education and associate pastor. He will continue on a part-time basis as minister of pastoral care. Recognition activities included a concert by the Golden Notes, a senior adult choir and a reception. Ward is a graduate of Mars Hill (N.C.) College; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also has served churches in Kentucky and Texas.

■ **Calvin Metcalf**, pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, will retire July 31 after serving as pastor 22 years.

■ **Shannon Phillips** has been called as minister of mu-



**ROYAL AMBASSADORS** of First Church, Woodbury, hold cans they used to collect pennies for the Mother's Day Offering of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They collected 3 1/4 miles of pennies or \$2,734.93. The RAs stand with John Rush, second from left, of the homes and Terry Brewer, right, RA director. A boy also holds a certificate from the homes expressing appreciation.

sic and youth, First Church, Bethel Springs. She is a recent graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College.

■ **Bill Black**, home missionary based in the Gatlinburg area, has been elected president, Association of Resort and Leisure Ministers, an organization which provides professional development, networking, and ministry development for those involved in resort and leisure ministries. Black and his wife, Cindy, have directed Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries for 15 years.



**BLACK**

### churches

■ **Colonial View Church, Cookeville**, held a noteburning ceremony June 1 to celebrate its debt-free status.

■ **Butler's Chapel Church, Ramer**, celebrated paying off a debt with a noteburning service May 18.

### associations

■ The Woman's Missionary Union of Tennessee Valley Association is gathering hygiene kits as gifts for migrants which will be distributed along with an invitation to attend the Vacation Bible School held for migrants July 28 - Aug. 1. For more information, call (423) 775-6192.

■ **Shiloh Association** is leading a team to work in Okmulgee, Okla., where members will be building a church. And another team will be working at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour.

■ **Nashville Association** will hold a Summer Golf Scramble Tournament June 24 and an event at Wave Country, USA, for youth. For more information, call (615) 259-3034.



**GAs AND RAs** from First Church, Watertown, hold signs proclaiming the amount of pennies they collected for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. The Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors had a competition. The total raised was \$329.10.



## Tennessee samplers

### When bumped

By Jimmy Fowler, minister of youth/activities Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah

Have you ever had your arm bumped while you were carrying a drink of some sort? What happens? Sometimes whatever is in the cup sloshes out. If you have coffee in the cup, coffee spills out. If you have soft drink in the cup, soft drink spills out. It would take a major miracle for you to spill Sprite out of a cup that is full of coffee.

We're the same way. When we get jostled by life, some of what is inside of us spills out. Often what doesn't show comes out when we get bumped. You know what I'm talking about.

It could be the things that Paul wrote to the Galatians about in 5:19-22. Paul's list of possibilities ran to one of two categories.

The first category was of the sinful nature. They were sexual immorality, impurity, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, and envy. The second category was fruit of the spirit. They were love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Paul doesn't pull any punches.

What spills out of your cup when you get bumped? I'll be honest with you. I'm not always proud of what comes out when I get bumped. And I'm not even able to change the characteristics that I want to change. God can, though.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me" Psalm 51:10.

What spills out of your life? What do you want to spill out? Do you even care?

If you do, are you going to let God make those changes in your heart? It's your choice. ■

### After graduation

By Paul D. Byrd, minister to students Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville

Dear Graduate:

You may be asking, What is God's will for my life after graduation? Is college for me? What about military? What about a job? How do I decide? Decisions, decisions ... how do I know what is best?

As I reflect on my graduation, I thought I had arrived! Just yesterday I was a freshman and now I am a graduate. I was tough stuff! Just watch me

now! Even so, I remember feeling happy, sad, scared to death, uncertain, and even relief.

The time quickly came when the tassel and gown offered little comfort. Soon the anxiety returned with the many questions about my future. Just what was God's will for my life?

In the fear and confusion, I came to understand myself and God more than ever before. I learned that, "In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success" (Proverbs 3:6, TLB). I discovered that God's will for my life began in placing him first and trusting him to unfold my future according to his plan and purpose for my life.

The decisions you make now will influence the rest of your life. As graduation becomes a memory and you retire your cap and gown, may you follow God in each decision of your life. I pray you will allow God to guide you. May he direct your paths. May you be all he has called you to be. ■

# Warren County layman uses poetry as ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

SMARTT — Most every church has a Sunday School and Discipleship Training director and most have WMU and Brotherhood leadership. Few churches, however, have their own resident poet.

First Church here is an exception.

David Fulton can best be described as the church poet.

The layman recently wrote a poem about the church which the church uses as an outreach tool, according to Pastor Ricky Scott.

"It's a personal testimony of how appreciative I am of the church and the people here," Fulton said.

The poem, which was given to all members, also is sent, along with a letter of welcome, to visitors at the Warren County church. "David uses his tal-

ents as an outreach and for our own enjoyment," Scott said, adding that Fulton "speaks from his heart and it speaks to people and ministers to them."

In addition, Fulton has written poems on special occasions that has been distributed throughout the church, and in one case, the community.

Fulton noted he likes a challenge and one Thanksgiving Scott asked him to write a poem. Little did Fulton know that the poem would be distributed to people attending a community-wide Thanksgiving service.

Fulton has written approximately 30 religious poems and numerous others as well as song lyrics.

He noted that during times of meditating about the Lord a line of verse will come to him and "before you know it, I'll have a poem."

Fulton, a sheet metal work-



DAVID FULTON, left, looks over copies of his poems with Pastor Ricky Scott of First Church, Smartt.

er, doesn't concentrate on writing poetry. Acknowledging that he sometimes has "writer's block," he said he may go two to four months without writing a single poem. But, then there are occasions when he may write four to five

poems in a week.

"Poetry is something I really enjoy doing," he said.

Fulton has no aspirations of being a professional or widely-published poet. "It's a hobby I like to use for the Lord," he said. ■

# Chester County church celebrates 150 years of ministry

By Curtiss Lynch  
For Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSON — Bethel Church is one

of the oldest churches in Chester County, having been constituted in 1847 and first called New Salem. The church was constituted by William A. "Adkins" Henry near the present site.

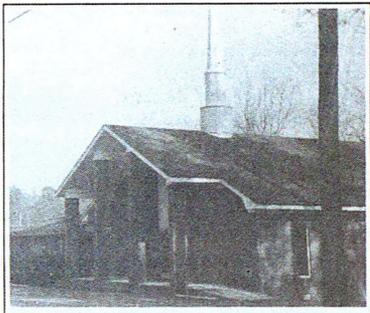
The congregation celebrated its heritage on June 1. Among the guests that day were Maurice Stansell of Jackson, great-great-grandson of the founding pastor.

Uncle Adkins, as he was known, served as pastor of Bethel until his death in 1889. In 1867 another preacher moved to the communi-

ty and together the two men headed up construction of a new log church at the present site. By the late 1800s the congregation had constructed a frame structure on the property.

In 1930 Walter Camp became pastor and was elected chief carpenter to construct a new church building. The building, completed in 1931, served the members and community, with several additions, until 1990. In August, in the middle of the night, the building caught fire and burned to the ground.

In the fall of 1990 a contractor began construction of the present building which opened for services in February 1991 in the fellowship hall. A few months later the sanctuary was completed. ■ — Lynch is chairman of Bethel's 150-year Committee.



BETHEL CHURCH, Henderson, has been ministering in the surrounding community for 150 years. The church's present sanctuary and fellowship hall was constructed in 1990 following a fire which destroyed the building.

# Cumberland Gap volunteers minister in Venezuela

For Baptist and Reflector

HARROGATE — A group from Cumberland Gap Association has returned to Tennessee

after a week in Valera and La Puerta, Venezuela.

The group helped dedicate a new church building and did some construction work and per-

sonal evangelism. Making the trip were Director of Missions Frank Hickman, Void Hansard, Pump Springs Church; Paul Rains, Alanthus Hill Church; Bill Brown, West Pineville (Ky.) Church; and group leader Walter Dunn, a member of Carr's Chapel Church, who serves as Cumberland Gap's volunteer coordinator.

Missions is more than just a word to Dunn, according to Hickman.

He has participated in several missions endeavors since becoming missions coordinator after his wife died a few years ago.

More than a year ago, while in Venezuela, he visited the city of La Puerta which had no Baptist church. God impressed upon Dunn the need for a church there and began, through Southern Baptist missionaries Gene and Eva Nell Kimler, to seek the place God would want a church.

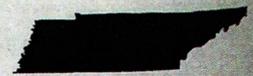
A piece of property was purchased in the middle of the city and construction of a chapel began on faith. Dunn incurred personal debt in the purchase of the property and building of the chapel, according to Hickman. "Pray with us that God will allow continuing donations to repay that debt as soon as possible," Hickman said.

On April 27 the Cumberland Gap group attended the dedication of that chapel with about 350 others. At least three adults came forward to accept Christ at the close of the service and five came for reconciliation with the church.

During the week 22 people came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and others had the Gospel seed planted in their lives through personal witness and tract distribution, Hickman said. "God blessed greatly and he deserves all the glory." ■



FIVE VOLUNTEERS from Cumberland Gap Association recently returned from a week of ministry in Venezuela. From left, are Bill Brown, pastor, West Pineville (Ky.) Church; Frank Hickman, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association; Walter Dunn, associational volunteer coordinator; Paul Rains, Alanthus Hill Church; and Void Hansard, Pump Springs Church.



Tennessee  
features

# Sevier County Baptists select Everett as DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — Loudon County native Richard Everett will become director of missions for Sevier County Association on June 16.

Everett, of Philadelphia, currently is pastor of Liberty Church in the greater Atlanta area.

For 16 years Everett was director of personal evangelism for the North Carolina Baptist Convention.

Everett and his wife, Linda, have a daughter, Beth, who serves with the Foreign Mission Board in Aman, Jordan.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Everett also serves as chaplain for the Carson-Newman College football team. ■



EVERETT

# All Nations Camp planned for 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; a \$20 scholarship will be available to the first 20 registered who request the scholarship in writing.

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

## Personal worship

By Gary Rickman

### Focal Passage — Psalm 145:1-5, 8-12, 17-19

In a day when one of the most precious commodities for adults is time, many adults do not consider the time spent for personal worship as being valuable. Some who do value worship relegate it only to a particular day (Sunday) and a particular place (their local church). This lesson will help us see that there is more to Christian worship than what takes place on Sundays. Psalm 145 declares that we need to celebrate God every day.

As you read the focal passages for this lesson you will discover four biblical reasons why we need to establish and maintain a time of personal worship. The four reasons are: God is worthy, God is good, worship leads to witness, and God responds to worship.

David began this psalm by telling God he would praise him daily. David was acknowledging the worth of God, which is what worship is. Many Christians have a daily time with the Lord that they refer to as their quiet time. But your quiet time does not have to be quiet. Your time with the Lord may be filled with singing, reading, praying aloud, or listening to music. These are the things we associate with praising God. The psalm does not dictate how many minutes or hours a day we consciously should worship God, but the psalmist encouraged us to focus on God daily.

David was motivated to praise God daily because he had a clear awareness of God's nature and behavior. He described God as gracious, compassionate, patient, loving, and good. Authentic Christian worship is rooted in a clear understanding of who God is and what he has done for us.

Verses 10-12 remind us that worship should have an impact on our lives. Our worship might be private, but the consequences of that experience can be public. When we are truly aware of what God has done in our lives we have something to tell. When we tell others what God has done in our lives, when a genuine encounter with God motivates us to work to alleviate some of the world's problems, we are joining an anthem of praise coming from all he has made (v. 10).

David expressed certainty that God listened to him and responded to him. The psalmist announced "the Lord is righteous" and "loving." This means God cares enough to respond, but he cares too much simply to be a divine vending machine. God sometimes will rescue us from difficulties. Sometimes God helps us by encouraging us as we cope with life's problems. Remember David's life was not problem-free, yet he recognized God's power and goodness in his life.

Think of the times when you have felt specially close to God. How many of these moments are tied to a worship experience, either privately or publicly? We tend to see these moments as peak moments in our lives in sensing the presence of God with us.

A daily time of personal worship can help us have a continuing awareness of God's presence in life's routine and ordinary experiences; thus producing fewer peaks and valleys in our lives and replacing them with a steady sense of God's presence with us.

In order to have good spiritual health David urged us to worship God daily. Do you worship God privately each day? What is the biggest obstacle to your daily worship? ■ — Rickman is Church Staff Leadership Group Leader, TBC Executive Board.

## Servant endures suffering

By Connie Davis

### Focal Passage — II Timothy 2:1-13

Like the apostle Paul, I have written letters to people I have mentored. Those of us who have fostered relationships like Paul had with Timothy have found great satisfaction. In addition to my younger sisters and friends, one special friend of mine reminds me of Paul's relationship with Timothy.

Alia Dzhiembaeva became that friend after I visited Kazakhstan, a republic of the former Soviet Union in 1991, with a group of Southern Baptists and Presbyterians to forge cultural understanding between the two countries. After returning to Nashville, fellow members of Woodmont Church here arranged to help Alia study at Belmont University, Nashville.

### Family Bible Lesson

Alia became a Christian while in the U.S. Over the years I have written her to encourage her in her spiritual growth. I have tried to prepare her for life in her country where most people, including her family, are without a faith. I have e-mailed her recently here in the U.S. where she continues her studies in international business at Yale University. And following my mother's guide, I have sent her articles from various publications which might help her.

Paul took similar approaches with his acolyte. However, Paul was in a more serious situation. He was in prison and expecting soon to be executed.

### Directions — vv. 1-7

Paul reminded Timothy that he could "take strength

from the grace of God which is ours in Christ Jesus," (New English Translation). Then with that strength, and the knowledge gained from his tutelage under Paul, he should train other men. He added that those men should be men he could trust and who would be competent to teach others. In other words, Paul was asking Timothy to carry on the work.

Then, to further prepare Timothy, Paul used several analogies to roles which Timothy would fill. His work would be like that of a soldier whose commander is Jesus Christ, said Paul. Just as a soldier, he would face hardship and must deny his affairs in order to fulfill his responsibilities.

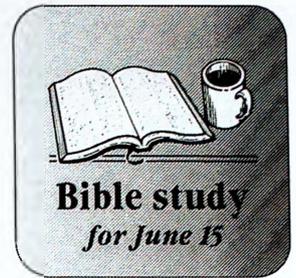
His future also could be compared to that of an athlete who must follow rules in order to win a prize. Finally, his work would be like the farmer's efforts who toils in order to have first claim on the crops.

### Reminder — vv. 8-13

"Remember Jesus, risen from the dead," said Paul. Although he was locked up in prison, he continued, the message "is not shut up."

Then, like my mother's habit of sending me articles from other publications, Paul referred to another's writings. Those of us who do this add variety to our message and justify it by referencing another.

Paul referred to an early Christian hymn, scholars guess. It is in the poetic form of four couplets. Read them and recommit yourself to our faith which is demanding, but is worth it. ■ — Davis is assistant editor, *Baptist and Reflector*.



## Being faithful in marriage

By Jerry Chapman

### Focal — I Corinthians 7:1-16

My wife and I have been married for 30 years. We are truly compatible but there are some things we still have questions about. The Corinthians were no different. They raised questions about marriage which are still as valid today as they were then. This lesson addresses some of those questions. Paul's answers can be summed up in a few words: remain faithful in marriage.

### What about sex and marriage? vv. 1-9

Whatever the questions were the answers here address sex, celibacy, and marriage. Paul preferred being single rather than being married but he wrote of the virtue of marriage. He spoke of the marriage relationship as an exclusive union and urged each person in the marriage to respect the sexual needs of the other. There were only three conditions which allowed partners to abstain from sexual relations in marriage: (1) mutual agreement, (2) for a limited time, and (3) for a spiritual purpose. Even though Christ had no word about this Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to give such an answer.

Paul advocated celibacy. It is God's "gift." Celibacy allows one to serve God without distraction. But for those who are not so gifted marriage is the alternative. And Paul

recognized it as a wonderful one. But not for him! And for those who were single or single-again (for whatever reason), Paul advocated a life of singleness. But if they could not live a chaste lifestyle it was "better to marry than to burn" (with sexual desire).

### What about God's will and the troubled marriage? vv. 10-16

Questions such as, Should a Christian leave a non-Christian mate? If she does leave, can she remarry or remain unmarried? Should a non-believing man divorce his Christian wife? What happens if a non-believing husband decides to leave his Christian wife? Can a Christian mate have life changing spiritual influence on the other?

These and other questions were asked by the Corinthians. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that his instructions were not merely his ideas but God's. He tells a Christian wife not to leave her Christian husband. But what if separation or divorce does occur. First and foremost is the indisputable fact that God still loves each person. This sin is not the unpardonable one. Yet, Paul wanted the couple to stay together if at all possible and if something did happen not to remarry.

And even if a non-Christian cou-

ple marries and one becomes a Christian should they remain together? Paul says yes. For the unbelieving mate will have the greatest opportunity to be influenced by the Gospel through the Christian partner if they stay together. The unbelieving mate is "sanctified" or made more aware of God's love in the presence of his loving mate. This is a most difficult task when the home is where family members "let their hair down" in the midst of everyone. Family members watch each other especially if one proclaims his allegiance to Christ. What non-believers observe in the home may aid them to accept or to reject Christ.

What if the marriage is going to end up in separation or divorce? Then let the non-believer make the move. This is unfortunate, yet, it frees the believer of the marriage relationship. If that happens then the Christian should not carry the burden of whether or not the rejected partner would have become a believer or not. Just as in all cases of being a witness it is not our job to save the individual but just to share the good news of Jesus Christ. It is God's job to give anyone who believes new life in him. ■ — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.



Study  
God's Word



## World News

### Annuity Board opens home page on Internet

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has opened a home page on the Internet.

The home page, available at <http://www.annuityboard.org>, provides instant access to Southern Baptist church and denominational staff retirement options, other informational resources, and educational services. ■

### SBC ethnics to celebrate heritage

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist ethnics are invited to celebrate their ethnicity in a pre-Southern Baptist

Convention meeting here. "Celebrating Ethnic Southern Baptists" is scheduled for June 15, beginning at 2 p.m. at First Church, Dallas.

The program will feature ethnic preachers, ethnic music, and several SBC leaders, according to organizers with the Home Mission Board's language church extension division. It will conclude with participants marching to the Dallas Convention Center to attend that evening's session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. ■

### Cyclone victims assisted by BWA

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, has allocated \$10,000 as an initial response for relief and rehabilitation work following the May 19 cyclone that devastated parts of Bangladesh.

Government sources confirmed 111 deaths as of May 28, but unofficial sources were placing the figure much higher. Many people were saved by early warning systems and cyclone shelters built since a massive 1991 cyclone disaster. Many houses were de-

stroyed and an estimated 500,000 to 1.5 million people are displaced or homeless.

Immediate needs include food, shelter, drinking water, and clothing before any longer-term resettlement work can be undertaken. ■

### RTVC counseling inquires increase

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — In the first four months of 1997, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission counseling department has responded to 8,417 inquiries relating to spiritual decisions or spiritual issues. These inquiries were generated by RTVC radio and television programs and by the agency's presence on the Internet.

Totals are up 372 over the same period last year. ■

### TV Easter service yields decisions for Jesus Christ

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — At least seven people are known to have made a profession of faith during the FamilyNet and ACTS broadcast of this

year's annual Easter sunrise service from Sea World in Orlando, Fla.

FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and ACTS is the agency's cable television service carried by the Odyssey channel.

The program generated 67 calls to an 800 number at an Orlando affiliate station and phone records indicated 219 people tried to call, according to Jerry Johns of WTGL in Orlando. ■

### Elliff nomination to be offered by Ralph M. Smith

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Ralph M. Smith, pastor emeritus of Hyde Park Church here, will nominate Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff for a second term during the SBC annual meeting in Dallas June 17-19.

Smith told Baptist Press June 3 that Elliff "personifies the heartbeat of Southern Baptists." ■



ELLIFF

### Wisconsin DOM seeks SBC first vice presidency

Baptist Press

MANAWA, Wis. — Dennis Hansen, director of missions for Bay Lakes Association in northeastern Wisconsin, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the June 17-19 annual meeting in Dallas.

Hansen will be the second nominee. Earlier, Texas layman Miles Seaborn of Fort Worth was announced as a candidate.

Wisconsin pastor Tim Shrader will nominate Hansen. ■

### Photojournalist leaves HMB staff

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Award-winning Southern Baptist photojournalist Mark Sandlin will join the photography staff of *Southern Living* magazine July 1.

Sandlin, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's photography department, joined the HMB in 1980 from the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board. ■

### For Adults and Teens

#### The Book of 2 Corinthians

We have a treasure in *earthen vessels*. Using the answers below, fill in the blanks explaining these eternal treasures.

We are afflicted in every way but \_\_\_\_\_; perplexed, but \_\_\_\_\_; persecuted, but \_\_\_\_\_; struck down, but \_\_\_\_\_.

So we do \_\_\_\_\_.

For this \_\_\_\_\_ is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory \_\_\_\_\_ because we look \_\_\_\_\_ but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are \_\_\_\_\_, but the things that are unseen are \_\_\_\_\_.

-2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18

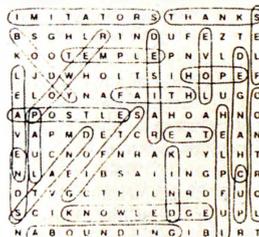
not forsaken  
not crushed  
not destroyed  
not lose heart  
not driven to despair

not to the things that are seen  
eternal  
transient  
beyond all comparison  
slight momentary affliction

## Fun for the Family

### Answers to the June 4 Fun for the Family Puzzles

The Book of 1 Corinthians for adults  
1 PAUL; 2 APOSTLE; 3 THANKS; 4 POWER;  
5 LEAVEN; 6 TEMPLE; 7 KNOWLEDGE;  
8 SELF-CONTROL; 9 HELPFUL; 10 IMITATORS;  
11 L.A.T. CUP; 12 GIFTS; 13 BODY; 14 KIND;  
15 ENDS; 16 FAITH, HOPE, LOVE; 17 RAISED;  
18 CHANGED; 19 ABOUNDING; 20 STAND



The Book of 1 Corinthians for children  
FAITH, HOPE, LOVE ABIDE THESE THREE;  
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.  
-1 Corinthians 13:13

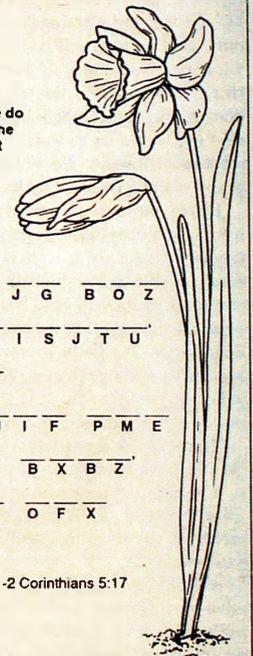
### Just for Kids

#### The Book of 2 Corinthians

When we know Christ, we change. Below is a verse explaining how we do this. Under each line is a letter of the alphabet. Write down the letter that comes before it, then check your verse with 2 Corinthians 5:17.

U I F S F G P S F J G B O Z  
P O F J T J O D I S J T U  
I F J T B O F X  
D S F B U J P O U I F P M E  
I B T Q B T T F E B X B Z  
C F I P M E U I F O F X  
I B T D P N F

-2 Corinthians 5:17



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