

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

July 16, 1997

## this week's news

- ▶ State pastors to gather for retreat at Camp Carson in August. — Page 2
- ▶ Disney woes continue — Page 2
- ▶ Nashville team aids flood victims in North Dakota and Minnesota. — Page 4
- ▶ Find out what's happening in partnership missions with Poland, Costa Rica, Michigan, and Canada. See 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 5-8

## B&R schedules special edition

For Baptist and Reflector

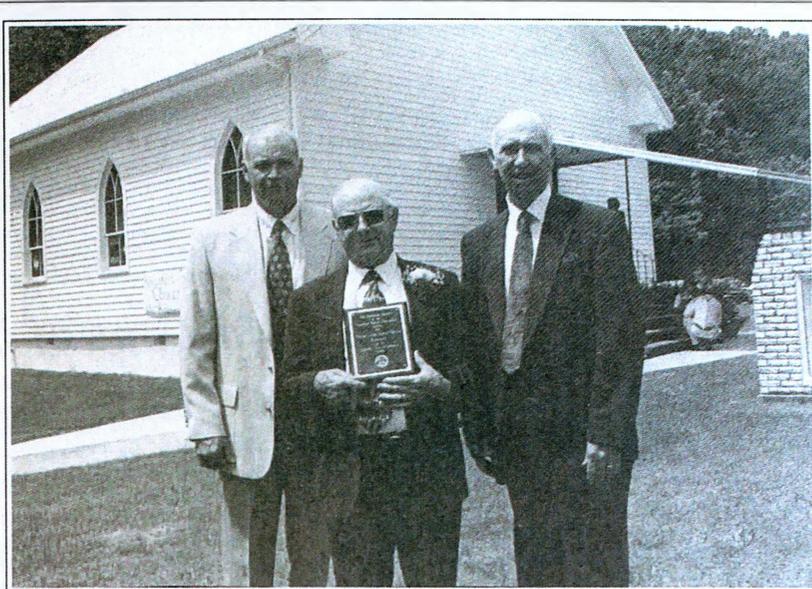
BRENTWOOD — August 17 has been designated as *Baptist and Reflector* Day, and readers will receive a bonus in the paper's Aug. 13 issue.

The paper will contain a 8-page insert provided by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, focusing on the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Golden State Missions Offering.

The papers with insert will be offered in bulk to churches.

"This issue is planned for our regular readers, with an invitation to those churches and individuals who are not subscribers," said Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen. "And the Aug. 13 paper will carry regular features plus current news and features of interest to Tennessee Baptists."

He urged churches to contact the *Baptist and Reflector* office soon if they want copies of this special edition. The phone number is (615) 371-2003, and orders should be placed by Aug. 1. ■



### 150th anniversary recognition

Pastor John Crawford, center, of Walker's Fork Church, Kingsport, holds a plaque presented by Tommy Holtzclaw, right, director of missions for Sullivan Association, on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. With them is Lynn Carr, song director of the church. Walker's Fork members observed the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church which was established in 1847 with about 44 charter members. The day's festivities included messages from former pastors Orville Dolen, Donald Douglas, and Ray Anderson, along with special music. Church members also released balloons carrying their names and addresses as part of the celebration. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



### POLAND PARTNERS

- ▶ Frank Messick honored upon 60 years of ministry. — Page 9

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## Questionnaire provides profile of SBC pastors

By Charles Willis  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Few Southern Baptists would be surprised to learn that most of their denomination's pastors are Caucasian men between 36 and 50 years of age, married, and with children living at home.

But additional information gleaned from 1,400 responses to a recently completed random survey by the Baptist Sunday School Board provides a multidimensional view of pastors and presents insights that may result in better-focused denominational resources.

Data from the eight-part questionnaire will be used by the board's church leadership services division to help meet pastors' personal and professional development needs, according to Mike Miller, division director, and Don Mathis, director of the board's pastor-staff leadership department that administered the project.

Geographic spread of responses included 39 states from all major continental U.S. regions, as well as Hawaii and Alaska. Almost 39 percent of the churches represented are rural, 25 percent urban, and almost 36 percent suburban.

Among responses signaling changing lifestyles among pastors' families are that more than half indicated they owned their own homes and their wives also are employed.

In the area of pastoral compensation, slightly more than 50 percent reported an annual compensation package between \$30,000 and \$49,000. Another 25 percent indicated they received a package of more than \$50,000. At the lowest end, fewer than 3 percent indicated they earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than 65 percent defined their compensation as "salary and housing with additional benefits," with another 30 percent indicating the church gives them freedom to determine the breakdown of their benefits.

Fewer than 3 percent indicated they receive no benefits beyond salary and housing.

Almost 70 percent of pastors indicated they feel their financial compensation is equitable considering their experience, training, and the community they serve. The remaining 30 percent who did not feel equitably compensated cited inequity compared to churches of comparable size more than other factors, including awareness that the church is unable to pay more and high cost of living in their locale.

Vacation days provided pastors, for more than 43 percent of respondents, ranged from 11 to 15 days. Another 27 percent said they are entitled to between 16 and 25 days. In contrast, however, most pastors reported taking less than 10 days vacation during the previous 12 months.

Pastors cited their greatest joys in ministry as witnessing and seeing people saved, changed lives, and growth, along with preaching. ■

## Summer workers leave Cambodia

Baptist Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thirty Southern Baptist summer workers fled an intense street war in Cambodia July 9 and returned to the United States July 11.

The summer workers, had planned to teach conversational English in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Nearly half of the students were from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

With the student workers were four families assigned to the Southern Baptist organization Cooperative Services International, which organized the teaching jobs.

The students sought safety before leaving for Thailand and then the U.S. in the home of CSI workers Steve and Patti Ellis July 5 after troops of rival prime ministers squared off against each other with mortar and machine gun fire. ■

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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## Pastors' Retreat to focus on 'Power of Prayer,' fellowship

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The annual Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Retreat will be held Aug. 11-14 at Camp Carson in Newport.

The retreat will focus on the "Power of Prayer."

Speakers include the three officers of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference — Morris Anderson, First Church, Pigeon Forge; John Rushing, Northside Church, Columbia; and Jimmy Terry, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville — who are serving as camp co-pastors. Other speakers are Frank Blevins, pastor First Church, Bluff City; Anthony Jackson, church planter from Memphis; and Jerry King, for-

mer TBC evangelism specialist who was granted medical disability effective May 1.

King will be honored during the Wednesday evening banquet.

A series of Bible studies focusing on the Book of Luke, the 1998 Winter Bible Study topic, will be led by Art Burcham, retired Baptist Sunday School Board staffer.

Tracy Wilson, minister of music at First Church, Dan-dridge, will serve as camp musician. Special music will be provided by 4Glory, a quartet from First Church, Sevierville.



ANDERSON



BURCHAM



KING



RUSHING



TERRY

The cost of the retreat is \$85 and includes meals, air-conditioned lodging, and program. Registration will be held on Monday from 2-5 p.m. with the first session beginning at 7 p.m.

Recreation is also an emphasis of the retreat and will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons under the direction of Archie Fendley of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville.

A talent show will be held Tuesday evening. Pastors who wish to participate should contact Jim Millsaps, pastor of Royce Baptist Church, 131 LaSalle Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 37830.

A \$5 registration fee should be sent to: Pastors' Retreat, Evangelism/Missions Strategies, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024; by Aug. 1. ■

## SBC boycott just one of Disney's woes this summer

By Art Toalston  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As Wall Street stock prices continue soaring to new records, The Disney Company has become a notable exception.

The nation's media has taken notice. *The New York Times*, for example, reported July 10 the price of Disney stock "has slipped 9.7 percent from its 52-week high of \$85.375 a share on May 12 to close yesterday at \$77.0625."

The Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, was hovering near 8,000 in mid-July, up from an unprecedented 7,000-mark just months earlier.

Meanwhile, Disney's latest animated feature, "Hercules," tallied \$58 million in its first two weeks in theaters — a "poor showing," according to *The New York Times* article — roughly equal to last year's slump with "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," compared to "Pocahontas" and "The Lion King" the previous two years.

More troubles may be ahead — of Disney's own making. After its self-congratulatory transformation of "Ellen" into network TV's first lead homosexual character this spring, a move applauded by the homosexual rights movement and deeply grieved by numerous evangelicals, Disney's ABC-TV will feature a sitcom about a parish priest, titled "Nothing Sacred," this fall at 8 p.m. Eastern on Thursdays.

Disney/ABC's description of the show: "It's tough being a priest in the '90s. Just ask Father Ray. In one morning alone, he's nearly been fired for advising a pregnant teenager to follow her own instincts. He's had to turn down a bribe in the confessional, even though he's desperate for money to keep his church afloat. His college flame has just walked back into his life and re-ignited old passions. And now his mentor is asking him to deliver a sermon proving the existence of God. How should he know if God exists? ... he hasn't even finished the book yet!"

Additionally, Walt Disney World in Florida and Disneyland in California will

continue to be a key focus of the homosexual movement's yearly "gay days" — which have left vacationing families shocked after not being alerted by Disney sales people of the multitudes of homosexuals on hand for the "celebration."

On July 3, the day after a *New York Post* report on Disney's near 10-percent decline, the American Family Association issued a statement declaring the Southern Baptist Convention's Disney boycott "is beginning to put heat on the mammoth corporation."

"As momentum builds for this boycott," said AFA Vice President Tim Wildmon, "I think we'll see more and more people ending their financial relationship with a company that no longer shares their values."

*The New York Times* article predicted, however, Disney should be able to "withstand ... conservative Christian protests." The paper attributed Disney's struggles to management upheavals at ABC, the disappointing "Hercules" box office, and less-than-hoped-for theme park attendance. ■

## NAMB positions remain to be filled

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Officials of the North American Mission Board have released a roster of the management-level employees hired by Southern Baptists' new domestic missions agency, although a number of positions are still being filled.

NAMB was created in June by a merger of the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission.

Two positions filled to date come from outside the three agencies. Georgia pastor John Yarbrough will serve as NAMB's lead strategy coordinator and liaison between NAMB and state Baptist conventions in the east while Dewey Hickey, executive director of the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship, will serve as director/missionologist for the leadership enlistment and training team of NAMB's church planting group. ■

## Two generations of lost stewards must be replaced, says BSSB's Gary Aylor

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Gary Aylor believes Southern Baptists have lost two generations of stewards and he wants to replenish the deficit as quickly as possible.

Aylor, who holds a new assignment for the Baptist Sunday School Board, director of stewardship services, as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring, said "if we lose another generation, we will be in dire straits as a denomination."

Speaking to participants in the National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, July 4-11, Aylor said a research project several years ago indicated that 80 cents of every dollar given to Southern Baptist churches in Texas came from people 55 and older.

"We have to teach our children about stewardship," he insisted. "I learned to

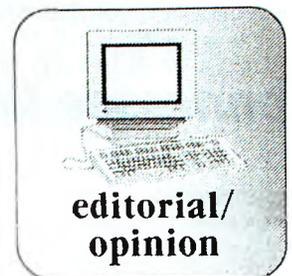
give a dime of every dollar when I was a child, and I couldn't wait to give it in Sunday School because I knew that money belonged to God."

Aylor said Christians have two choices of attitude related to stewardship. "You can approach it with clinched fists and the attitude that it is all yours, and God wants 10 percent of it back. Or you can see that it is all God's, and he lets you keep 90 percent."

In beginning work on the board's new assignment, Aylor announced five areas of focus — leadership development, financial planning, capital fund-raising, stewardship promotion and planning, and financial planning for churches planning to build. Goals have been developed for each area.

The board also will introduce new publication this fall for churches — *Stewardship Journal: Strategies for Faith and Practice*. ■

# To be effective, it has to be read



**C**lear and concise explanations of the purpose of the *Baptist and Reflector* — and the work of the staff — aren't always understood. The results of the work should be apparent as we produce a paper week by week. But sometimes our customers may have a different idea or purpose in mind.

Since Sunday, August 17, is on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar as *Baptist and Reflector* Day, we are reminded of the value of relationships, and making our purpose clear.

Recently while walking from the hotel to the convention center in Dallas, we paused in front of the building that is home for the *Dallas Morning News*.

Emblazoned on the building's front in huge letters was this amazing slogan:

*"Build the news upon the rock of righteousness. Conduct it always upon the lines of fairness and integrity. Acknowledge the right of the people to get from the newspaper both sides of every important question."*

Several years ago the *Baptist and Reflector* board of directors adopted a similar statement of purpose. Integrity and fairness, coupled with the right of the people, forge a strong promise. We try to stay true to the purpose.

A story about a rabbi and a soapmaker, and their discussion of religion, is a good example of the proper use of a tool such as the paper.

The soapmaker and the rabbi were discussing the value of religion. You might expect at least

two views to be expressed. As they walked along the village streets, the soapmaker remarked to the rabbi, "Rabbi, what good is religion? It has been around for thousands of years, and we still have evil, murders, theft, dishonesty. What good is religion?"

They continued walking along the village streets. Finally they came upon a group of small children, playing in the mud, getting dirty and enjoying themselves.

The rabbi turned to the soapmaker and asked, "Soapmaker, what good is soap? We have had soap for thousands of years, and we still have filth and mud and dirty children. What good is soap?"

The soapmaker replied, "Why rabbi, everyone knows that for soap to be effective, it has to be used!"

"Precisely, my friend," answered the rabbi. "And so does religion."

We might change the scene and substitute "newspaper" or *Baptist and Reflector* for the subject of the question. What good is the *Baptist and Reflector*?

Well, friends, it has to be used (read) in order to be effective. It must be read.

The paper has been around for 162 years — and it has proven to be effective, useful, *when it is read!*

Many Tennessee Baptist churches will observe August 17 as *Baptist and Reflector* Day. We encourage Tennessee Baptists to observe that day by recognizing the paper publicly as the only official newsjournal for Tennessee Baptists. Take time to explain to

the congregation why it is important to have news of Baptist people and churches at work, and that the *B&R* is the only supplier of that news.

The paper is an important link between the churches and the work of the Executive Board and its many ministries accomplished by the board's staff.

We suggest that associational leaders and local churches support the paper by taking a few minutes on August 17 to explain the paper's purpose and needs.

Associations can help by planning to include the paper among those items needing support — as a viable team member.

The *Baptist and Reflector* can (and should) be used as a partner in the ministries that Tennessee Baptists undertake.

The paper reports on news of Tennessee Baptist churches, the work of the Executive Board staff, and the institutions. The paper takes pride in providing the news from all these, so that Baptists around the state can share with each other.

We also report on actions of other state Baptist conventions, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other Baptist entities.

Celebrate with us on August 17. Be thankful for a paper that speaks the truth for its readers — in a land that honors freedom of the press. *B&R*

**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**

**Just for today**  
By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

## Telling the story honestly could be dangerous

When I was younger, perhaps braver, and more foolhardy, the world looked different — and sometimes I responded recklessly.

It was after my army "experience," and while I was in my first civilian job — when one of those times came.

Mind you, this kind of experience gives no warning, it just happens. If we have been listening to God, he is preparing us for life experiences.

We were young, and Amy wasn't even a year old. The spontaneity of these life experiences doesn't even consider a "proper" time to happen.

As sports editor of the *Florence Morning News* I had odd working hours. I liked my work and endured the 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. hours without fuss. I was often the last of the editorial staff to leave the office.

At this particular time, Florence County was the host of a civil rights trial that had been moved from another county — so that a fair trial could be held.

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Several white men were on trial for violating the civil rights of a black family. The whites had employed a rough and tough — but cunning — attorney. A burly man, he looked as if he could take care of himself and his clients.

Our paper's news editor covered the trial every day. He did his work well, when the trial seemed to be leaning toward conviction, he was straightforward. When the guilty verdict was read, he wrote what we called a prize-winning story. For several days he had endured the scowls and animosity of the defendants' attorney.

Late one night after that classic story appeared with large headlines on page one, the phone in the news room rang. I was closing the office, going home before sunrise.

It was the attorney. He started with some choice expletives and attached them to our news editor. At the 30-second mark, I hung

up. As quickly as his alcoholic brain would let him, he called again — asked me who I was, and started putting the same adjectives to my name. I hung up.

A third call, and he reminded me that he had been a champion boxer in the marines. And he threatened bodily harm and would get me when I left the office.

I defended the paper, the managing editor, myself — told him I didn't use profanity and wouldn't listen to it. Then I hung up.

The phone didn't ring again. After about five minutes I walked out into the dark street. Yes, I glanced over my shoulder. Yes, on the way home I thought about my foolhardiness. But I smiled, and I felt good.



ALLEN

### Start with a smile

Supervisor: "We've made a change in the phone answering code for payments and complaints."



WOOD

Bill: "What is the format on the menu for making a payment?"

Supervisor: "Press 5."

Bill: "What about making a complaint?"

Supervisor: "Press 1639725 and 935414."

### Take this truth

No one likes to hear pessimists make negative comments. What do you do when you encounter someone who always has a destructive criticism? Here's a suggestion. Walk away. Don't waste your time trying to answer someone with a wrong attitude!

### Memorize this Scripture

Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your eye? — Matthew 7:3.

### Pray this prayer

Lord, help me be more concerned about my immaturities so I won't criticize others. ■

## Sometimes there's a tendency to unload responsibility

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Many people are unaware of the tremendous importance and implication of emotions in our lives. Within the family we have the tendency to unload responsibility by blaming our emotions on other family members.

Our society has many voices that scream at us, "It isn't your fault — they made you feel that way." I like to quote Hezekiah 3:1 (You Bible scholars know that really is not a book in the Bible), "Every tub sits on its own bottom."

I must accept responsibility for my own feelings and what I let them motivate me to do. In Matthew 12:36 Jesus warns us that each will give an account to God on Judgment Day for every careless word. I believe in that accountability, the way in

which we responded to our emotions. One exit off the roller coaster of emotional entanglement is to decide, cognitively and volitionally, to give myself to obedience of what God wants me to do. In Romans 6 Paul shows that the best way to defeat sin is to give ourselves to righteousness. Someone said that if we will do the dos, we won't have time to worry about the don'ts.

I can then reframe my environment and those who make it up to fit that goal. In that great fourth chapter of Philippians, Paul says we can do all things through Christ who makes us stronger.

He also instructs us to set our minds on things which are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy.

I can help myself off that roller coaster by believing God is already at work in my life to accomplish what he wants and desires. It is not all up to me. The Apostle Paul assures us, "It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" — Philippians 2:13. Think on these truths when attempting to get off that roller coaster of emotional turmoil. It is in trusting not trying, resting not running, faithing and not fretting, that the battle is won.

We do not have to allow ourselves to be controlled by others through our perception that our emotions must control us. ■

# Tennessee team brings hope to flood victims

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Eight Tennessee Baptists were among dozens of Southern Baptists who participated in disaster relief work in the flooded Red River Valley area of North Dakota and Minnesota.

"The mission trip was simply the result of God's people responding to God's activity," said Pastor Chuck McElhannon

of Valley View Church, Nashville.

"I had seen the reports of flooding on television and had read about it in the papers and I just sensed that God wanted Valley View Church to get involved.

"I asked a few of our members if they were interested in going, and before I knew it, we had seven volunteers who were able to go."

After looking at a map and seeing how far they would have to drive, McElhannon challenged the congregation to give enough money to fly the team to North Dakota.

"In less than two weeks, we had more than \$2,400. God truly inspired our people to give," the pastor said.

McElhannon contacted the Missions Awareness and Involvement office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and discovered that Joan LaPlante, a member of Piney Grove Church, Harriman, wanted to join a Tennessee team in the relief effort. LaPlante joined Valley View members McElhannon, Carolyn Jackson, Alton and Ray Lincoln, Darrell Pridy, Tommy Smith, and Martha Stanley, to form a disaster relief team.

The team discovered how God blessed as soon as they arrived in Grand Forks, N.D., McElhannon noted.

Their first assignment was to clean the garage and basement of a 73-year-old widow living alone in East Grand Forks, Minn.

"When we arrived at her home, she was wandering through her garage, not knowing where to begin or what to

do. Her home had no electricity or running water.

"She was sleeping in a travel trailer that the government had set up in her driveway. She was depressed, angry, and helpless," McElhannon observed.

He noted the widow also recently had buried a son who had been murdered. "The flood seemed like the last straw. Her first words to us were, 'I can't take anymore. What am I supposed to do? First my son, and now this. It's too much.'"

McElhannon said he discovered then the mission trip stopped being about cleanup work and started about caring for people.

He noted the team had to throw away everything in her house and power wash and sanitize her home.

"It took our team nearly two days to clean her home, but by the time we were finished you could tell that she at least had a renewed hope.

"Her eyes were brighter, she was smiling, and she was a changed woman. Her last words to us were, 'Thank you so much, and God bless you. I couldn't have done it without you.'"

McElhannon cited another



instance when after he was finished a lady asked how much she owed him.

"I told her that she didn't owe us anything, that we were Southern Baptists, and we were here just doing what we felt Jesus wanted us to do.

"She began to cry and said 'Thank you.' I felt like I had done a whole lot more for her than just spraying her basement."

The Valley View members plan to build on their disaster relief work. Three of the workers are looking forward to receiving disaster relief training from the TBC and are waiting for the next opportunity to be involved in personal ministry.

"Our eyes have been opened to the real needs of real people and we're looking for ways to get involved here in our own hometown," McElhannon said.

"We know that Jesus spent his time meeting the needs of people, and that's what we want to do in Nashville." ■



THE VALLEY VIEW CHURCH disaster relief team that traveled to North Dakota recently included, from left, back row, Ray Lincoln, Alton Lincoln, Joan LaPlante (who joined the team from Piney Grove Church, Harriman), Pastor Chuck McElhannon; front row, Darrell Pridy, Martha Stanley, Carolyn Jackson, and Tommy Smith.

# Ripley church grows; pastor credits God, hard work

For Baptist and Reflector

RIPLEY — When Wayne Rowan became pastor of Calvary Hill Church in 1994 the church had only 20-25 in attendance.

The church began to grow and before long Calvary Hill had between 60-70 people actively serving the Lord.

Through the Lord's leadership and Rowan's vision the church set out to reach their community with the love of Christ.

During the past three years there have been more than 150 additions to

Calvary Hill besides the many visitors who attend each week.

Rowan's message of Christ's love and the need for a committed lifestyle has had a positive effect on Calvary Hill's growth.

Rowan noted his approach to the ministry of growing a church is simple.

"You have to want to see growth happen and you have to pay the price for growth.

"We use the Sunday School as one of our arms of growth. We use our gymnasium as a tool to reach young people. We work through a regular visitation

program using leads and prospect information that we obtain from guest information received each service.

"If you work hard, preach hard, love hard, pray hard, and pastor the way God instructed, things will happen," he said.

Rowan also gives credit to his wife, Patti. "Her ministry is to serve the Lord as a pastor's helper. She is my greatest asset in ministry. Without her my ministry would not be the same," he acknowledged, adding that she is not only his greatest friend, but also his "strongest prayer supporter."

The future of Calvary Hill looks bright, according to Rowan.

The church dedicated its newly remodeled sanctuary in late May and in June baptized its first 11 people in the new facility.

The congregation is looking toward the future with the expectation that God will continue to bless, Rowan said. "There is absolutely nothing that Calvary Hill, with the Lord's help, cannot accomplish," one member concurred.

"We've seen many great things happen here in the past three years, but it is only the beginning," said Joe Beard, chairman of deacons at Calvary Hill.

"This church should serve as an example of what God can do if his people will only rely on him and follow his will and guidance," Rowan observed.

"We have had a few growing pains, but that is expected when change occurs. You must try, but you can't please everyone," Rowan said. ■

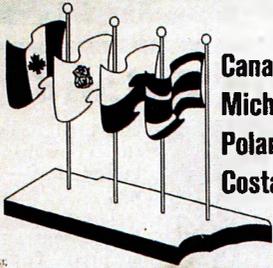


PASTOR WAYNE ROWAN, center, of Calvary Hill Church, Ripley, is flanked by deacons, from left, Joe Beard, Bobby Howard, Jerry Heathcott, Jerry Shelton, Mickey Moore, and Buster Newman. Calvary Hill recently dedicated its newly remodeled sanctuary and is continuing to grow.



## Breaking ground

Eleanor Alter, seated, a member of First Church, Greeneville, for 74 years, watches as ground is broken for FBC's new multi-purpose education/fellowship complex that is to be connected to the existing building. The facility will cost more than \$2.8 million and will include education space, a family life center with stage and shower facilities, and more. From left are James Deason, plans chairman; Mark Williams, trustee chairman; Ben Belcher, building chairman; and Pastor James Best. The project should be completed by next August.



Canada  
Michigan  
Poland  
Costa Rica

# The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

## From your missionary

Hundreds have participated already this year through our Tennessee Partnership/Volunteer Missions projects, but still many more volunteers are needed.

Our desire is to be a Mission Resource Center and to assist you to do missions wherever God may call you. Of course, we promote the projects from our partnerships.

There are many excellent volunteer mission opportunities. In fact, we have more choices today than ever before in our partnership history. Let me ask you to consider participating in one of the many opportunities we have received. Our partners depend on us. Our partners send volunteer mission projects to us and only us. If we don't fill the request, then the need goes unmet.

Many projects available today are promoted heavily by various groups and in numerous states. These projects are probably going to be filled. Our projects, if unfilled by Tennessee Baptists, will continue to go unfilled.

Let me ask you to consider one of the partnership projects. Of course, if God has laid on your heart another part of the world, then we want to assist you. The next time you think of doing a volunteer mission project, why not think Partnership/Volunteer Missions?



SHARP

## During simultaneous revivals

# 3,000 Poles hear Good News in May

By Marcia Knox  
For *The Macedonian Call*

"An opportunity of a lifetime" was available to 53 Tennessee volunteers who traveled to Poland May 18-28 to participate in 33 churches holding simultaneous revivals. It was a perfect opportunity to say "Jest Nadziesa — Chrystus" or "Here's Hope — Christ."

The statistical information from Poland is recorded and over 3,000 people heard the Good News for the first time during the revivals. A total of about 200 people made professions of faith. Likewise, the personal experiences of some Tennessee volunteers in Poland also should be noted.

Cumberland Plateau Association's director of missions, Roy Davis, said, "I served as an evangelist at the First Church of Warsaw. Out of the five worship services in the church, there were seven professions of faith."

The highlight of Davis' experience was the testimony of a man in his fifties who received the Lord. According to Davis, the man said he was a Jehovah's Witness, but later pointing to heaven the man said "I now have found the truth."

Another man who had been saved while in prison through the Gideon ministry, found victory when he understood that God would forgive him for what he had done to another man, Davis reported.

"It was a joy to experience the Christian commitment of the Polish believers. They mean business for Christ. Please pray for Baptists in Poland. They have a great challenge to reach out to their people with the Gospel. A challenge that most of us will not experience."

Ed Jent, minister of education at First Church of Millington, was assigned to present workshops on cults at the Tarnow Church. "Our work in Tarnow, Poland, resulted in 14 known deci-

sions for Christ," he said. "We had the opportunity to work in the schools, in an orphanage, and in a preschool in addition to the service we had in the church."

— See 3,000 Poles, page 6



VISITING on the street are, from left, Ann and Dick German of Winchester, who worked in evangelism. They talk with a Polish lady in a village near Dubicze Cerkiewne.

## Benefits of relationships between sister churches

By Howard Kitter  
For *The Macedonian Call*

Believing that God placed Tennessee's First Church of Bethel Springs and Dix Avenue Church, Lincoln Park, Mich., together in sister church partnership with a purpose has solidified the relationship between two pastors.

Howard Kitter of Tennessee and Ben Martin of Michigan, pray for each other and their churches regularly because of the Sister Church Covenant.

The Sister Church Covenant says the churches will pray regularly for one another, seek God's direction to fulfill the Great Commission in their — See Benefits, page 6



PASTORS of the sister churches and other Tennesseans pause during their work in Poland during May. They are, from left, first row, Ben Martin, Randy Smith, and Howard Kitter; back row, Carolyn O'Hara, Barbara Walton, Kathy Keller, and Betty Taylor.

## Volunteers lead courses on family, marriage in Poland

By Tim Holcomb  
For *The Macedonian Call*

My wife Janice and I traveled to Warsaw, Poland, on May 18 with 50 other Tennessee Baptists to do simultaneous revivals with special requests from many churches. Our assignment was to lead a marriage and family enrichment seminar for the Zeilona Gora church.

We traveled to the Polish Baptist seminary in Warsaw which was our jumping off point to trek through the countryside of Poland. Upon our arrival in Warsaw, we were able to spend Tuesday looking around the city. We learned about the devastation from World War II. It is encouraging to see a re-birth of the city and the countryside.

My wife and I were assigned to Zeilona Gora. The name of this town is "green bern." It was located about seven hours by car west of Warsaw and about two hours east of Berlin.

On Wednesday, our teams began leaving the seminary. We met our pastor, Wtodek Swirzydziuk, and we waited with great anticipation to see how we would travel 7 1/2 hours to our assignment. The car we were to ride in was a 17-year-old diesel powered Volkswagen. The car's right front tire had started wobbling badly on the pastor and the interpreter as they came from Zeilona Gora to get us. With the car repaired and after a prayer, the pastor cranked the car up, and we were headed on a real adventure for the next seven days.

Our assignment was to lead a marriage and family enrichment seminar. This topic was chosen specifically by the people of the Zeilona Gora church. We realized that though marriage enrichment was our assignment, we should include single and — See Volunteers, page 6

## Workers needed for Costa Rica crusades

Costa Rica has requested 22 teams of two people each to lead evangelistic crusades in churches from Tuesday through Sunday, Sept. 8-15. Activities include worship services and door-to-door visitation. Musicians, speakers and other volunteers are needed.

## Volunteers lead courses on family, marriage in Poland

— Continued from page 5  
divorced persons. We changed our conference to Christian relationship building.

One of the interesting parts in a partnership missions trip is the use of a translator. We were trying to develop our material in a discussion format. Every word we spoke had to go through the interpreter. When we asked a question or posed an interaction format, we had to wait for our interpreter to tell us what the person was saying before we could respond. This process was complicated because we had three different interpreters.

To our great surprise, there was wonderful discussion. Janice was able to create a lot of humorous settings. There was laughter and involvement with the people. Based on the evaluations, it was very effective help for the participants each night.

One woman made a profession of faith in Christ, and her husband had what he called a "heart warming experience." This setting provided a wonderful opportunity for this church. Two other new couples participated in the marriage enrichment seminar.

We had warm accommodations while we were in Zeilona Gora. We stayed with Swirydziuk, his wife Lidia, and grown daughter Marta in their flat. The flat was located on the seventh floor of a high rise apartment complex. The pastor and his wife owned their flat. It was three rooms: a living room

and two bedrooms, a very small kitchen and a bath.

Janice and I ate all of our meals with these wonderful people. The pastor's wife, Lidia, is a wonderful cook. She introduced us to several new dishes.

The pastor's daughter spoke English. Each day when Marta came home, we would meet her at the door. Each of us would have partially unfinished conversations that we had with each other during the day.

We would hit Marta with English conversations, and her parents would hit her with Polish conversations. By the time dinner was finished, the daughter had sorted out and translated both conversations. The discussions we had not finished during the day were brought to a closure during the evening.

The opportunity of staying in this wonderful Christian home really helped us to sense the joy and the satisfaction of serving a faithful God that was so characteristic of these people.

The Polish Baptists are happy people. They are planning for the future. They are concerned about the well being of people in their country. They are working hard to do the best they can in having an effective church.

There were a lot of surprises for my wife and me. The first surprise that I had was the people. The people were happy, energized, and were well dressed. They seemed to enjoy the day

and the life they had to live. The shops that we visited were well stocked. People were purchasing goods. The home we stayed in was well equipped.

Another thing that really surprised me was the commerce. The economy seems to be very strong with tourists, the making of crystal, ceramics, and alcoholic beverages. There was also the ever present farming community.

Also surprising to me were the wonderful neighborhoods with a great number of single family dwellings. The town was clean, and the roads were clearly marked. It was a wonderful old town with shops and beautiful churches.

Another surprise was the wonderful fellowship that the churches held following their services. There was always an informal time of coffee, tea, sweet rolls or cookies, or other fine Polish delicacy that enhanced fellowship and relationship building. The worship service on Sunday may have lasted one



SHOWING his partnership T-shirt is Wtodek Swirydziuk, with his new friend Tim Holcomb of TBC Executive Board ministries.

and a half hours, but the fellowship time lasted that long as well.

The seminary at Radosc was another surprise. The seminary is in the process of being built, and the facilities are wonderful with lots of accommodations for students and guests. The chapel is still under construction. When it is finished, it will be a location of a new church as well as the center of the seminary.

I'm very thankful that Tennessee Baptists provide the opportunity for people in our state to become acquainted with Baptists and Christians in other parts of the world. I think it is absolutely essential for us to expand our understanding of how our Savior works.

God is faithful not only in Tennessee, but in Poland, Russia, Costa Rica, and other parts of the world. We have opportunities to serve together as Christians and Baptists in helping churches become effective. ■ — Holcomb is leader, Christian Growth Development Group, TBC

## 3,000 Poles hear Good News in ...

— Continued from page 5  
"Although we watched the Lord bless the people of Poland, the blessings that we received are the ones that we will keep for a lifetime. International blessings are those that profit the country you work with and those who work. We had many of these!"

Creely Wilson, former Nashville Association WMU director and a member of Triune Church, Triune, worked with evangelism at the

Krakow Church. "The involvement of the young adults and young people in the church was exciting," she said. "Someone was always at the church either visiting or getting prepared for a service or event."

"There was genuine love and care for each other and kindness to us. The church is creative in ways to reach their community. I pray that they will soon have a pastor to come." ■

### Reports from Simultaneous Revivals

Church	New People	Decisions	Venues
Chelm	50	24	Church
Choszczno	180	8	Community Center
Dubicze Cerkiewne	20	2	Church
Elblag	150	25	Community Center, Church
Elk	30	1	Church
Gijycko	12	2	School, Church
Gneizno	150	6	Community Center, School, Park
Gorzow Wielki	200	0	School, Community Center, Church
Gryfino	10	0	School, Church
Hajnowka	20	3	Church
Katowice	400	8	School, Street, Church
Kielce	3	1	Church
Krakow	250	20	Church, Streets, Park
Lublin	10	4	Church
Lodz	15	1	Church
Malbork	600	5	School-Prison, Church
Olsztyn	40	2	Community Center, Church
Poznan I	200	15	Community Center, Church
Poznan II	20	1	Community Center
Przemysl	5	0	Church
Radom	150	15	Community Center
Szczecin	35	2	Church
Szczytno	5	0	Church
Swinoujscie	45	13	Church
Tarnow	320	13	School, Streets, Church
Warszawa I	25	7	Church
Warszawa III	40	6	Movie Theater
Wroclaw I	25	15	Church
Zdunska Wola	30	0	Church
Zielona Gora	15	1	Church
Zyrardow	2	2	Church
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>202</b>	

## Benefits of relationships ...

— Continued from page 5  
communities, help each other to see missions as an ongoing process, regularly communicate, determine how they can assist each others needs, and allow God to fulfill their expectations.

"We believe God placed us together to see the needs of the entire world, and to join him in his activity there as well as in our own homes," said Kitter.

They shared their church directories with each other to better know who they are remembering in prayer. Kitter preached a week-long revival meeting at Dix Avenue that made their relationship become more personal. "We see a great potential for a home mission trip between our own churches. This may involve bringing a group from First Church, Bethel Springs, to Dix Avenue Church to meet the needs they have in certain areas," said Kitter.

Then God spoke to Kitter about going to Poland with a Tennessee group as part of the covenant relationship with Tennessee/Poland part-

nership. Kitter called Martin the next day to see if God wanted him to go as part of the team.

The team, including Martin, traveled to Poland May 18-28 to help with the simultaneous revivals. Kitter explained that Martin went to one area of Poland while he and others went to another area. Instead of impacting one place in Poland, God used their covenant to impact two areas.

Others on the team were Randy Smith, First Church, Bethel Springs; Betty Taylor, Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar; Kathy Keller, New Bethel Church, Middleton; Barbara Walton, West Memorial Church, Salsbury; and Carolyn O'Hara, Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar.

"I would personally like to challenge every church in Tennessee to pray about joining one of our sister churches in Michigan through the partnership program and to watch God literally touch the world through the covenant relationship," Kitter said. ■

**Tennessee churches are needed to be sister churches with the 25 Michigan congregations which have asked to participate. Call our office at 1-800-558-2090.**

## Partnership Prayer Requests July

- 16 — Pray for missionary Laura Lane of Costa Rica who is recuperating from surgery.
- 17 — Pray for Marc Byrd, Jason Vinson, Todd Carroll, and David and Jenny Benson who will be teaching English Aug. 1-15 in Zyradow, Poland.
- 18 — Pray for the missions ministry leader search committee of the Michigan convention.
- 19 — Pray for a team being formed in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to start a Canadian Asian church.
- 20 — Pray for missionaries Mark and Pam Grumbles and their children of Costa Rica while they are on furlough in the U.S.
- 21 — Pray for a Polish children's day camp to be held Aug. 1-10 in Radosc. Workers are Christie Hendricks, Leanne Robbins, Jackie Ferguson, Penny Sisk, Rebecca Bundon, Cathy Dunn, and Wahweece Ferguson.
- 22 — Pray for the Centrifuge camp to be held July 28 — Aug. 2 and Aug. 4-9 in Michigan.

# World Changers serve in Memphis, Kingsport, Knoxville

For The Macedonian Call

More than 1,415 students in grades seven through twelve worked during the past three weeks across Tennessee in Memphis, Kingsport, and Knoxville as World Changers, a program sponsored by the former SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Across the Volunteer state, World Changers demonstrated the theme, "A Step Above," by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of low-income communities by repairing their homes.

In the Walford area of Memphis alone, more than 805 students participated in three World Changers and World Tour national work projects.

This is the fifth year that World Changers has held projects in Memphis.

During the weeks of June 14-21 and July 5-12, Memphis World Changers participants assisted several local residents by making much needed repairs to their homes. The youth, who paid their expenses for the project, repaired roofs, built porches, replaced ceilings, and painted.

In addition during the week of June 21-28 as part of the



PAINTING in Memphis is Tara Blake, a World Tour participant from Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah.

World Tour, the youth worked in inner-city ministries such as children's Bible clubs, sports clinics, senior adult home care, and meal delivery. After a full day of work, the teenagers participated in evening worship programs including music and Bible study.

World Tour is an extension of World Changers that introduces the additional aspect of inner-city ministries to construction projects. The City of Memphis worked with World Changers to select projects focusing on specific needs in the area. Together they hoped to make a strong, positive impact on the community.

Over 200 World Changers youth were in Memphis the week of June 14-21. This first week of Memphis World Changers brought participants from churches in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Representing their home state in Memphis were youth from First Church, Dyer, and Red Bank Church, Chattanooga. The senior high youth did all day construction.

A total of 15 homes were reroofed and one handicapped ramp was constructed. The youth were divided

into "crews" and were led by an individual with construction experience.

Everyone was excited about how God used them. Some had opportunities to share Christ with people by sharing the mission of World Changers.

"This week has changed a lot of people's lives and brought me closer to God," said Anthony Stewart, a 16-year-old participant from Red Bank Church.

Over 330 youth participated in the Memphis World Tour during the week of June 21-28. Church groups from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, met in Memphis for World Tour during this week. Ooltewah Church from Chattanooga participated from Tennessee.

The volunteers also went to ministry sites and led children in Backyard Bible Clubs, volunteered at homeless shelters, and food and clothing closets.

Along with repairing 22 houses, the teens worked at 11 ministries on Monday through Friday. There were five all day construction crews that reroofed five houses.

During the week of July 5-12, over 260 World Changers reroofed 23 homes in Memphis. Churches represented were from North Carolina, South Carolina, Missouri, Indiana, Nebraska, Texas, and Mississippi.

Youth at both World Changers and World Tour projects participated in a worship service each night with a commitment time during worship.

More than 235 high school students and their leaders met in Kingsport June 14-21 for a World Changers national work project to the physical and spiritual needs of Kingsport residents

in low-income communities.

The World Changers assisted several local residents by making needed repairs to Kingsport homes. Participants in the Kingsport project traveled from Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and they were joined by a local church groups from Cedar Grove Church in Kingsport and Central Church of Bear-den, Knoxville.

Allen Heard, youth director at Cedar Grove Church, served as the project coordinator. The City of Kingsport also worked with World Changers to select projects which focused on specific needs in the area. Together the program made a strong, positive, and lasting impact on the community.

"The City of Kingsport had a backlog of houses that needed repairs," Heard said. "World Changers provided the labor, and the city of Kingsport provided the materials."

"Everybody was in the right place at the right time when the World Changers proposal began with the city, county, and the local churches. In fact, some of the local churches are finishing up some of the smaller jobs."

During the week of July 5-12 in Knoxville over 375 World Changers canvassed the South Knoxville area. Students attended from churches in Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. Tennessee was represented by Valley View Church in Cleveland and First Church, Humboldt. The World Changers program is now under the SBC North American Mission Board.

■ — Compiled from reports by Marcia Knox.

# Volunteerism is life-changing, says Costa Rica coordinator

By Betty Poor  
For The Macedonian Call

**COSTA RICA** — Being a volunteer is going to change your life.

That's the word from Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary Sue Smith, full-time volunteer coordinator for the Costa Rica Baptist Mission.

She is the missionary who makes arrangements for and orients Tennessee volunteers during the Costa Rica/Tennessee partnership.

"Not only is it important what volunteers do on the field, but what they take back," Smith said.

Volunteers will learn about missions, about another culture, and about the missionary families, she added. "Some learn how to give. Others become addicted to volunteer missions and do five or six projects a year. Lasting relationships with nationals develop. They take back the people in their hearts."

Smith does the volunteer co-

ordinator's job with enthusiasm because her own call to missions was confirmed while mixing concrete with a construction group from Fredricksburg (Va.) Church in Taltal, Chile.

"One of my biggest struggles in considering missions was that I don't teach, I don't sing, and I don't play [music]," Smith said.

In Chile she talked to missionaries Wanda Dobbins and Martha Bowman, who showed her that there are many areas of ministry open to missionary women. "I decided, I can do this," Smith said.

Smith's work begins with doing initial promotion to encourage pastors and missionaries to invite a team. "A lot of my work is education," she said.

"I talk to church leaders about the requirements for having a volunteer team come, how to get the best use of volunteers and how to make sure their work fits in with

the church's ministry."

Smith does all the administrative work involved in requesting volunteers, communicating with the volunteer department of the International Mission Board and communication with the Costa Rica Mission about the coming volunteers.

"Everything I do in missions now deals with some form of administration," Smith said. She feels the Lord prepared her for this because her college degree from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., was in business and office administration.

She also organizes a special sightseeing or shopping trip during the volunteers' stay in Costa Rica. When they leave, she is the one who sends them "thank you" letters.

"When they go, they know what we do and who we are," Smith said. "I think my emphasis on that partly comes from my experience as a volunteer in Chile," she said.

To enable volunteers to know nationals as well as missionaries, Smith makes sure every volunteer team is as-



LEADING an orientation for Tennesseans who will work in Costa Rica are missionary Sue Smith, center, and Reuben Quesada, right, president of the emergency committee of the Costa Rican Evangelical Alliance. Among the volunteers is Michael Bonner, left, disaster relief volunteer of Tullahoma.

signed to a church. "Even when they're working at a camp, they attend services at a church and usually do a project with them also — like painting a building.

"Another rewarding part of the volunteer work is to see the nationals changed," Smith said.

Smith's work is not without its stressful moments as she and her husband, Greg, who works in mission administra-

tion and theological education, raise their two sons, Jason, 12, and Kyle, 8.

"We're a 90s family," Smith said. "We are a two-career family. Sometimes I have to be out late with a volunteer group, and Greg picks up the kids and takes care of them." She asked for prayer to be able to wisely divide her time between family and the volunteer ministry. ■

# Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

## Costa Rica Projects

### Special Services

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

Project #: CR71997813  
 Dates: Sept. 20-27  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Special Services  
 A team of 3 is requested to join local missionaries in a "prayer walk" through unevangelized areas.

### Music

Project #: CR711997801  
 Dates: Dec. 13-22  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Music  
 A team of 30 is needed to do evangelistic Christmas concerts in churches and public places. The target is young people.

Project #: CR711998801  
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Music  
 Annual Music Camp needs a camp voice teacher to work with young people.

Project #: CR711998802  
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Music  
 Annual Music Camp needs a music camp composition/arranging teacher to help advanced musicians learn publication quality composition/arranging in Spanish.

Project #: CR711998803  
 Dates: Jan. 6-12, 1998  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Music  
 Annual Music Camp needs a choir director for about 80 campers to learn Spanish music with evangelistic theme.

### Construction/Evangelism

Project #: CR711997815  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: South Zone  
 Description: Construction/Evangelism  
 A team of 10 is needed to do construction for a public health clinic in a rural area. Ongoing and revival services will be held on the job site. Team also needs to bring 2 doctors. Team should be able to build from the slab up on building.

### Family Ministry

Project #: CR71199832  
 Dates: Nov. 3-10  
 Location: San Jose  
 Description: Ministers Retreat  
 A team of 5 is needed to inspire rededication of pastors and their wives with an emphasis on family life. The retreat will take place at the Baptist Camp.

Project #: CR71199804  
 Dates: March 13-23, 1998  
 Location: Heredia  
 Description: Music  
 A team of 5 is needed to help Central Church in Heredia provide family issues workshops and offer guidance in counseling.

## Canada Projects

### BYBC

Project #: CA-16  
 Dates: Aug. 4-10  
 Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 Description: BYBC  
 A team is needed to lead children's ministry with BYBCs in mornings and conduct prayer walks and surveys in afternoons.

### Camp

Project #: PM11997607  
 Dates: July 26-Aug. 3  
 Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta

Description: Camp  
 New Life Chapel needs a team of 4-6 to do one week Bible camp for grades 1-6.

Project #: PM11997608  
 Dates: Aug. 2-108  
 Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta  
 Description: Camp  
 New Life Chapel needs a team to do one week Bible Camp for youth grades 7-12.

### Construction

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

### Church Planting

Project #: PM11997636  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Surrey, B.C.  
 Description: Church Planting  
 A team is needed to plant a church. They will lead BYBC for Vietnamese children and support the church plant through prayer.

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

### Evangelism

Project #: CA-17  
 Dates: Aug. 4-10  
 Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 Description: Evangelism  
 A team is needed to evangelize Halifax and give exposure to the ministry of Baptists in the community. Ministry may be done in parks, malls, public areas with music.

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

## Michigan Projects

### Construction

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

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

Project #: M-13e  
 M-13g-i  
 Dates: July 27 - Aug. 31  
 Location: Clinton Township  
 Description: Construction  
 Central Church needs volunteers to help with construction of news-stand including wallboarding, painting, electrical repairs, and plumbing.

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

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

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

### Evangelism

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

### Church Planting

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

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

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

Project #: B-2  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Midland  
 Description: Survey Community  
 Emmanuel Church in Midland needs a team to do community survey and also work with youth in evenings.

### VBS/BYBC

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

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

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

## Poland Projects

### Construction

Project #: 11997439  
 Dates: July/August  
 Location: Gdynia  
 Description: Construction  
 The church at Gdynia needs a team to do renovation and repairs of its building. This work includes replacing windows and doors in the church.

Project #: 11997412  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Koszalin  
 Description: Construction  
 A team of 3-5 is needed to replace the windows in a church.

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

Project #: 11997429  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Szczecino  
 Description: Construction

Christian Church needs team of 2-4 to do carpentry repair work and interior painting on church.

Project #: 11997440  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Description: Renovation  
 Baptist Union needs a volunteer to replace steel grill work on all 3 floors of its building.

Project #: 11997426a  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Description: Renovation  
 Baptist Union needs a team of 1-3 to do renovation, remodeling, and demolition of some interior walls in building.

Project #: 11997426b  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Description: Renovation  
 Baptist Union needs a team of 2-3 to do wall treatment, painting, wallpapering, and carpet and floor tiles installation.

### Camp

Project #: 11997406  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Warsaw  
 Description: Camping/Hiking  
 A team of 10 is needed to do basic camping/backpacking project for Polish group.

## Tennessee Projects

### Construction

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

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

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

Project #: T-4  
 Dates: November  
 Location: Springville  
 Description: Construction  
 A church in Springville needs a team to help build new building including asphalt, electrical masonry, painting, plumbing, drywall, roofing, etc.  
 Contact: Rev. Kenneth Basham, (901) 644-0318

Project #: T-5  
 Dates: July/August  
 Location: Memphis  
 Description: Construction  
 Oakhaven Academy in Memphis needs a team of 10-15 youth/adults to do painting, masonry, plumbing repairs, and clean-up on a school and play yard.  
 Contact: Cynthia Smith, (901) 365-2990

Project #: 91  
 Dates: Summer  
 Location: Memphis  
 Description: Construction  
 Brinkley Heights Church needs teams of 10-50 youth for one-week to do community work such as cleaning vacant lots, painting and fixing up low-income housing, distributing meals, and BYBC.  
 Contact: Rev. Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617  
 Project #: 92

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Health Care

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

### BYBC/VBS

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

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

Project #: 108  
 Dates: Open  
 Location: Jackson  
 Description: VBS  
 Up to 40 teams of 6-10 youth/adults needed to hold one week VBSs or BYBCs in apartment areas or housing projects for Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations.  
 Contact: Carol Vaughan, (901) 668-5690  
 Project #: 109

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

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

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

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

### Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

# Christiana church honors pastor for 'lifetime of service'

For Baptist and Reflector

CHRISTIANA — In honor of their pastor of 42 years, members of Mt. Carmel Church here recently held Frank Messick Appreciation Day.

The 87-year-old Messick, well known throughout Concord Association churches, became a Christian in 1935 during a revival service. He began

preaching in the late 1930s at Mt. Hermon Church.

He was licensed into full-time ministry in 1940 by Mt. Carmel Church. He was ordained three years later.

Messick served at Mt. Hermon from 1944-55. While there he led many people to Christ. Once, in 1945, he baptized 44 people in one day in Lytle Creek following a revival at the church.

Messick was called as pastor of Patterson Church in 1955 and a year later moved to Mt. Carmel, where he has been ever since.

His ministry has been marked by service. Known for his good humor, he's always sharing a laugh with friends or family.

"During life you only meet a few men that have a lasting impact on your life, and Frank Messick is such a man," observed James Powers, director of missions for Concord Associ-

ation. "He has an uncanny insight into the Scriptures, that, mixed with humor, makes him one of the most interesting people you'll ever talk to," Powers added.

Messick noted that serving as a preacher "has brought me great joy. I love getting people ready for heaven, for greater things in eternity. It thrills my soul every time Christ works through me to lead someone to be a Christian."

Some of his favorite memories of his 60 years of ministry



Tennessee features

include the times his children all became Christians and times when others turned their lives over to the Lord.

During the appreciation day service, church members sang some of Messick's favorite hymns, including "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus."

Guest speaker for the occasion was Messick's grandson, John Messick Jr., of Augusta, Ga. Messick also was presented a plaque by Ernest Winfrey and a love offering was taken. ■

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## people

■ **Rob Marus**, member of First Church, Memphis, has been named staff writer, *Word and Way*, Baptist newsjournal in Missouri. He is a recent graduate of Rhodes College, Memphis. He is from Little Rock, Ark.

■ **Charles and Helen Tester**, members of Boone Trail Church, Gray, celebrated their 50th anniversary in June. They were incorrectly identified in last week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* as Pester. Charles Tester was a pastor for 17 years in Holston and Watauga associations until he was injured in a car accident. Tester 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.

## leaders

■ Central Church, Oak Ridge, has called **David M. McPherson** as pastor, effective Aug. 10. McPherson is minister to students, Rockdale Church, Conyers, Ga. He has served three churches in student ministry, including Central from 1988-90. He left to serve with his wife, Melanie, as missionaries in Austria. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



MCPHERSON

■ **David Jones**, administrator WRJZ radio station, has been called as interim music director, Sharon Church, Knoxville. He has served as music director, Grace Church, Knoxville, and interim music director at several other churches.

■ South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, has called **Gordon Greenwell** as interim pastor.

■ Brush Creek Church, Brush Creek, has called **Robert Amason** of Lebanon as interim pastor.

■ **Trevor Barton**, pastor, South Main Mission, Springfield, has resigned effective June 29 to serve as a missionary with his wife, Robin, in Mali, Africa.

■ Bethel Church, Clinton,

has called **Terry Moore** as interim pastor.

■ First Church, Norris, has called **David Seiber** as interim pastor.

■ Mount Lebanon Church, Covington, has ordained new pastor **Brian Gass** to the ministry. The congregation also has called **Michael Berkley** as summer youth minister.

■ Fellowship Church, Millington, has called **Adam Renshaw** as interim minister of youth.

■ Calvary Church, Covington, has called **Jeff Joy** as minister of music.

■ **David B. Watts** has been called as minister of music, First Church, Tullahoma.

■ First Church, Gallatin, has called **James Fitch** as pastor, effective June 29. He is a former employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of Crieveewood Church, Nashville.

■ First Church, Ridgetop, has called **Robert and Ruby Holt** as ministers of music, effective June 8. Robert leads music and Ruby is an organist.

■ **Rex Hunter**, minister of music and youth, North Springfield Church, Springfield, has resigned to serve with his wife, Becky as missionaries in Brazil, South America.

■ Locust Grove Missionary Church, Washburn, has called **Randy Beeler** of Ponceon Camp Missionary Church, Washburn, as pastor, effective June 21.

■ **David Lawrence** has been called as pastor of First Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ **Richard Dickerson**, minister of music, First Church, Union City, has been called as minister of music, Woodmont Church, Nashville.

■ **Doyle Petty**, pastor, Friendship Church, Ramer, has retired after 42 years in the ministry. His son, Jesse Petty, has been called as interim pastor.

■ West Haven Church, Knoxville, has called **Timothy D. Addis** of Erwin, N.C., as pastor of maturity and missions, effective June 22. Addis is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **Keith Smith**, youth minister, First Church, Bradford, has resigned recently.

■ Seven Islands Church, Knoxville, has called **Bill McCarter** as pastor. He will be ordained by Burnetts Creek Church, Knoxville.

■ Calvary Church, Knoxville, has ordained **Gregory**



**RECEIVING** the Barnabas Award from Bob Hall, left, collegiate ministries specialist, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, is Max Conner, who arranged for the Baptist Student Union building at the school to be re-wired. The project saved over \$50,000 in labor costs and required 2,200 hours of volunteer labor. Conner is a member of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. The award is given by the TBC Collegiate Ministries Program to Tennesseans who make a significant contribution to college student ministry.

**Huff** to the ministry at the request of Leesville Road Church, Durham, N.C., where he is serving as minister of music while studying at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

■ First Church, Union City, has called **Joseph C. Echols** as minister of students and recreation, effective July 1.

■ **James Richard Rains**, pastor, Leatherwood Church, Waynesboro, has resigned.

■ **Paul Martin**, pastor, Calvary Church, Savannah, has resigned.

■ **Marty Comer** has been called as pastor of Sand Ridge Church, Lexington, effective June 27. Hyran E. Barefoot, retired president, Union University, Jackson, was interim pastor for five months.

■ Second Church, Union City, has called **Eddie Mallonee** as pastor, effective Aug.



MALLONNE

3. He is pastor, Poplar Church, Brownsville. Mallonee is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

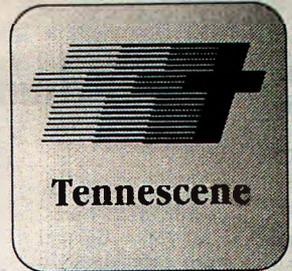
■ **Christopher "Cris" Cannon** of North Carolina has been called as pastor of Crieveewood Church, Nashville, effective Aug. 1. He serves as a counselor for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and as a supply and interim pastor. Cannon is the former pastor of the following North Carolina churches: Antioch Church, Chapel Hill; Loves Creek Church, Siler City; and First Church, Eden. He holds master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.;

and a degree from East Carolina University, Greenville.

## churches

■ Agape Church, Memphis, will hold revival Aug. 8-10. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, will hold a Church Music Sale Aug. 16 starting at 8 a.m. Items to be offered include multiple copies of current and out-of-print octavos, collections, and musicals, choir robes, and stoles,



and other music ministry related items. The sale will be held in the church parking lot. For more information, call (901) 324-5541.

■ **Grace Church, Nashville**, will hold a revival crusade July 20-23. **Andre K. Dugger**, new pastor, will speak and **Clif Forbis** will lead the music. For more information, call (615) 865-6262.

■ **Fellowship Church, Mt. Juliet**, will hold revival July 27 - Aug. 3. **Dave Montalbono**, director of missions, New England Association, will speak.

■ **Hampton's Crossroads Church, Cookeville**, celebrated its centennial anniversary recently.

■ **Center Hill Church, Counce**, will hold revival July 21-25. **Charlie Cooper** of Rienzi, Miss., will speak. Also the church will hold homecoming events July 27.

■ **Walnut Grove Church, Savannah**, will hold revival July 20-25. **Bob C. Davis**, evangelist of Lynchburg, Va., will speak.

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# Forgiveness

By Aubrey Hay

**Focal: Psalm 51**

This is one of the great penitential psalms from David, who after his sordid relationship with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah, and after being confronted by Nathan the bold prophet, came to see the seriousness of his sins. It stands as a reminder of the nature of sin, and as a model of genuine repentance. If there are stages to the act of repentance and restoration, this would serve as an example. There is first:

**The act of self rebuke.** Being sorry for ones sins is not sufficient; it may only reflect the regret at being caught. Self rebuke is the acknowledgement of the depth and seriousness of ones sins. One writer said that David violated five of the 10 commandments in his relationship with Bathsheba. Actually, counting idolatry, which is surely part of his attitude, the number might be seven. However one looks at his act, the important element is that David came to see the heinous nature of what he did. Genuine repentance can never occur without this act of self rebuke. Some have struggled with David's statement, "against thee and thee only have I sinned" believing it to be excluding the results to Bathsheba, Uriah, and to Israel. I rather believe it is David's awareness that sin is against the nature of God that all other results pale in comparison. Sin is not God's will for man, it is rather man's will being elevated to being where God's will only ought to be.

**The supremacy of truth in the subconscious.** The "inward parts" I believe to be man's subconscious. This is to say that truth is not pretense. Truth can never be faked. There must be a genuineness about what we say that reveals that it comes from the depth of our being. God desires truth in our inward being, not some dressed up external pretext for truth. Sin is not God's idea for man, but goodness is. Sin is therefore a creation of our selfish inward thoughts and desires. God wants truth to go to our hearts. Any other claim to righteousness is not righteousness. We need redemption of our innermost being. God saves us all over, from within and without.

**The yearning of the sin-sick soul.** You find no rationalization here. David does not play the blame game. "Purge me with hyssop ... wash me ... hide thy face from my sins ... blot out my iniquities ... create in me a clean heart ..." are all expressions of the genuine repentant. This is once again indicative of the depth of David's awareness of his sins. He was sick. Not sick of body, but of soul. He was heart sick. His was an inner corruption that called for divine healing, thus he prays, "create in me a new heart, O Lord." David knew that if he were to ever be right, it would be an act of God's mercy. And for that mercy he prays.

**The response of the restored soul.** "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways ..." There is always a "then" to genuine repentance. Turning from sins is not like a stroll in the park. It is a powerful, and perhaps painful act of turning ones back on tempting behavior. When cleansing is thorough, there will be response. God does not allow us to sweep our sins under the rug. Response is such a part of real repentance, that it can be said if there is no response there is no repentance. Restitution follows repentance as surely as night follows day. If there is no response of the restored soul there is no repentance, where there is no repentance there is no salvation. God's forgiveness waits on the repentant soul. — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Ministries.

# The great High Priest

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

**Focal: Hebrews 4:14 — 5:10**

Every young person is elated, proud, when all the tests have been taken and the driver's license is granted. Often, however, they don't assume the accompanying responsibilities without learning valuable lessons.

This young lady had "broken up" with her boyfriend. On her drive to school, she inadvertently exceeded the speed limit, thinking about her boyfriend.

The traffic officer was unyielding. The offense was minor — but still it was a traffic violation. The teenager needed a mediator. An adult would testify as a character witness. The judge was stern, but reasonable. We all need a mediator, someone to intercede for us.

Though all people have sinned against God, we have Christ, our great High Priest, as our intercessor. For those who have accepted him as Savior, Christ provides salvation for us.

**His availability — 4:14-16.** Jesus fulfilled the biblical requirements as a priest since he was made a priest after the order of Melchizedek. He also exer-

limited in his priesthood, though he performed them as he should have.

Jesus, tempted as we are, did not fall. And he feels and understands our infirmities and weaknesses. He wants us to live as obedient children, following his example.

**His sufficiency — 5:1-3.** The Jewish audience would not accept mere words that the Christian message was to be believed. The testimony had to prove Jesus was sufficient in meeting the Old Testament standards for a high priest.

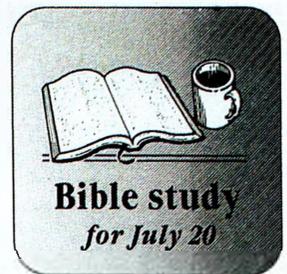
He has proper credentials to meet all qualifications. He gave his own life as the sacrifice for sin for which all other blood sacrifices were merely symbols. His sufficiency is seen in his sacrifice.

His sufficiency also is shown in his compassion. Unlike human priests, he did not have weaknesses like human beings have. He never gave in to temptation. He has concern for the uninformed as well as those who have been led astray or who just wandered. As we try to serve others as priests, we have to be like Jesus in all ways.

**His appointment — 5:4-6.** God appointed Jesus a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:2). Romans 1:4 tells us that God declared Jesus to be the son of God by resurrecting him from the dead. Earthly priests served limited terms; Jesus serves forever.

**His sacrifice — 5:7-10.** Christ always sought God's directions through prayer. He submitted to God's will. He was made perfect, complete. He is our "qualified High Priest," and he calls the saved to a life of discipleship, and he calls disciples unto himself.

When God's people pray, their High Priest listens. He is the author of salvation. — Allen is editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.



## Family Bible Lesson

cised the rights of the Aaronic line of priests.

The supremacy of our great High Priest comes from his deity. God set up strict moral and physical requirements for the priesthood. Jesus possessed his own holiness, which is much greater than symbolic.

There were certain rituals of the earthly priests, but Jesus passed into the heavens, into the actual presence of God. The blood he offered was his own. The Bible admonishes us to hold fast to our beliefs which are the basis of Christian doctrine.

Aaron, being one of the "children of Israel," was

# Understanding my place in church

By Jerry Chapman

## Explore the Bible Lesson

**Focal: I Corinthians 12:12-15, 18-27**

The questions keep coming. "Does a spiritual gift give a believer his spirituality?" Believe it or not this question and many others concerning spiritual gifts are still being asked. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is the mark, and only mark, of God's presence no matter what spiritual gift may be present. And the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life at the salvation experience.

It is also at this point that the Holy Spirit gives any gifts he wishes a believer to have. Spiritual gifts are special abilities to do God's work. They are for the common good of the entire body and not just for the individual. When a believer understands his place in the church then he will understand the following lessons.

**There is one body, but many members (vv. 12-14).** Paul compares the church to a human body. Just as the human body has many parts, each different but important, the church has many members yet all have different abilities and functions.

A person becomes a member of the church by accepting Jesus

Christ as personal Savior and Lord. This comes through a "baptism" by and through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who binds each believer together into Christ's body, yet each believer maintains an individuality of his or her own.

**Every member is important (vv. 15-17).** Paul uses parts of the human body to express the fact that all body parts complement one another and are important. In this case he uses the foot to indicate this teaching. The questions in verse 17 include the eye, ear, and nose to indicate that they are all necessary to perform certain tasks. Every member of the church is uniquely gifted to do certain ministries. It takes all of God's people to do his work. And each one makes a unique contribution to the whole church.

**Each member is placed by God in the body (vv. 18-20).** God has not given any church any less of his abilities than what they need in order to do his work. Paul let the Corinthians know that it is God who has "placed" the members of the body. God realizes that as a result of doing this the church will have diversity. But variety is not the end.

Unity in diversity is the end. This is God's plan for the church today. No one function is less important than the other. If you are a teacher then your position is just as important as an usher. The Corinthian church thought they didn't need other members to do the work but God says differently.

**No member is self-sufficient (vv. 21-26).** The conversation is given between parts of the human body, namely between the eye and the head and the hand and the foot. The body needs every part. No part is independent of the others but is interdependent on one another. Paul refers to the "weaker" parts (whatever they may be) as only appearing to be weak. But in reality they are very much needed. Again, God has placed the members in the body of Christ as he desires. He wants his people blended together as one. No division.

Therefore, every part suffers when just one suffers. Every part rejoices when one part rejoices. Every part is dependent on the other. Every believer is a part of Christ's body and belongs to Christ's body.

When are we going to learn these vital lessons about being God's people? — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Ministries.

