

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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## this week's news

- ▶ Southern Baptists' gifts to Cooperative Program remain up for the year. — Page 2
- ▶ ATS removes 'notation' from Southern Seminary — Page 2
- ▶ Bryan steps down officially as Tennessee WMU executive director. — Page 3



**BRYAN RETIRES**

- ▶ Fayetteville pastor swaps pulpit with Scottish pastor for summer. — Page 3
- ▶ Tennesseans express opinions. — Page 4
- ▶ Court strikes down RFRA. — Page 6

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## TBC disaster relief teams return from North Dakota

For *Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Tennessee Baptists have returned from Grand Forks, N.D., after helping with Red River Valley flood clean-up relief, according to Tim Bearden, disaster relief director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Although the TBC disaster relief feeding and child care units were not dispatched to North Dakota, Tennessee volunteers joined other state units already in operation, according to Mickey Caison, SBC North American Mission Board national disaster relief director.

Among Tennessee Baptists volunteering were Ed Simpson

of McMoresville Church, McMoresville; Dick Staggs, First Church, Bemus; J.D. Moore and Billy Tomlinson, First Church, Middleton; Herb Adams, First Church, Alamo; Charlie Hutchison, Providence Church, Crockett Mills; and Ronnie Snoderly, Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville.

Prior to these Tennessee volunteers, a coed team from Valley View Church, Nashville, served in mud-out activities in early June in North Dakota.

SBC disaster relief mud-out operations closed down in mid-June after more than 300 homes were serviced, Caison said, adding no further relief work is planned there now. ■



### Breaking ground in Bolivar

Hardeman Association recently broke ground at their new building site on Vildo Road in Bolivar. The new facility will enable the association to expand its ministry and witness. Participating in the event included, from left, Sara Emerson, David Gatlin, Fred Miller, and Fulton Robertson. Deryl Watson is director of missions for Hardeman Association.

## Include B&R in next year's budget, editor encourages

For *Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Many Tennessee Baptist churches are finalizing their budgets for the coming church year.

"Now is the time to add to the *Baptist and Reflector* mailing list those members who have not yet been enrolled," says Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen.

Allen urges churches to provide subscriptions for all church leaders and to other members if possible. "Some churches are sending the *Baptist and Reflector*," Allen said, "and some include community barber shops, beauty salons, and offices of attorneys, doctors, and other medical specialists."

Because of budgeting, the *Baptist and Reflector* will omit two additional printings next year, probably in the summer, Allen added. The next budget year may also see the paper using more eight-page editions. Allen said he expects postage costs to remain stable until next spring or summer when there will probably be an increase of 6 to 9 percent.

"Our purpose is to reach as many Tennessee Baptists as possible with the good news," Allen said.

The paper will continue to strive for excellence and be supportive of TBC ministries, he said. ■

## Tennessee CP gifts ahead of last year

For *Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Tennessee Baptists gave \$1,856,091 through the Cooperative Program in June.

For the year Tennessee Baptists have given \$19,507,493, \$628,212 or 3.33 percent over the same period last year.

"Giving through the Cooperative Program in June, though down from previous months, was 2 percent more than giving

in June 1996," said William F. Maxwell, administrative director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Because of the five Sunday month in June, we fully anticipate a strong July which will keep Cooperative Program giving well above budget for the year.

"Tennessee Baptists are to be congratulated for their commitment to the mission enterprises supported by the Cooperative Program," Maxwell said. ■

## WMU leaders 'hammer in the hills'

By Teresa Dickens  
For Baptist Press

**PIKEVILLE, Ky.** — "Are you afraid of heights?"

A negative answer made Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., a roofer on her first day as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer. But her experience is not really an uncommon one for a Habitat volunteer because willingness is valued more highly than skill.

Lee, president of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, was among 2,400 volunteers who participated in the 13th annual Jimmy Carter Work Project with Habitat for Humanity International. The project resulted in the building of 50 new homes in seven Appalachian communities throughout rural Kentucky and Tennessee.

Habitat for Humanity International, based in Americus, Ga., founded in 1976, has recruited volunteers who have built 50,000 houses in 53 countries.

Lee's involvement in the June 15-21 "Hammering in the Hills" project was in connection with WMU's signing of an agreement with Habitat to build eight houses in 1998 and 1999. Lee, who did not join the project until June 18 because of other responsibilities, shared the week-long responsibility with Delane Tew, coordinator of WMU's volunteer connection.

WMU's agreement with Habitat for Humanity calls for the recruiting of up to 320 volunteers and raising \$258,500 in money and/or materials to build Habitat houses in 1998 and 1999.

Lee and Tew worked on a house here with participation in the project providing a "practice run" said Tew, who will coordinate the eight Habitat projects for WMU.

Lee said WMU chose to work with Habitat because "WMU challenges its members to do missions in new ways. Building houses in poverty areas ... will enable us to reach into communities we may not have been able to reach otherwise," she said.

For more information about the WMU Habitat project, contact Tew at (205) 991-4097. ■



LEE

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## Reccord announces requirements for NAMB staffers

By Martin King  
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The new president of the North American Mission Board encouraged the new Southern Baptist Convention agency's staff to "Stand firm and urgently move forward."

Speaking at NAMB's first chapel service June 25, Robert E. "Bob" Reccord stated, "We will stand firm on our convictions, but we will not stand still. We must move forward in reaching this continent for Christ ..."

Newly elected as president of the agency which replaced the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission under the SBC restructuring,

"Covenant for a New Century," Reccord announced new requirements for every employee to "get in the game."

"Everybody at NAMB will be trained to give away their faith," Reccord announced. "Everybody. If we can't effectively share our faith, we have no business being at the North American Mission Board. That is a requirement."

Every employee also will be required to give one week a year to a mission project, Reccord said. "It is ludicrous for us to say we're a mission board if every one of us is not on mis-

sion ... It is critical that we walk the walk and not just talk the talk."

Acknowledging some employees may resist the two requirements, Reccord said, "That's fine. That means God has another place of service for them. We must get in the battle of reaching our world for Christ."

Using Joshua's assumption of leadership of the nation Israel as his example and text, Reccord told employees God has called them to NAMB as their place of service. "No one is here by accident. God called you here by name before the foundation of the world," Reccord said. "Nobody here is more important than anyone else. Everybody plays in the game."

However, Reccord said, "We are not in ministry to compete

with one another but to cooperate with one another. My greatest call is to make you successful. Our greatest call as the North American Mission Board is to make the local churches successful.

"Our calling is not to produce great materials or programs. Our calling is to help churches, associations, and state conventions fulfill the dream and vision God has given them."

Reccord also announced all employees will participate in three days of prayer and renewal Sept. 9-11. "We're going to spend three days getting our lives where they should be and praying for every person who works here, every missionary, every state convention, and church involved in our work," he said. ■



RECCORD

## SBC CP gifts up for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for June fell 3.77 percent from June 1996's total, but remains 4.88 percent above the previous year to date, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president and chief executive officer.

June CP gifts totaled \$12,024,314, a decrease of

\$470,429 over the previous year.

At the end of nine months of the SBC fiscal year, total CP gifts were \$116,858,328, an increase of \$5,435,651 over the same time a year ago.

Designated gifts for June were down 18.17 percent: \$11,580,383 compared to last year's \$14,151,977.

For the year designated gifts total \$131,341,935, a 2.27 percent increase over the same period a year ago. ■

## ATS removes 'notation' from SBC seminary

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's primary accrediting agency has notified the school that a "notation" on its accreditation has been removed following the recommendation of a committee of the agency.

President R. Albert Mohler Jr. hailed the decision as a "significant achievement" and noted it "affirms the academic excellence and institutional validity of this seminary."

In a June 19 letter to Mohler, an official with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada reported the agency's Commission on Accreditation voted to remove the notation at its June meeting in Pittsburgh.

Imposed in January 1996, the notation, which used standard ATS language for accreditation reporting, said: "General tone of the school impairs the capacity to provide significant theological education and ministerial training."

The accrediting agency had responded to faculty concerns raised in 1995 related to new procedures for hiring faculty, new policies for granting tenure, and the March 1995 dismissal of Diana R. Garland, dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work. ■

## SBC leader applauds Disney decision

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A June 24 decision by The Disney Company to pull copies of an obscenity-laced rock music album from retail stores was applauded by Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Land said he was "delighted" Disney removed the Insane Clown Posse's "The Great Malenko" album from stores, calling

it a "pro-family and pro-decency" decision.

Yet Land stopped short of saying the move by the Disney subsidiary, Hollywood Records, was in response to the resolution passed by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June that criticized Disney for its "promotion of immoral ideologies."

A Disney spokesman quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* said the timing of the recall had nothing to do with the SBC decision. ■

## CBF to endorse chaplains; restores BWA in budget

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The General Assembly of the six-year-old Cooperative Baptist Fellowship voted to endorse chaplains and partially restored funding for the Baptist World Alliance in its June 26-28 meeting here. Four career and seven short-term missionaries also were appointed during the sessions.

Although the vote to endorse chaplains, declaring the CBF an "ecclesiastical authority" and "religious endorsing body" would seem to further indicate the CBF is a convention/denomination, officials insisted it is not.

"We are a partnering network," Daniel Vestal, new chief executive officer of the CBF, told news media. CBF was formed six years ago by moderate Southern Baptists in protest of Southern Baptist Con-

vention leadership.

The chaplaincy issue grew out of a year-long study which heard concerns that present chaplains, sympathetic to CBF causes, had to be appointed by an SBC agency.

The relationship between the BWA and CBF was highlighted when members of the General Assembly forced an amendment to the proposed 1998-98 budget, adding \$20,000 whereas the proposed budget did not include funding for BWA.

Vestal said the decision to eliminate BWA funding was "strictly a budget decision."

The Louisville General Assembly drew 3,559 registered participants compared to 3,809 who attended last year's meeting in Richmond.

A Tennessean — Carolyn Dipboye of Oak Ridge — was elected recorder of CBF. ■

# Bryan retires after service in home state

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Katharine Bryan says her service as executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union connected things in her life. Her first full-time job after graduation from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was for Tennessee WMU as a field-worker beginning in 1957.

She returned in 1985. She quipped, "Hopefully I've grown up a bit.

"But it was a wonderful way to get to know the state, the people, the churches. I'm very aware those experiences prepared me for this job and gave me a deep respect for associational work and the critical link it is to assisting the churches."

Reminiscing, Bryan, a Nashville native, said she would travel to associations and stay a week, visiting and helping church members all day and in the evening.

She has continued that hands-on approach to her work during her recent 12-year tenure in Tennessee. One of her last actions was to visit an association to help church members there with WMU work.

Bryan, 62, has retired but will serve as director of adult education, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. That work is also familiar to her. In Texas she earned a doctorate in adult education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and then used that as a basis for her work as director of the

adult resource center, Dallas County Community College District, Richland College. Bryan also worked with the Southern Baptist Convention Missions Education Council, as editor of *Missions Digest*, and with WMU in Texas and at its SBC office.

## Life-long student

Bryan describes her experience in Tennessee as a time of learning and growing spiritually.

Her most exciting discoveries were the women who proved themselves as leaders, after praying about it, developing themselves, and, as a result, growing personally, she said.

"I have grown because of these leaders. They have taught me so much. And I think that's the way the Father works. I don't think there's an arrival date. I think everybody with whom we come into contact has something to teach us."



**KATHARINE BRYAN**, center, stands with speakers at her retirement dinner, from left, James Porch, TBC executive director; Carol Richardson, state WMU president of Memphis; George T. Bryan, brother, of Galveston, Texas; and Judy Trivette, state WMU president 1983-87, of Knoxville.

## Her work in Tennessee WMU

Bryan's focus followed up on her discoveries while learning. It has been on equipping lay leadership, not just by training them, but helping them identify their skills and gifts. Bryan also has seen the following occur as a result of the work of those lay leaders and her staff:

- ▶ A continuing increase in Acteen Activator teams each year. These teams do missions work in the United States and in other countries.

- ▶ Growth in Girls in Action camps, involving fathers and mothers of girls and mini-camp experiences.

- ▶ The staff is organized to handle efficiently its multi-faceted tasks.

- ▶ Continued regular programs and introduction of new kinds of work. These include the Missions Get Together, which had a record attendance this year, the West Tennessee retreat, and

new programs like the sponsorship of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and the Missions Extravaganza held prior to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting.

- ▶ The staff working on-site with workers in every association during the past year.

"I have been constantly reaffirmed in the strength and creativity we have in an organization led by lay women and my delight has been in working with them and observing their strengths and their gifts and their commitment to missions," said Bryan. *B&R*



**PAUSING** during the retirement dinner for Katharine Bryan, center, are the state WMU staff, from left, Dene Mashburn, Carrol Kelly, Gayle Ingram, Carol Growden, Glenda Palmer, Amanda Day, Vickie Anderson, and Andrea Walkup.

# Tennessee, Scotland pastors swap responsibilities this summer

For Baptist and Reflector

**FAYETTEVILLE** — A Tennessee pastor is swapping roles with a Scottish pastor for five weeks and it all came about because of Tennesseans, including a foreign missionary, the *Baptist and Reflector*, and the Lord, they explain.

Last year Matthew Henderson, pastor, Bo'ness Baptist Church, in Bo'ness, Scotland, began praying about exchanging responsibilities with a Bap-

tist pastor in the United States for several weeks. He had experienced such an exchange idea in the church in which he grew up.

Henderson contacted David Moench, missionary based in Glasgow, and asked him how he might go about setting up such an arrangement. Moench, a native of Nashville, referred Henderson to Bill Wilson of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

Back in the U.S., Wilson

asked the *Baptist and Reflector* to print Henderson's request, which it did.

When Emerson Wiles, pastor, First Church, Fayetteville, read the notice in the *Baptist and Reflector*, he was immediately interested.

Wiles and his wife, Mary, have been interested in serving overseas for some time. They had applied for positions as foreign missionaries, but were rejected because of the ages of their children. The couple has a son serving in the military in Germany, which they could visit if they traveled overseas. Also Wiles has a long-time interest in Scotland because he plays golf and collects old golf equipment.

Henderson was hoping for the exchange because it would allow him to visit friends made while working as a camp staff member in the U.S. and to enjoy the U.S. culture again.

Henderson and Wiles began discussing the potential swap and they began to be amazed at their commonalities. Both have computer e-mail so they have communicated with little

expense when compared to long distance phone calls. They discovered that they hold the same spiritual beliefs. The Bo'ness Church has a statement of faith which is similar to the "Baptist Faith and Message," said Wiles. Also they both rely on the New American Standard version of the Bible.

The pastors had similar dates for the swap in mind. They both love golf, so they referred each other to golf courses in their upcoming adopted homes. And they even drive the same make of car, which they will swap along with houses. They did discover insurance companies handle the situations differently.

In Fayetteville two weeks ago, the two joked about their driving records, both quickly refusing to report any details. "He's the one who drives on the wrong side of the road," quipped Henderson.

Henderson arrived in the United States with his wife, Anne, and baby daughter to spend a few days with Wiles since the swap won't allow any

more time together for the new friends.

"The Lord is in it, I'm telling you. I really feel that way," said Wiles as Henderson nodded.

They plan to fully assume each other's work, including preaching, visiting the sick and prospects, and counseling.

Both pastors believe the experience will be beneficial to them, the congregations, and their communities. First Church, Fayetteville, has members who remember when former pastor D.D. Smothers swapped roles with a Rev. Skeets from Scotland in the 1960s, said Wiles. Because of that good experience they are looking forward to it.

Henderson noted there will be differences for everyone involved. He joked that he would try to remember to speak more slowly in Tennessee so people would be able to understand him.

"I'm sure this will be a blessing for the Bo'ness Church as well," said Henderson. *B&R* — Connie Davis



**PASTORS** swapping roles — Emerson Wiles, left, First Church, Fayetteville, and Matthew Henderson, Bo'ness Church, Bo'ness, Scotland — make plans before Wiles leaves for Scotland.



## 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

### July

- 9 — Pray for Marc and Anne Byrd as they make plans to become full-time missionaries in Poland.
- 10 — Pray for the Michigan Life Changers as they work July 12-19 in churches throughout greater Detroit. Also pray for summer missionaries serving in Michigan and churches there that are without pastors.
- 11 — Praise God for Super Sunday School Sunday which was held June 22 at Friendship Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- 12 — Pray for missionaries Russell and Melinda Kyzar who are in the process of transferring from Costa Rica to Moscow, Russia.
- 13 — Pray for Dr. and Mrs. Dewey Dunn of Nashville who returned recently from a mission trip to Costa Rica.
- 14 — Pray for the upcoming Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Brotherhood camps at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center this month.
- 15 — Pray for people in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, as they continue to recover from severe flooding; also praise God for the Canadian convention annual meeting held June 24-26.

## Needed seminar

I want to express my appreciation to the TBC, Lane Morris, and Don Mauldin for providing the recent marriage enrichment seminar. I took six couples from Bethel Church and each couple received strengthening resources for a healthy marriage relationship. I must compliment Dr. James Porch and the TBC staff for their insight and vision for investing in this vitally needed ministry to Tennessee Baptists.

Because of the increasing stress and pressure from our society on the Christian home, let me encourage you to continue this crucial ministry to families.

C. William Palmiter, pastor  
Bethel Church  
Greenbrier 37073

## On e-mail

I was interested to see (*B&R*, June 11) that the FMB's Jerry Rankin had received "a daily flood of e-mail" following that board's restructuring vote in April. Though Rankin attributes the reaction to his changing the status quo, I suspect some of the criticism may also have targeted his reported remarks following the board's restructuring action (*B&R*, April 23).

Somehow, it doesn't seem very Baptist/compassionate to tell missionaries to serve with "total abandonment that supercedes concerns of family, finances, and personal fulfill-

ment" with "a confidence and willingness to follow the wisdom and guidance of God-appointed leaders whether (the missionaries) necessarily understand or agree." Surely the missionaries are also in touch with God — the FMB tries to be sure appointees are — and should have Spirit-led concerns about their own and their families' welfare and ministry.

I think Rankin left himself open to misunderstanding when he suggested that "letters about cost of living become a thing of the past," particularly in light of the recently published starting salary scales of SBC agency leaders (Rankin's was not included). People at the top of a salary structure sometimes forget how it is down the ladder. Hopefully, some of the money saved in SBC restructuring can find its way to the mission fields.

Bill Junker  
Brentwood 37027

## What's wrong?

Southern Baptists, what are we doing? How dull can we be? The world is evil, so what's new about that? At the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention we succeeded in alienating literally thousands more with our resolution against Disney. How can we win a world for Christ when we can't stop making them mad at us? We are so caught up in pointing at their sin that we make it impossible to point them to Jesus.

I am fearful that we have become the Pharisees of the 20th century. "... You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to" (Matthew 23:13-14). Jesus went on to speak about personal confession in that chapter. Fellow Southern Baptists, it is time that we get right before our God.

It is time for us (the president on down) to get on our knees and ask forgiveness for this self-righteous attitude that permeates our denomination. It is time for God to break us and remold us.

Patrick McGill, associate  
pastor, Salem Church  
Knoxville 37938

## Our heritage

Editor Fletcher Allen's May 28 editorial on Religious Liberty was right on target. This subject is even more urgent now that the Supreme Court has struck down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

All citizens, especially all Baptists, should write Congress and ask their representatives to take whatever action they can to prevent the sure erosion of our religious liberty if we aren't vigilant.

The Amendment to the Constitution proposed by Rep. Istook, however, is definitely not the answer.

It opens the door for tax dollars being used for parochial schools and other government meddling in religious affairs.

Much competition and division would occur as everyone from Farrakhan to Falwell would want his hand in the pot, and various groups would want the most time given to their brand of religion.

It is essential that we Baptists, of all people, do our part to maintain the freedom of conscience and separation of church and state our forebears provided for us.

Let's "stand firm" as they did against a blurring of the separation of church and state.

Diane Jordan  
Talbot 37877

## Minister needed

We need a new youth minister at International Baptist Church (IBC), Singapore. This person must be teachable, sincere, a leader, and willing to come to Singapore. Seminary education is desirable but not required.

This will be an opportunity to reach young people from all over the world who are living in Singapore with their parents. Currently we have 30 nationalities in our church.

Our church has experienced growth over the last few years and we see no end in sight to the potential for growth.

I can be contacted at the address below or at the following numbers: (65) 466-4911, (65) 258-2289, or (65) 9662-5280.

David Packer, pastor  
IBC  
90 King's Road  
Singapore 268142



**RIDGEVIEW CHURCH**, Church Hill, broke ground for a new 430-seat sanctuary/education building. Ridgeview was a mission of Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel. Breaking ground, from left, were Paul Chinery, Pastor Mark Dance, Randy Perciful, Jim Hurd, Gary Wolfe, Margaret Dockery, Dan Carter, and Don Chapman.



**FOR THE EIGHTH** year First Church, Martin, sponsored the Servant Singers and F.B. LIGHT Orchestra in an end of semester mission trip recently to Flint, Mich. There were 19 singers and 11 instrumentalists, all but one students at the University of Tennessee, Martin. One of the instrumentalists was a "grandma" who had not played trombone for 40 years. The group worked with Mt. Carmel Church in Flint, along with Clio Road Church and a Baptist center in Detroit. In addition to singing they did survey work and other activities. The group was led by Elwood Doss Jr., minister of music/senior adults at First Church, Martin, and organized by Larry Standridge, formerly of Lansing, Mich.

## Tennessee Baptists — at work, on mission



**ABOVE, MEN FROM** Mt. Carmel Church, Cleveland, recently did volunteer work at Camp Linden painting, building and installing eight outdoor wooden benches, general cleanup and repair work, and other miscellaneous tasks. Working at Camp Linden has become an annual event for the church. The men involved were George Sefcik, Jerry Arms, Benny Bridges, James Teatattiller, Jim Eslinger, Don Cartwright, Danny Sutton, and Jim Laub.

# Taking positive position is best

**S**outhern Baptists may be surprised that the world doesn't stop everything and listen when we make some pronouncements. It can be even more surprising to learn that the world may not care at all about our motions, resolutions, and actions at the annual meeting.

The world may think we are good for entertainment once in a while, but what we do does not always grab the attention of the world. People don't seem to like to deal with moral issues.

So it is not surprising to know that people paid more attention to Southern Baptists' resolution dealing with The Disney Company and other entertainment groups — than anything else we tried to accomplish.

It is sad to realize that subjects such as debate on the Disney resolution had more impact than the other things we did.

And that's not entirely the fault of non-Baptists. You see, we don't always live as we should, and others really delight in watching Southern Baptists in our less than finest hours.

The recent annual meeting in Dallas is no exception. Some of our best accomplishments came on Wednesday night when our mission boards led powerful testimonies given by new Christians, and Adrian Rogers preached — both undergirded by a fabulous mass choir. But that's not what some will remember about Southern Baptist's 140th annual session.

They are saying that Southern Baptists are trying to cause the downfall of Disney. But there were many other high moments when reports were made and

speakers opened their hearts and preached the words of salvation. But these won't be remembered like the Disney resolution.

Elections of leaders, and reports of successes will play second fiddle to the Disney resolution.

Some people voted on that resolution and left the convention center after dropping the rest of their ballots into the trash cans, heading home.

The criticism Southern Baptists have received following the Dallas meeting was to be expected.

A strong statement of careful rebuke for Disney and similar companies probably would have been as potent and more likely to succeed.

Some points to remember:

- Disney's leaders don't seem to have any concern about Southern Baptist views.

- We should act with conviction and strength rather than talk with threats, no matter what the plan is.

- We can speak up for clean, wholesome entertainment.

- We can be pro-active with alternatives.

- Follow a concerted, well-developed plan.

- We can develop a strong position through direct and solid dialogue.

- Disney's leaders know that most families, including Southern Baptist families, are "hooked" on entertainment via television, movies, and videos, and apparently they are not afraid of a Baptist boycott.

- Baptists need constantly to spell out in detail our position on various moral issues, including company

support for homosexual partners in the homes.

Much will be said and written, but let's be positive about our personal views — and avoid being labeled as naysayers on ethics and moral issues.

There is much to be done in the area of morals and ethical concerns. Let's lead the way. **B&R**



## On broad shoulders

Do you like to ride on someone's shoulders? Is it tempting to let someone else shoulder the burden, carry the blame?

Paul the Apostle wrote that we are to bear one another's burdens, and he also said that we are to bear our own burdens.

Bernard of Chartes, French philosopher who lived about eight centuries ago, also talked about shoulders. He used to say that we are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants.

We can see more than the giants can see, and things at a greater distance, not by virtue of any sharpness of sight on our part, or any physical distinction, but because we are carried high and raised up by their giant size.

Still we small ones like to ride on the giants' shoulders so we can see the Light. **B&R**

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

## Wanted: some real heroes for tough situations

On Memorial Day, all the children at my school marched from the school to the town square in measured cadence, and laid flowers on the monument standing there.

We were not all in step, nor were we interested in action on the sidelines. We were about serious business.

The evening before — or early on the morning of the marching, we had gone into our mothers' flower gardens and plucked the best of the blossoms.

Led by the high school band, we marched to the town square. We each had a moment or two to carefully and reverently lay our flowers on the stones that marked the memorial to the fallen soldiers of the Southland, Confederates.

Before you leap to politically correct reprimands, remember that this was only 75 or so years since the end of the tragic South-North conflict.

As for me and my school mates, we were simply paying our respects to the

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

glory of the heroes whose names we knew, generals at age 30, hardened veterans of merciless combat at sixteen or seventeen — men of all ages.

I don't remember all my thoughts as we walked along. I was persuaded by the music of the band, and the rippling colors — and the flowers.

And the flowers seemed to be an appropriate tribute to the memory of brave men. The sweet aroma invoked nostalgia — not for what we had experienced, but about the good in all that we heard.

Those days are gone forever — but there are memories that linger.

I don't recall anyone talking about exploits or battles or "them Yankees."

World War II came along and with it came an exciting and euphoric aura of

righteous patriots. The war galvanized any ill will toward any part of The United States, turned it into a powerful and sacrificial war effort against the Axis powers.

The call came forth for a concentration of resources and manpower, and renewed spiritual fervor. And no matter how much we honor them, heroes also have been responsible for mistakes and careless deeds.

The trumpets sounded for a concentration of resources and manpower, strengthened by spiritual fervor.

Most people have heroes. Some got our attention when we were very young, and as we grew older, we honored men and women of character and a spirit of godliness.

It's all right to have heroes — but real heroes are those who give everything for a good cause and stand by without flinching. We need them for a world gone awry.



ALLEN

## Here's a legal perspective on convention's resolution

**Question: Does the proposed boycott of The Disney Company have any legal ramifications?**

Boycotts are economic measures intended to bring leverage to bear in order to influence behavior or policies of businesses or organizations. They usually do not have legal ramifications.

However, the behavior and policies of Disney, as well as other entities in the entertainment industry, do have legal ramifications, albeit indirect.

I have been convinced for years that much of the crime, violence, deceit, divorce, and sexual immorality that we lawyers deal with daily, has been powerfully influenced, if not provoked, by the entertainment in our culture (Ephesians 4:18-19)

### families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

The human mind is not like a garbage can that once filled with the repulsive and debased, can then be emptied, cleaned, and even sterilized.

Once there, images, behaviors, and values, remain and influence a person's life view and may significantly change his behavior.

The choice is ours to be either exalted in our thinking and spirit, or debased (Romans 8:6-8, Ephesians 5:8-11). Our witness as well as our spiritual and mental wellbeing are at stake (Romans 12:2).

Someone insightfully pointed out that

most parents would not let a stranger come into the home and talk about or advocate much of the behavior and values portrayed on television. Yet they permit their children to watch programs that influence them even more powerfully.

We cannot shield our children from all that is ugly and sinful in society, but we have a profound responsibility to control what we can of their influences (Proverbs 22:6).

These are compelling reasons for Christians to avoid such entertainment as a matter of lifestyle, regardless of boycotts.

If we did so, eventually lawyers would be financially poorer, but we individually and the nation collectively would be infinitely spiritually wiser. ■

### Just for today

By Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis

#### Start with a smile

Steve: "Joe's a great salesman. He can sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo."

Sam: "Jim's even greater at selling. He can sell an Eskimo a refrigerator with an ice cube dispenser."

#### Take this truth

Do you remember the old song called, "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better?"



WOOD

Will Rogers gave us another interesting thought. He said that we are all ignorant — we're just ignorant on different

subjects. And another old cliché says that variety is the spice of life. Let's not waste our time being jealous of the other person. Remember that God only wants us to be good, not better than someone else!

#### Memorize this Scripture

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit" — I Corinthians 12:4.

#### Pray this prayer

Lord save me from envying another who has a gift I do not possess, and to use my own gifts from you. ■

# Court strikes down RFRA

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled June 25 that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is unconstitutional.

In a 6-3 decision, the majority ruled the law, which was signed into effect by President Bill Clinton in November 1993, is a matter for the federal courts and states to consider and not the U.S. Congress.

"Our free exercise rights as

American citizens are in peril," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Land called the Supreme Court action "the worst religious liberty decision of the last 50 years." ■

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## Executive Board Position Openings

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces that applications are being accepted for the following positions:

- Christian Growth Development Group — secretary
- Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group — administrative secretary
- Missions Awareness & Involvement Group — administrative secretary
- Communications Services Group — Design Coordinator

Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position.



Dr. Gerald L. Stow, staff, and trustees of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes cordially invite you to attend ceremonies dedicating the

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes  
State Office Building  
10:00 a.m.

Friday, July 25, 1997

RSVP by calling 1-800-624-8591 before 7-21-97

The State Office is located on the Middle Tennessee Campus at 1310 Franklin Road, Brentwood.

## Classified



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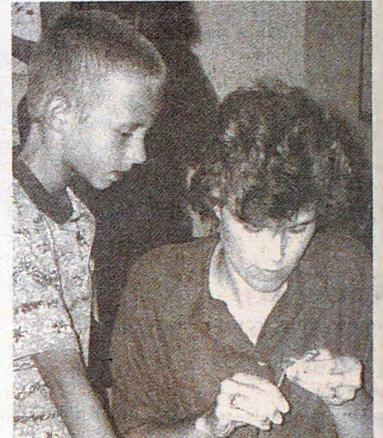
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**YOUTH MINISTER:** Chattanooga church is searching for youth minister (part-time). Interested and qualified individuals may submit resume to: Search Committee, Lookout Valley Baptist Church, 23 Lilac Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37419.

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you or your church group can make it possible for a child from one of our homes to attend.

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3. Children feel the call of God to Christian ministry.
4. Children meet new friends.

*(Last year 34 received Christ as Lord and Savior, six rededicated their lives and one made a commitment to full-time Christian service.)*

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## Encouragement

By Aubrey Hay

**Focal: Psalm 42:1-43:5**

Life for most of us is lived between the poles of despair and hope. Death and birth often occur in our lives at the same time, creating an emotional shock wave to our system that takes some while to overcome.

Being a pastor most of my adult life I have stood before congregations with examples of this contrast between hope and despair. A young couple with eyes only for each other sat smiling with anticipation of their future together illustrating this spirit of hope. In the next pew a new widow sits, fresh from the graveside of her husband of many years, contemplating what her tomorrows will hold. There will be times in our lives when we will be on the edge of despair even as there will be times of exhilarating hope.

Such is life. The psalmist reflects this as he wrote eloquently of his longing for God, even as he experiences what he felt was God's absence.

There is movement from despair to hope in these verses. There is the progression of the person of faith as he struggles with the ambivalent feelings that are a part of life. It is virtually a road map for all of us who follow after him, doing battle in our turn, with life's deep issues.

**The longing of a troubled heart.** This is a picture of a young animal running for her life, parched with thirst, seeking the flowing stream where her thirst can be satisfied. One would be hard pressed to find words of greater beauty and pathos. There is a universal need for God. H.G. Wells says there is a "God-shaped blank" in each of us. Unfortunately, this is not universally recognized, but for those who have struggled with life's problems, the need of God reaches the height of a life-giving thirst. The analogy of "flowing stream" for God is a graphic picture of God's grace.

**The power of spiritual recollections.** The memory is a powerful aid in our spiritual sojourn. Memory aids us in worship as we recall those times when God's grace was present. Jesus taught us the Lord's Supper is a meaningful picture of his sacrifice and he instructed us to "do this in remembrance of me." The psalmist recalls the trips to the temple when life was simpler and things were better for him. The recall of times past assisted him as he trudged his way through the darkness of his life. One has called memory the "archives of the soul." If ever a statement of support for consistently filling the mind with spiritual truth is needed, this is surely one. The doldrums of his life are dispelled as he recalls "how it was before."

**A plea and affirmation of restoration.** There is progression in his spiritual quest as he goes from despair to hope. There are times when his trouble has been so great, those around him asked: "Where is thy God?" He had asked it of himself. Struggles with doubt and faith are always obvious. The question of where God is may be the sneering inquiry of the unbeliever. It can also be asked of believers who struggle much like Martha struggled at the death of Lazarus to understand the ways of God. The psalmist asks, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" Consecrated introspection can be a healthy exercise when wading through life's deep problems. The answer, "hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him." He is now emerging from the cocoon of despair and doubt. He has entered the dark tunnel of trouble, and now he sees the light at the other end. All of us have times when we need encouragement. — Hay is Director of Church Ministers Relations, TBC Executive Ministries.

## Captain of salvation

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

**Focal: Hebrews 2:5-11, 14-18**

When you need help, on whom do you call? Is there a helpful neighbor, someone at church, a family member who will answer your plea?

We need to remember that Jesus Christ is the "captain of our salvation," and we can follow him with confidence that he will guide and help us on dangerous or friendly paths, and at all times.

Often I will choose the wrong line in a grocery store or fast food place. My line will have a new clerk, prices have to be checked, or there is an indecisive customer in front of me.

But in serious situations, even tragedy, I can line up behind Jesus and follow him with confidence.

In this Scripture, there are three reasons for following Jesus.

**Place of humanity — vv. 5-8.** Hebrews 2 shows Christ's superiority in being the perfect representative of humankind.

What does God see in humanity that makes him observe us closely? The universe is so vast that we cannot grasp its size — so why does God have special con-

### Family Bible Lesson

cern for people? Simply because people are the most significant of God's creation. Even angels, in their order of rule, will not be above people. The world to come will not be subject to angels.

Quoting from Psalm 8, the writer describes again the ceaseless wonder of God's creation. God loves humans so much that he took a human body and died as a substitute for sinners. Verse 7 reminds us of our position, and that we have difficult choices to make.

**Provision of salvation, vv. 9-11.** Jesus is the answer to all of the problems caused by sin. God made

Jesus "a little lower than the angels" by sending him into the world as a human being, born to a woman. And Jesus came to earth for a purpose, "the suffering of death."

Through God's grace he extended grace to undeserving people. God poured himself into the work of redemption, taking human form.

Christ obeyed God, so he blazed the trail for us to follow. We can follow him with confidence. He has the answers we need.

**Power of priesthood, vv. 14-18.** Because of Adam's and Eve's disobedience, death came to mankind. Christ's work to defeat Satan included death on the cross. (See Romans 5:12). Jesus stood in the place of sinful people, conquering death and Satan. He is the deliverer from bondage of the fear of death. Physical death for Christians is simply a door into Christ's presence.

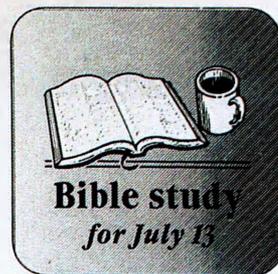
Christ was able to conquer death because he took human nature for his own — he did not take the form of angels. He took the human form and ministered to humans.

Christ Jesus is the reconciler who, like the old hymn challenges us, "O be ye reconciled to God." He represents us as our high priest.

And as he reconciles us to God, he breaks down the barrier that separates sinners from God, and gives us access to God.

Christ is a helper for us when we face temptation. He was tempted himself, and knows the struggle.

Captain of our salvation! What a strong and glorious name for Christ! Neither height nor depth, man or Satan, temptation nor desires — can separate us from the love of Christ, captain of our salvation. — Allen is editor, *Baptist and Reflector*.



## Observing the Lord's Supper

By Jerry Chapman

**Focal: I Corinthians 11:23-34**

What happens when your church observes the Lord's Supper? Is it attached to the end of a service? Is it practiced so often or so seldom that most people don't know what's happening?

Has the Lord's Supper lost its meaning for you and most of the people present? Paul wanted the Corinthians to realize the true meaning of the Lord's Supper: it is a memorial meal that celebrates Jesus' sacrificial death for the sin of all mankind.

This will never change. God set this in motion as a most sacred and holy occasion. But how we come to the meal is another matter.

Our attitudes are very important. This is the essence of what Paul is talking about here.

**Improper attitudes toward the Lord's Supper — vv. 17-22**

Paul's "instruction" came as a command from Christ. He was disappointed with the attitudes the Corinthians were practicing during the Lord's Supper. The first improper attitude was disunity. There were divisions among the people of a social nature.

The rich and the poor didn't get along. In addition there were small

### Explore the Bible Lesson

cliques that isolated themselves from the rest of the church.

When the Corinthians met they would eat a meal. The rich would arrive early, indulge themselves to the point of gluttony and then shun the poor.

The rich were stuffed and drunk. The poor were sober and hungry. This was not the Lord's Supper at all.

Thus, they practiced the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner." All of us come to the table unworthy in that we are all sinners.

But when we tip the scales intentionally toward irreverence and degradation then we will be judged accordingly by God himself.

**Proper attitudes toward the Lord Supper — vv. 27-34**

Paul reminded the Corinthians that the Lord's Supper is a holy ordinance instituted by Jesus himself. To come to the table with an improper attitude is to profane the "body and blood of the Lord." In fact it makes us "guilty" of sin and disputes the results of Christ's death on the cross.

So when we come to the Lord's table there must be a proper attitude.

This includes being honest enough with ourselves to "examine" or test our lives before Christ. Known sin or any wrongful attitude toward the meal itself, Christ or some person must be cleared up. If we don't do this then we bring "judgment" on ourselves.

This means to discern the Lord's Supper as different and special than any other meal. Paul indicated that spiritual problems and physical illnesses may result from an improper attitude.

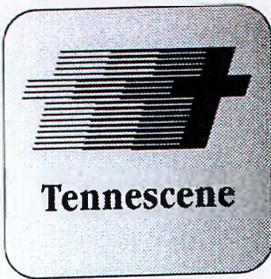
The Corinthians failed to judge themselves. So they left themselves open to God's judgment.

The message is clear to us today. Don't allow the Lord's Supper to become routine and ritual. Examine yourself before taking of the bread and cup.

Make sure things are right between you and God as well as between you and your fellowman. When that takes place then unity and worship take on completely new and yet biblical meanings. — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Ministries.

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Tennescene

leaders

■ Eudora Church, Memphis, has called **R. Trevis Otey Jr.**, as pastor, effective July 27. Otey is pastor of Highland Park Church, Columbia.

■ **Allen Farris**, pastor, Antioch Church, Johnson City, has been called as pastor, Central Church, Chattanooga. A graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Farris also was a pastor in Cleveland.

■ **Paul Bragg**, 1995 graduate of Union University, Jackson, has been called as minister of youth, children, senior adults, First Church, Greenfield.

■ **Mark McSwain**, pastor, Maple Springs Church, Medon, graduated May 31 with honors from Union University, Jackson.

■ Niles Ferry Church, Greenback, has called **John "Sonny" Fultz** as pastor, effective June 1. Fultz was pastor of Rocky Point Church, near Morristown.

■ Clearview Church, Franklin, has called **Bret R. Robbe** as pastor, effective July 6. Robbe has served Bellevue Church, Owensboro, as pastor for six years. Robbe is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and has a D.Min. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has served churches in Lexington, Ky.,



ROBBE

and St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. He has done mission work in Brazil, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Philippines, Mali, and the United States. Robbe recently served with the executive director search committee in Kentucky.

■ **Kim Medley Burke**, former director of communications, Southern Baptist Historical Commission, became communications specialist, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Brentwood, effective July 7. A graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Burke has served with the Historical Commission since 1989. Burke also was a part-time staff member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. She is married to Joe Burke of Nashville.

■ **Houston E. Inman**, former pastor, First Church, Loudon, is available to serve as a supply pastor, interim pastor, or on a church staff leading ministry in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound, absentee members, prospects, and non-Christians. He also is available to lead activities for senior adults and to provide entertainment. He may be contacted by calling (423) 670-2846 or writing to 9910 Locklear Way, Knoxville, TN 37931.



INMAN

■ **First Church, Memphis**, ordained the following as deacons June 22: **Kenneth Dale Beaty, Todd A. Clayton, Eleanor Caraway Griffin, Michael T. Hartsfield, Martha Hawkes, Margaret Ann Martin, Janie Pople, Karen Thomas, Michael D. Ward, Cathy Neal Wilhelm, and Ira Wooten.**

people

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■ **Colonial View Church, Cookeville**, ordained **Donald Kidd and Nathan Twitty** as deacons June 22.

■ **First Church, Sparta**, recently held a reception to honor **Della Mae Pollard** for serving more than 20 years as church secretary. She was succeeded by Carol Blaylock.

■ **Charles and Helen Pester**, members of Boone Trail Church, Gray, celebrated their 50th anniversary in June. Charles Pester was a pastor for 17 years in Holston and Watauga associations until he was injured in a car accident. Pester is a quadriplegic but still preaches when called upon. The couple leads several ministries including a prayer chain and a Sunday School class at a nursing home. They are the parents of Ruth McNabb of Marion, N.C., Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union president, 1993-95.

■ **Lakeview Church, Harriman**, recently ordained **Michael Ray Beach and Marvin Lee Galyon** as deacons.

churches

■ **Laneview Church, Kenton**, recently hosted its first Bible Conference in which area pastors brought messages and praise leaders performed during two days of sessions. Evening meals were provided by women of the church.

■ **Broadmoor Church, Memphis**, held Freedom Sunday June 29 to celebrate freedom from a 12-year debt, freedom in Christ, and freedom as a nation. Eight churches from the community participated in the activities and one church in Romania sent a video to participate. Broadmoor Church helped start the church in Romania.

■ **Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport**, recently held a revival focused toward youth. "Booney" Crawford, minister of students, Antioch Church, Johnson City, and Darryl Riden, minister of youth and children, Sullivan Church, Kingsport, led it. One person made a profession of faith and many rededicated their lives.

■ **Trinity Church, Cordova**, will hold a series of seminars "Parenting Today's Teens" in July on Thursday evenings. Speakers include a psychologist with the public school system; director of Family Systems Associates, Memphis; medical director of a behavioral health system; and the pastor, Earl Davis. For more information, call (901) 759-5955.



**BABY ROBINS** enjoy their home in a wreath hanging on the front door of the Delano Church, Delano. Karen Newman of the church reported that their appearance dispelled any thoughts that the nest was the work of the church's decorating committee. As people passed by the nest, the mother robin seemed proud of her brood, said Newman. The nest has drawn many visitors to the church, she added.

■ **Silverdale Church, Chattanooga**, held a Week of Jubilee June 22-28 to observe the dedication of its new facilities including a 1,379-seat sanctuary, office suite, music suite, and classrooms. Special guests were Rick Coram, evangelist; Bob Pitman, pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis; Junior Hill, evangelist; Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson; and Dannie Williams, pastor, Peniel Church, Palatka, Fla.

■ **Peyton Creek Church, Monville Community, Carthage**, will hold a homecoming and its 185th anniversary celebration July 20. Activities will include a dinner on the ground and a musical performance in the afternoon.

■ **Mercer Church, Mercer**, will hold revival Aug. 3-6. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

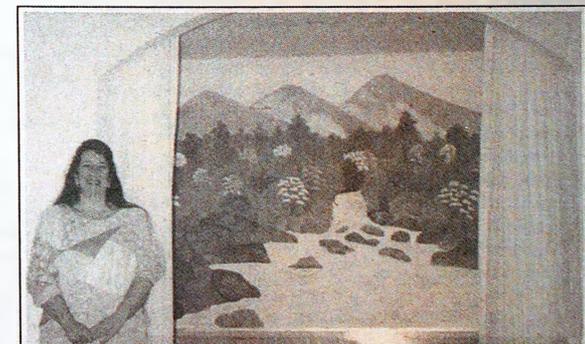
state events

■ More than 390 students in grades 7-12 are meeting in Knoxville, for a **World Tour** national missions project July 5-12. They are ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of residents in low-income communities. World Tour is a part of World Changers, a program of the North American Mission Board.

■ **Clay Frazier**, 68, pastor emeritus, Alpha Church, Morristown, and former member, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, died June 1 after a long illness. Frazier served on the board from 1981-87 and on the TBC Committee on the Journal 1978-81. He retired from Alpha Church after nine years. After retirement he served as interim pastor, Bethel Church, Morristown, and Buffalo Trail Church, Morristown. He also served churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. In Tennessee he served as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel, 1974-85. He is survived by his wife, Pearl Price Frazier, and three children.

deaths

■ **Tim Petree**, 23, son of Glen Petree, director of missions, Campbell County Association, died June 5 from injuries suffered in an explosion at his work place.



**STANDING** by the mural she painted in the baptistry at Lakeview Church, Harriman, is Alisa Smith of Harriman, who donated the painting. The mural was presented on the 52nd anniversary of the church recently. Speaking that day was former pastor H. M. James. A luncheon and afternoon musical program also was held.



**GATHERED** during the June 22 125th anniversary celebration of First Church, Atwood, are some of those who participated in the festivities. Special speaker was Lawson Williamson, who was ordained by the church in 1954. Activities included a luncheon and afternoon program.