

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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Sevierville Baptists help lead VBS effort in Belize

By Wally Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

BELIZE CITY, Belize — Three persons from Valley View Church, Sevierville, were among a group who recently led a Vacation Bible School and evangelistic services here.

Fifty-three decisions for Christ were made during VBS and another 12 during the evangelistic services.

Pastor Jeff Hickman, Nathan Hickman, and April Sutton of Valley View Church joined volunteers from North and South Carolina, Texas, Missouri, and Puerto Rico in working at Faber's Road Church in this Central America country's principle city.

Volunteers held VBS in the morning and evening evangelistic services. Hickman preached each evening.

The volunteers worked with

International Mission Board missionaries Ken and Cathy Moore and Clifford and Peggy Dane.

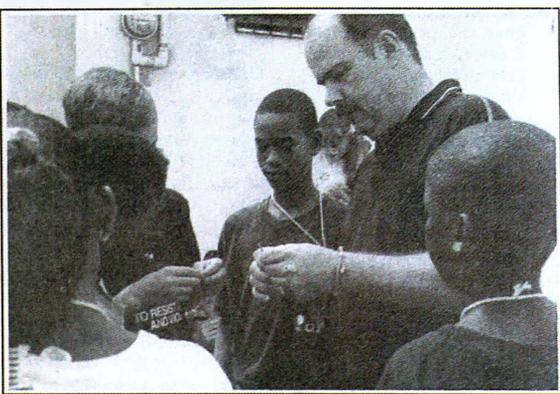
Cathy Moore praised the Tennessee volunteers. "God blessed us with a super bunch of people," she said. "We were truly blessed with that team."

Noting many of the team members had not known each other before arriving in Belize, Moore observed, "They got along like they'd known each other all their lives."

Hickman, who has taken mission trips annually to Ecuador since 1993, called it the best trip he has made thus far.

Hickman's 13-year-old son, Nathan, accompanied him and used his talents in clowning ministry to work with the Belize children in VBS. He also played his guitar.

Sutton said she not only



PASTOR JEFF HICKMAN of Valley View Church, Sevierville, helps Belize youth make bracelets with colored beads for presenting the plan of salvation during Vacation Bible School at Faber's Road Church in Belize City. — Photo by Betty Poor

saw children come to know Jesus, but "God also worked in my life. He has opened my eyes. He has shown me things I would not even have thought

about. As an American, I take so much for granted."

Belize, which borders Mexico and Guatemala, is the former British Honduras. ■

Nationwide poll shows 49.5 percent favor Disney boycott

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The results are in. Those in favor of boycotting The Disney Company: 49.5 percent. Those against: 50.5 percent.

Those are results of a vote initiated by *USA Weekend* magazine weighing the Disney boycott launched by the 15.7 million member Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting in June in Dallas.

According to *USA Weekend*, in a July 29 release, a "remarkable 107,000 read-

ers" voted — "the magazine's highest reader response in 1997." "Most of the votes — 95,279 — were unduplicated calls to 800 numbers," *USA Weekend* noted. While unscientific, the vote is a sampling of the 41.7 million readers claimed by the Gannett-published supplement for Sunday newspapers across the country.

Voting also was conducted at *USA Weekend's* site on the Internet's World Wide Web and via postcards and the back of envelopes mailed to the magazine's offices in Arlington, Va.

The vote was announced in *USA Weekend's* July 18-20 issue. Via the 1-800 numbers, the first 100,000 calls were to be tallied through midnight July 24.

The office of Disney's corporate spokesman, John Dreyer, in Burbank, Calif., was sent a copy of the results July 30, but did not issue a response.

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, described the vote as "great news for American families and really bad news for Disney" ■



LEADING CHURCH GROWTH

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

Baptist and Reflector Day is Aug. 17; Aug. 13 issue to highlight state missions

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual *Baptist and Reflector* Day emphasis on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar is slated for Sunday, Aug. 17.

Churches that do not subscribe to the state paper for their members have the opportunity to order free copies of the Aug. 13 issue of the paper for distribution on this Sunday.

Those who receive the Aug. 13 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will receive a bonus.

The paper will contain an 8-page insert — "We've A Story To Tell" — provided by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, focusing on the Season of Prayer for State Missions in September and the Golden State Missions Offering. The goal for the state missions of-

fering this year is \$1,325,000.

The Aug. 13 issue also will carry regular features plus current news and items of interest to Tennessee Baptists, said Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor.

"This is an excellent opportunity to share state missions information with your church members as well as introducing them to the *Baptist and Reflector*," noted Carrol Kelly, Tennessee WMU interim executive director.

"Our state paper is a friend of missions, weekly sharing mission stories from Tennessee, the United States, and around the world," Kelly added.

To order copies of the paper for *Baptist and Reflector* Day, call (615) 371-2003 by 5 p.m. on Aug. 7. ■



TBC gifts up

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For the second time this year Tennessee Baptists gave over \$3 million to the Cooperative Program in a single month July gifts totaled \$3,220,235. In January Tennessee Baptists gave \$3,351,377. After nine months of the 1996-97 fiscal year, CP gifts total \$22,529,728, a 4.99 percent increase over the same time last year.

"Once again, our churches across the state express their consistent and growing concern to the multi-ministries of the convention that 'extend even to the uttermost parts of the world,'" said James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. ■

REGUL HISTORICAL COMMISSION 901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400 NASHVILLE TN 37203



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IMB completes reorganization

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — International Mission Board trustees put the final touches on the recent revitalization and reorganization of overseas operations and passed a resolution warning Southern Baptists to be cautious of independent religious groups from overseas that are raising funds in the United States.

During their July 28-31 meeting at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, trustees elected the final two of 14 regional leaders in the board's new configuration overseas. They also affirmed the naming of the 53 associates who will assist regional leaders overseas and at board offices in Richmond.

Elected regional leaders were Phil Templin for Middle America and Larry Gay for western South America.

Templin, 52, of Dayton, Wash., was appointed a missionary in 1984 with his wife, the former Peggy Voth of Enid, Okla. He has been a general evangelist in Mexico. Gay, 44, of Birmingham, Ala., was appointed a missionary in 1982 with his wife, the former Susan Tribble of Fairfield, Ala. He has been chairman of the organization of IMB missionar-

ies in Mexico since 1991.

The revitalization and reorganization, which calls for vigorous strategy-driven work overseas, was proposed by IMB President Jerry Rankin in January to prompt growth and spiritual awakening worldwide. It expands the administration of the overseas office from nine geographic and one non-geographic area to 14 geographic regions covering the entire world outside of North America.

At the conclusion of the Glorieta meeting, trustee chairman **Bill Blanchard of Soddy Daisy**, quoted Rankin's initial goals and said, "I thank God that in the future our missionaries will be driven more by strategy and purpose than by policies and procedures."

Rankin's report to the board and a resolution the board adopted warned Southern Baptists about fund-raising efforts in Southern Baptist churches by independent groups claiming to do more effective missionary work than the IMB in countries where the IMB has missionaries.

Rankin said a number of overseas national groups are seeking Southern Baptist funds, are making unproven promises of missionary successes, and are using practices

the IMB questions missiologically.

Rankin's comments zeroed in on India. When he was area director for southeastern Asia, he was constantly bombarded with requests for information about groups raising funds for work in India, he said. Once, when he raised questions about a group's effectiveness or trustworthiness, he found himself under fire. Because of this, he subsequently has refrained from public comments about specific groups, he said.

The trustee resolution, however, names and expresses concern about a group that claims to work in India.

"Based on information available at this time, the trustees of the IMB do not have confidence in the ministry of the Gospel to the Unreached Millions, founded by K.A. Paul," the resolution says.

Gospel to the Unreached Millions works in parts of India. That ministry is based in Houston, Texas.

The resolution notes that Paul spoke at the 1997 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Dallas prior to the annual SBC annual meeting there. The board's concern focuses on the perception created of implied endorsement of Paul's ministry. ■

SBC CP gifts show increase

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for July increased more than 14 percent over July 1996 while year-to-date receipts climbed to nearly 6 percent over the previous period, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

July 1997 CP gifts totaled \$13,036,591, compared to \$11,411,336 a year ago, an increase of 14.24 percent.

For the SBC's fiscal year-to-date, October through July, CP gifts totaled \$129,894,847, compared to the previous year's total of \$122,834,012, an increase of 5.75 percent. For the fiscal year-to-date, CP gifts are \$9,016,931 over budget requirements.

Designated gifts for July dropped \$444,640 or 9.46 percent, over last year. July designated gifts totaled \$4,254,583. Year-to-date designated gifts total \$135,596,519, a 1.85 percent increase over the same period last year. ■

Fighting gives Filipinos chance for witness

Baptist Press

COTABATO, Philippines — Several weeks of intense fighting on the southern island of Mindanao gave Christians an opportunity to share the good news of God's love with an isolated people group that has had practically no access to the Gospel.

In late June Philippine army troops attacked a village occupied by the Maguindanao people group, a Muslim tribe that fled to the marsh four centuries ago to escape Spanish "conquistadors" and has lived there in virtual isolation since. Among the one million Maguindanao — the largest unreached people group in the Philippines — there are no churches and only a few believers.

Many of the Maguindanao who fled the intense fighting took refuge in evacuation camps here, home to many evangelical churches and a center of Southern Baptist International Mission Board work on the island.

Christian Filipinos and evangelical missionaries teamed up to meet physical needs while at the same time telling them about Christ and providing them Scriptures in their language. ■

Louisiana law aims to reduce divorces

Baptist Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — It was not always easy to get a divorce in the United States — and Louisiana legislators have approved a first-of-its-kind measure to help couples return to that time.

A bill approved by the state legislature sets Louisiana up as the first state in the nation to establish an optional "covenant" marriage license that makes divorce more difficult. Gov. Mike Foster signed the bill July 15, to take effect Aug. 15 — and religious leaders have hailed it as a way to help stem the epidemic tide of divorce.

Statistics indicate the need for such creative action, they say. From 1970-1990, the number of divorces in the United States jumped by 34 percent as so-called "no-fault" laws went into effect across the nation.

The bill passed the Louisiana House of Representatives by a 98-0 vote and the

Senate by a vote of 37-1 in June.

For Louisiana couples who choose the covenant marriage license — and they do not have to — bailing out of a marriage would not be so easy. Under existing law, a Louisiana couple can obtain a divorce immediately when there is particular wrongdoing by a spouse or after six months of living separately and claiming irreconcilable differences.

A covenant marriage license would still allow for divorce in cases of wrongdoing, but it would make it harder to obtain a divorce when there is no proof of wrongdoing. A couple would have to live separately for up to two years before obtaining a divorce in some cases.

Otherwise, the idea is to give the couple time to work on the marriage. By opting for a covenant marriage license, a couple commits to take "all reasonable efforts to preserve our marriage, including marital counseling" if difficulties arise. ■

IMB sells stock in Coca-Cola company

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — The Southern Baptist International Mission Board has sold all of its stock in Coca-Cola after a *Wall Street Journal* article July 28 reported the soft-drink manufacturer owns 10 percent of a brewery in Brazil.

The sale totaled about \$6.5 million.

Carl Johnson, IMB vice president for finance, announced the sale during the IMB's

trustee meeting July 28-31.

Johnson said the board contacted Coca-Cola for an explanation after reading the article, and the company did not deny the accuracy of the story.

IMB staff then told the investment manager holding the stock to sell it immediately. The board has policies prohibiting investments in companies involved in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, or abortion. ■ — Louis Moore

Communication Services

Group spreads the word about TBC ministries

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — This Executive Board ministry group plays a vital role in the success of events sponsored by other Tennessee Baptist Executive Board ministry groups.

"We are here to support and serve the communication needs of this organization," says Eleanor Yarborough, leader of the Communication Services Group (CSG).

"We seek to clearly communicate to Tennessee Baptists and the greater public who Tennessee Baptists are and what we have to offer, not only to our constituents, but to the world at large," she adds.

Communications is both internal and external and takes on a variety of forms. To facilitate the communications process, CSG is divided into three teams — communications, production services, and research/information services.

The communications team is responsible for general promotion and publications which inform Tennessee Baptists. These include *Green Light*, the *TBC Pocket Calendar*, the *TBC Journal*, the events calendar, *Resource Directory*, and much more. They also handle public relations duties such as coordinating tours of the Baptist Center, and promotion and marketing functions. Plans are underway to initiate a "web site" on the Internet by next spring.

The team produces *Info*, a staff newsletter, and *Weekly Update*, which is sent electronically through in-house e-mail.

Working with the other Executive Board ministry groups,



DISPLAYING PRODUCTS produced by the Communication Services Group are Denise Scott, seated, and standing, from left, Eleanor Yarborough, Barbara Owen, Doris Clark, and Pat Poindexter.

the communications team develops and produces a variety of pamphlets and brochures detailing upcoming events and programs.

A group can plan a great event that will bless and impact but people must know about it in order to attend, she notes.

"Communications is an absolute essential for any organization," she says.

The production services team also plays a vital role in the communications process.

Production services personnel operate a full service postal center, processing both incoming and outgoing mail, shipping and receiving packages, and staying informed and complying with

changing postal/carrier regulations.

The production services team also operates print and design services, thus being able to take an idea from the creative stage to the final product.

"The production services team strives to produce in the most cost efficient way the highest quality product that will best communicate and inform our constituents about ministries, services, and events of our groups," Yarborough notes.

The research/information services team seeks to provide relevant information which enhances the ministries of state missionary personnel and Tennessee Baptist churches. Responsibilities include managing the Annual Church Profile (and training of staff who input ACP data for their association or church); providing consultative services to churches and associations; maintaining internal network/software support and systems administration, managing the internal e-mail system, and much more.

Mike Overcash, who serves as the computer and information systems specialist on the team, is one of the Executive Board ministries' busiest and most in-demand staff members, Yarborough notes, adding, "Mike is as user friendly as we want our computers to be. It would be difficult for this organization to function without the services Mike provides our convention."

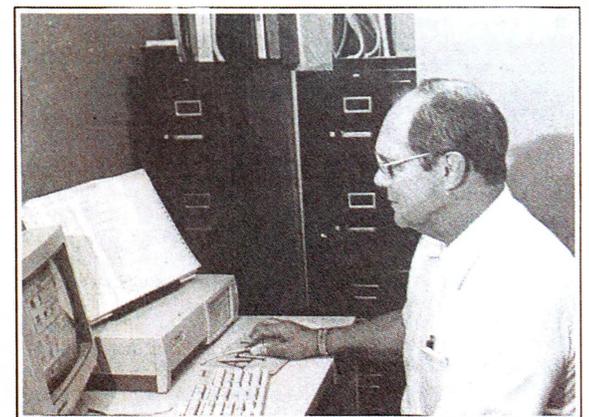
The Communication Services Group meets weekly to

update and discuss promotional projects for other Executive Board ministry groups. This is to ensure schedules are maintained and met in a timely fashion, Yarborough says.

Yarborough, who formerly served as director of church media library and church recreation, draws on her experiences in promoting those programs. Her new role as group leader is a "culmination of all I have learned and discerned" in promoting those ministries, she says.

Yarborough's vision is for CSG to "communicate and promote a positive public awareness of the ministries, resources, and services of the TBC through a proactive, responsive, coordinated program of communications, activities, and relationships."

Simply put, "We are here to communicate and to serve." *B&R* This story is the third in a series on Executive Board ministry groups formed by the reorganization of the Tennessee Baptist Convention ministries staff in November 1996.



MIKE OVERCASH of the Research/Information Services Team checks to make sure a computer in the Baptist Center is in proper working order.



THE PRODUCTION SERVICES TEAM consists of, from left, Shelby Birdwell, Garland Petty, Bettie Lackey, David Gerald, Dan Ferrell, Daniel Brown, and Kande Veridal.

Tennessee
features

Communication Services Group

➤ Eleanor Yarborough — group leader

Communications Team

➤ Eleanor Yarborough — communications specialist

➤ Barbara Owen — communications specialist

➤ Denise Scott — communications specialist

➤ Doris Clark — ministry assistant

➤ Pat Poindexter — ministry assistant

Production

Services Team

➤ Dan Ferrell — production services manager

➤ Kande Veridal — ministry assistant; production services liaison

➤ David Gerald — ministry assistant; print services

➤ Garland Petty — ministry assistant; print services coordinator

➤ Bettie Lackey — ministry assistant; distribution services

➤ Shelby Birdwell — ministry assistant; distribution services

Research/Information Services Team

➤ Mike Overcash — information systems specialist



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

August

- 6 — Pray for the staff and ministries of Hope Baptist Center in Detroit, Mich.
- 7 — Pray for Aaron McKelvie, 14, a member of River South Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- 8 — Pray for a Tennessee construction team from Poplar Heights Church, Jackson, who are working this week at Gdansk Church in Poland, turning an attic into educational space. Poplar Heights pastor Joe McIntire is leading the 10-member team.
- 9 — Pray for a team of 18 Tennessee volunteers, led by Loudon Association Director of Missions Ray Luck, who are working this week in Guapiles, Costa Rica, doing construction and community evangelism.
- 10 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Pastor/Staff Retreat to be held Aug. 11-14.
- 11 — Pray for Cambrian Heights Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, which is having financial problems and for Pastor Lewis Markwood.
- 12 — Pray for a team of 18 Belmont University students and workers, led by Betty Wiseman, as they work in Heredia, Costa Rica, Aug. 14-24.

Dismayed

I enjoy the opinions shared in every issue of the paper, but since the SBC meeting in Dallas, I have not only been shocked, but dismayed by the lack of spiritual maturity and unity in the body of Christ.

I am reading a loss of understanding of the truth that Christ brought into the world. Yes, Christ loves everyone, and he walked among the righteous and unrighteous alike, in love and truth. Love is not of God if there is no truth. If we offer "love" without truth, it is not from God.

Even though Christ did not separate himself from the world, he did not compromise his faith by condoning their actions or lifestyles. If we do not take a stand for the truth of Christ Jesus, then we take it for a lie, and simply melt into the wickedness of the world.

Truth is the boundaries set forth by God to lead us into a life of righteousness and exemplified by Christ. There is a security in truth that will attract more nonbelievers than a weakened, compromised faith. Wake up, Southern Baptists! The issue is not with Mickey Mouse, nor self-righteousness, but with showing the world that our God is a Holy God, and the body of Christ has been called to a higher standard.

Thanks to the convention for standing firm with the "belt of truth buckled around your waist" (Ephesians 6:14).

Sherry L. Collins
LaVergne 37086

Love for souls

I'm responding to Patrick McGill in the July 9 letters. There is nothing wrong with Southern Baptists who take a stand against the moral decline of our nation and its people. Nor is it "dull" to vehemently object to Hollywood and entertainment giants like Disney whose coffers swell from the filth and perversions they spew and endorse.

It is wrong to chastise Southern Baptists who are trying to stem the satanic destruction of everything that is moral and decent in our country. Baptists voted the dictates of their hearts and their love for souls dying, from the sin proliferated by Disney and Hollywood. They're not Pharisees, they are followers of God who said "come out from among them and be ye separate" (II Corinthians 6:16-18).

We should be concerned about entertainment giants who portray violence, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, divorce, teen pregnancy, etc., as morally acceptable. But

Trustee excited about North American Mission Board

The Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission served our Lord and our denomination well for many years and we owe a debt of gratitude to all who served with these entities. These now have been merged into a new entity called the North American Mission Board.

I feel that this is one of the greatest moves made by Southern Baptists. By combining these former ministries into NAMB, we now have tremendous capabilities that did not exist previously. We now have the capability of blanketing any part of North America with well-done radio and television advertisements, following this up with thousands of volunteers witnessing for Jesus, and then planting strong and viable churches to impact these areas for Jesus.

I hurt for those who lost positions in the change-over. Their willingness to step aside for the greater potential of NAMB should be a tremendous inspiration to all Southern Baptists. They need our prayers and encourage-

ment as they seek new places of service to our Lord. We should also thank the members of the Implementation Task Force for their work in putting all this together. I am amazed at the scope of all that was accomplished.

NAMB begins with an annual budget of \$108 million, 365 staff, approximately 5,000 missionaries, 2,700 chaplains, and thousands of volunteers. Nothing like this has ever taken place in Christian history.

I plead with Tennessee Baptists and all Southern Baptists for your prayers and continued financial support through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. God is sending the world to America. Pray for our president, Bob Record, the board of directors, and all employees of NAMB that we will wisely use the tremendous capabilities you have placed in our hands to impact North America for Jesus.

Edward "Tommy" Futrell
NAMB trustee,
pastor, Southside Church
Johnson City 37604

we must help those whose lives have been destroyed by these same ills. That seems dull to me. Dull of vision, hearing, understanding, and wisdom.

God does need to break and remold us. And when he does, that is part of regeneration that gives us spiritual discernment to understand that we are to plead for men's souls even at the expense of making others mad.

Darrell Lingerfelt, pastor
Thompson Chapel
Pulaski 38478

Letter ok

We are in agreement with the view expressed by Brad Isbell's letter (July 23 issue) and we hope serious consideration will be given to all Southern Baptist material, and not just VBS. Sunday School and Discipleship Training materials also should be reviewed.

Hudson Chesteen, pastor
Shirley Chesteen, teacher
Henderson Chapel Church
Sevierville 37862

Attention getter

I applaud this year's VBS theme. At first I was taken aback by the brashness of it all, but then I saw the enthusiasm and attendance at our VBS soar. I had to re-evaluate my first impression.

Forty years ago when I was a child, VBS was our only summer diversion from chopping weeds and picking produce. My children today live in a world that vies for their attention with computers, video games, and cable TV. We need to grasp their attention in our fast paced world. The Wild West Rodeo did just that.

Jesus tailored his approach to his different audiences in

many parables. These stories grasped his audience's attention and related the Gospel in terms easily understood in a manner his audience could relate to in the world of that day.

I don't believe the Gospel was diluted in VBS this year as witnessed by the many decisions made for Christ in our VBS. A fresh, creative approach to spreading the Gospel is always relevant.

David T. Young
Clarksville 37042

Revival needed

Every American today has a tremendous advantage over our ancestors. The greatest scientific developments in history have occurred during our life span. TV pictures are sent around the world almost instantly by satellites. We can travel around the world in a few hours by airplane. Man has been lifted to the moon by space crafts.

God has blessed every generation of Americans. The per capita income in the United States is approximately \$25,000 annually, compared to \$800 in Haiti and \$1,000 in Bangladesh.

We live in the most powerful and wealthiest nation on earth, but America has not been, nor ever will be, a great nation because of her resources or wealth. God elevated America to greatness because she adhered to the principles of God set out in the Bible. We need a return to God and to the Bible as never before.

Some refer to us as "post-Christian America." We could become like all other nations preceding us which would have fallen under the judgment of God. I challenge all Americans to join in the crusade to turn

America back to God. We need a revival of righteous living based on proper confession of sin and repentance of heart. We must return to the faith of our fathers. We must go to our knees in prayer and return to the cross.

The choice is clear. It is repent or perish, revival or ruin, Christ or chaos. The question of the hour is: Which way America?

Frank Stoffle
Seymour 37865

Supports VBS

I noticed a letter in the *B&R* putting down our VBS materials this year. Our VBS just completed a fantastic week. The material was great. We enjoyed the material and why anyone would put it down is beyond me.

Some people have criticized our Sunday School and Disciple Training literature. We have the best literature in the world to teach and train people to be good disciples for Jesus.

I have a Soul-Winning Commitment Day Packet. Praise God for our Southern Baptist Convention organization that helps those who want help.

Eleven were saved in our VBS. We had 131 enrolled with an average attendance of 82. For the year we have had 42 baptisms with another month to go.

We are proud to be Christian Americans and praise God a Southern Baptist. We're not ashamed of it either!

Boyd M. Roberts, pastor
Grace Church
Doyle 38559

B&R Day is Aug. 17.

Call (615) 371-2003 to order copies of the paper to pass out to members in your church. We're your state paper!

Even churches who care need friends

Tennessee Baptist churches are doing some unusual ministries this summer.

Missions programs for adults and youth, Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools, and choir tours are only a few of those offered.

Many churches have done "hands-on" missions in their communities and their neighborhoods. Others have sent members on Partnership Missions trips in various foreign lands.

You are getting a picture of churches who care about others, and who are serious about fulfilling, or "filling full" their role in the Great Commission.

The *Baptist and Reflector* has reported in depth on many of this ministry this summer. Following such church activities is one of the many serendipities we have. Reporting on God's work in and through the churches is alarming to Satan, but exciting to God's people.

But the churches have those "other" things to do as well. Workers are being sought for teaching, training, caring, ministering. Plans are underway for special needs and special programs. Groups and committees are planning strategies for moving the church forward. Financial needs are being addressed.

Churches also are discussing plans for churchwide involvement in community, state, and world outreach. As ongoing spiritual interests, there are concerns about people both in and out of church care.

Suffice it to say, churches come to grips with many worthy programs and ministries, usually at the right time.

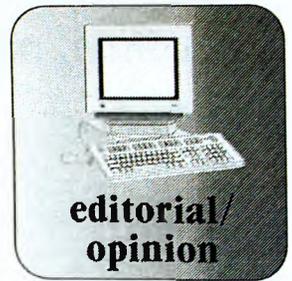
The local church is the busy place in Baptist life. The *Baptist and Reflector* regularly carries information and hands-on accounts of "how to" work with many church concerns.

We have news accounts, feature stories, and many testimonies of successful "recipes" for doing the work of the Lord. We are not saying that the paper gives the church all it needs in instructions and "how to" advice. But there are many success stories — and we can help provide them for those who need tips.

So at budget preparation time, we encourage Tennessee Baptist churches to use their Baptist

newsjournal as a strong arm of support in ministry. The paper can be used to explain and expand local church missions emphases, ministries of outreach and inreach, and education about all our Baptist work

There is also great comfort and excitement in reading about Baptist work across Tennessee, the United States, and around the world. The paper every week is planned for the churches. Use it! *B&R*



By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

Your Baptist newspaper's enduring reach, influence

Your *Baptist and Reflector* has been around for 162 years. And as we come to remember those who came before us, let's agree that the paper ought to be user-friendly.

Baptist and Reflector Day, will be observed on Sunday, August 17. An annual occasion, the day is set aside to focus on the ministry of the paper.

First, let's remember that the paper, or some of its ancestors, has been a part of Tennessee Baptists since before the founding of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Founded in 1835 by R. B. C. Howell in 1835 in Nashville, the paper is a proven distributor of news, comments, photographs, and stories about the ministry of the paper and the stories of all the churches and mission points.

We have learned that good journalists do not flinch from criticism. To yield would immobilize us and destroy effectiveness. Also, good journalists know that their role sometimes is to speak the truth in love, especially when it is helpful for the body.

Baptist bodies need a strong press that is not owned by any group or faction — and is unbiased and honest. Such a paper serves its readers well and discourages narrow views and restrictive leadership.

Help us celebrate *Baptist and Reflector* Day on August 17. Help us honor the past and approach the future with integrity that undergirds the work of the convention and brings unsaved people to Christ. We will not boast of accomplishments — but we will continue to build on a strong heritage. *B&R*

Just for today

By Fred Wood pastor emeritus Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

Joe: "You can't be sure of anything. Can you name one?"

Bill: "Sure I can. Look at your feet. As soon as you decide which one is the left, you can be sure the other foot is the right one."

Take this truth

Are there any absolutes in this world? If not, don't ever cross a bridge or take an elevator. They function according to laws of physics. Don't pitch any valuables into the air. They might not come down!

What about moral absolutes? The same principle applies. Those who claim to be agnostic have more intellectual and emotional problems than those who accept in faith things we do not understand.

Memorize this Scripture

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see — Hebrews 11:1.

Pray this prayer

Lord help me believe that what is excellent, as sure as God lives, is permanent. ■

Monuments of bronze, regal peaks — and love

We all have some things we'd like to forget, I'm sure, and a lot of things are worth remembering.

It is said that some words of Horace, the Roman poet, have been endlessly quoted. That's probably true.

It's also true that Horace and other Romans have influenced deeply the world through Latin and classic literature, an enduring legal system, and government that protected all its citizens as well as its slaves.

Perhaps these are among the most often quoted of Horace's lines:

"I have erected a monument more lasting than bronze

"And taller than the regal peak of the pyramids ...

"I shall never completely die."

This Horace, who died perhaps a few years before the birth of Christ, what was he saying?

I think he was knowledgeable about the inherent value of those systems of government that made Rome great. I think he was

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

cognizant of the blessings that would garish civilization for centuries, bringing order to chaotic principalities and giving citizens the respect due to God's greatest creation — mankind.

Whether he was wise or just guessing, the Roman word did give the world some intrinsic values that had been non-existent.

We are beneficiaries of them, including for example, our language.

However, when Horace said, "I shall never completely die," he laid hold of a truth seldom spoken in that time.

Christians can take that statement a step further.

We can say it with Horace and refer to earthly existence, service to mankind and temporal monuments to

the highest moral values.

But Christians can also refer to eternal life with Christ — eons beyond years of human existence.

"I have erected a monument more lasting than bronze

"And taller than the regal peak of the pyramids ...

"I shall never completely die."

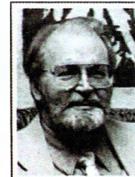
Well, the smile and contagious laughter of a little child have as much meaning. The sacrifice of a man's life to preserve his honor, his family, and his nation is as important.

The farm boy plowing his first straight row is as beautiful.

The examples lived out daily by Christian fathers and mothers is more godly.

The witness leading to a bridge between lost and saved is more honored in heaven.

But yes, Horace was right. The life lived for mankind is certainly more enduring than bronze and stone. So is love. ■



ALLEN

Will 'covenant' marriages really prevent divorce?

Question: Will "covenant" marriages really prevent divorces?

The so-called "covenant" marriage bill which was passed recently by the Louisiana state legislature will establish two ways to get married — the conventional route or through "covenant" marriage which requires that (1) all engaged couples must go through extensive premarital counseling, (2) no divorce can be granted without finding of fault, and (3) counseling is necessary before a divorce is granted.

These requirements are intended to make it more difficult to get married, and much more difficult to get divorced. The covenant marriage concept is a backlash against the ease and speed, and laxity of

families matter

— by Ivy Scarborough, attorney, mediator

the no-fault divorce process.

The most valuable part of the covenant marriage law is the requirement that a couple go through intensive premarital counseling. It is too easy to get a divorce, and it is far too easy to get married.

If couples were obligated to go through a process of examining their relationship and the traits of their personalities before they married, some marriages would never take place.

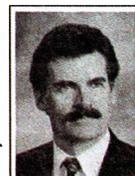
If they decided to marry, many problems could be headed off before they con-

tributed to a marital breakup.

Another urgent question now comes. Why shouldn't our churches provide the meaningful service of premarital counseling for all would-be newlyweds?

The effectiveness of such counseling would depend on the competence and training of the counselor, as well as the depth and intensity of the counseling. If it were largely a rote formality, it would be useless.

But in the hands of a very mature Christian with depth of training and experience it would be a powerful process to preserve families and aid Christians in their Christian growth. ■



SCARBOROUGH

Relocation, new facility gives new life to Knoxville church

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Just three years ago the future looked bleak for Grove Hill Church here.

In fact, members were struggling with the question of whether to keep the church open or close its doors for good, said Tom Tomberlin, pastor of the Knox County Association church since 1984.

Today the church has a new location, a new facility, and a new outlook on ministry. It even has a new name — Friendship Church.

The transformation is a direct result of how the Lord answers prayers, Tomberlin affirmed.

He related that three years ago attendance at the 63-year-old church had dwindled to about 22 and the church building badly needed repairs — about \$100,000 worth, or \$100,000 that the church just didn't have.

Tomberlin said the church prayed for about a year over

what to do.

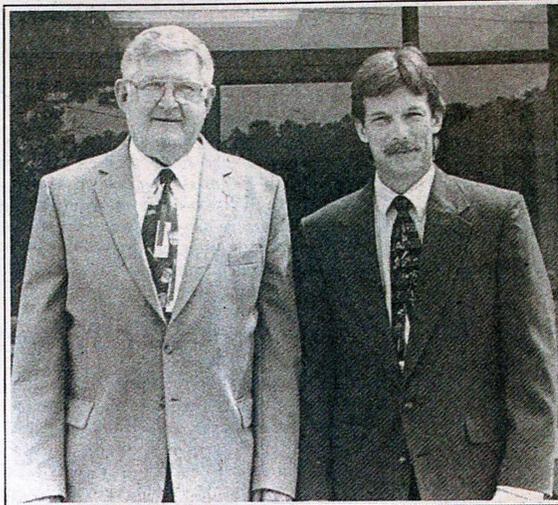
One day, Terry Farrow, the church's minister of music, answered a call, asking if the church would be willing to sell its property. A developer wanted to build a shopping center on the site.

At first the proposal seemed out the question, Tomberlin and Farrow agreed. "You just don't sell a church."

Yet, as the staff members and some of the members discussed the offer, one of the laymen, Roger Brooks (who has since moved to Virginia) reminded them that they had been praying to God to show them what to do. Brooks suggested that this offer could be God's answer, Farrow recalled.

The developers offered the church \$750,000 for the property. After some investigation the church discovered it could buy land and build a new facility for \$615,000.

Two years later Friendship (formerly Grove Hill) has doubled its land size and tripled its building size. And, the new 15,000-square-foot facility



PASTOR TOM TOMBERLIN, left, and Minister of Music Terry Farrow of Friendship Church, Knoxville, are providing leadership to a church that was on the verge of closing its doors for good just three years ago.

which includes a worship center, educational space, and full-size gymnasium is all debt free, the two ministers reported.

"We know in our hearts that we did what the Lord wanted us to do," Farrow said, "because all the doors have opened up for us."

Approximately 15-20 members from Grove Hill made the transition. In about eight months since moving into the new facility, tremendous growth has been realized.

The church has had more than 90 people in attendance the past few weeks and occa-

sionally has gone over the 100 mark. The church has baptized six new converts since relocating.

As they were building the new church they visited the community and invited people to come, Tomberlin said. While the church is near several other Baptist churches in the area, Friendship's focus is on the unchurched, Tomberlin said.

Farrow agreed. "Our focal point is to reach people who are



Tennessee features

not going to church anywhere."

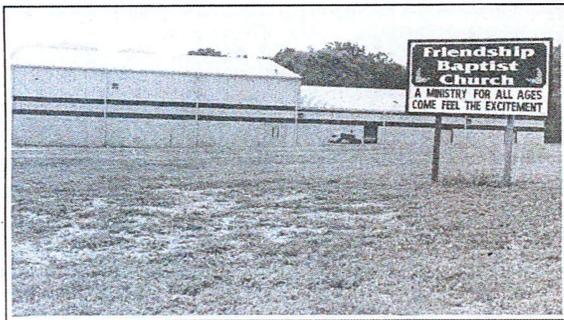
While the new location and facility are factors in the church's resurgence, Tomberlin and Farrow agree that the spirit of the church is the primary factor for growth.

"Our people are wanting to grow," Tomberlin said.

"They are eager to find ways to get people to come. I tell them to invite others," said Tomberlin, a bivocational pastor for many years. He retired from his job as a bearing manufacturing representative recently to devote himself full time to the work at Friendship.

Tomberlin noted the last three years have been "a roller coaster" experience, from seeing a church almost die to one that is "vibrant and alive."

Farrow agreed, saying he is convinced God has a purpose for the church at its new location. "God has been blessing us hand over foot," he affirmed. ■



LOCATED ON Ball Camp Pike in Knoxville, Friendship Church opens its arms to the unchurched in the area.

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PART-TIME MINISTER: Lyle Lane Church, Nashville, has an opening for a part-time minister of education/students. Call the church office at (615) 255-8717, if interested.

MUSIC SALE: Audubon Park Church, Memphis, will be having a music sale to sell multiple copies of current and out of print octavos, choir robes, and other music ministry related items Aug. 16, beginning at 8 a.m. For more information, call (901) 324-5341.

CHURCH ORGANIST: Needed for both Sunday services, experience required. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Valley Grove Baptist Church, 9000 Old Sevierville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920, phone (423) 577-6620.

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Money

By Aubrey Hay

Focal: I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-18

It is hard not to love money. Money is the means by which we are able to get many of the needs of our lives met. Proper food, shelter, clothing, and medical care cost money. Furthermore, money brings to us power and a certain kind of prestige. It has the allure of lifting us to a level in society, however superficial, that makes us feel important. Money is what we get in exchange for the labor of our hands. It is therefore representative of life. We literally spend our life in order to get money to spend. Is it then any wonder that Jesus warned us repeatedly about the contradiction of "serving God and mammon?" Our relationship to money can, and will, rival our relationship to him. Our trust is to be in God and not money. It is a matter of consistent vigilance to keep a proper perspective about material possessions. Timothy has a word we need to hear.

Contentment with basics of life — vv. 6-8

Underlying this statement is his call to pursue godliness. Our quest for the material can take on the intensity of a spiritual quest. Being content is not a call for us to be unconcerned about the needs of our life, but the concern for the material must be second to our desire to know God. Having material possessions is not wrong; having a trust in these material possessions is wrong, for our trust is to be in God who gives us life and the opportunity, ability, and power to earn money. Being godly does not exclude being wealthy, but wealth must be earned by honorable means, it must be used with the knowledge that God has given it to us, and it must never take the place of our commitment to God.

The perils of wealth — vv. 9-10

The most difficult aspect of getting and keeping wealth is its demand on life. You do not have to be wealthy to be a materialist, you need only to think that money will solve all your problems. The danger then is not just for the wealthy, but for those who have little wealth, but desire to have wealth. The often quoted "the love of money is the root of all evil" speaks to this peril. In this regard it speaks to the passion with which we strive for money, the means we use to get it, and what we do with it after we have gotten it. It is essentially the attitude we have about wealth. If we elevate it to be the most important part of our lives, it is worship. It ceases to be what we possess and becomes what possesses us.

The Christian perspective — vv. 11-19

The Christian is to avoid these temptations. He is to do so by a two fold effort. He is to flee from these things, and pursue "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." There is always a turning away from some things as one turns toward God. One must struggle to resist temptation even as he strives for godliness. The best defense against temptation is to be busy fighting the "good fight of faith." Additionally, in keeping proper perspective about money one is to use it to the glory of God. To have wealth means there is a responsibility to use it in a way that pleases God. The believer will not allow himself to use wealth as a tool to get his way. One is not at liberty to use the power of money as a means to force others to do what they want, in this regard some in the church withhold their gifts if things do not go their way. In my opinion this is a dangerous thing to do. It means you have not given your gift in the spirit that the Lord intended, and you are using it in a way that does not please him. — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Board.

Encourage one another

By Connie Davis

Focal: Hebrews 10: 19-25, 32-39

My childhood continues to be a source of encouragement to me. Up to this point, it has been the most troubled time of my life. But it was directed by my mother, who continuously pointed me to God and his people for strength and understanding and love. I thank her and First Church, El Reno, Okla., for guiding me as you did.

Because of these factors, my childhood, although it began 43 years ago, strengthens me as I remember how God used my troubles for good. These experiences also have made more recent crises less threatening because of my strength in God.

Source of Encouragement — vv. 19-23

The reason my childhood changed me so indelibly is expressed in this passage.

Family Bible Lesson

Because of Jesus, this passage tells us, we are "free to enter boldly into the sanctuary by the new, living way" (NEB). We can go boldly into a sanctuary for "the household of God" because "our guilty hearts" have been "sprinkled clean" and "our bodies washed with pure water." What is required of us? A "confession of our hope." Finally, we can be assured that we will be welcomed because "the Giver of the promise may be trusted."

Object of Encouragement — vv. 24-31

We don't want to join God alone, so we are directed to consider our relationships to each other. We should "arouse others to love and active goodness" (NEB) and encourage each other to attend meetings so we can encourage each other.

The reason we should be encouragers stems not only from the promises we have mentioned above, but from the ramifications of not accepting God's promises.

The result of ignoring God's gifts is "only a terrifying

expectation of judgment," (NEB) especially at the end of the world, the passage notes. Why is God's response so punitive? The Scripture says it is severe because the person has "trampled under foot" and "profaned," what God has offered, and "affronted God's gracious spirit."

Remembering Other Encouragements — vv. 32-34

After I made my decision for God in my childhood, I needed encouragement, especially during that period of my life, as I mentioned above. I received it, and benefit from memories of that still today.

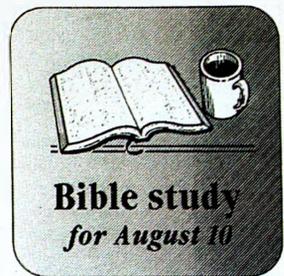
My troubles pale when considering the persecution many Christians in other countries suffer. In the times this was written, Christians were imprisoned and lost their possessions. They did it knowing that they "possessed something better and more lasting" (NEB). Today Christians still suffer such persecutions. We should pray for those in communist and Muslim-directed countries, and the former Soviet republics which are still considering religious freedom.

Cause for Encouragement — vv. 35-39

Persecution can be expected, we are told. "Do not then throw away your confidence, for it carries a great reward. You need endurance, if you are to do God's will and win what he has promised" (NEB).

What Christians will win is heaven, that place of constant joy and peace, which Christians receive when we are given eternal life. But this passage warns that people only have until the end of the world to make a choice for God and that Jesus will return soon.

The passage also warns that the person who "shrinks back" from the promises of God will find "no pleasure" from God. "But we are not among those who shrink back and are lost; we have the faith to make life our own." — Davis is assistant editor, *Baptist and Reflector*.



Receiving the Gospel

By Jerry Chapman

Focal: I Corinthians 15:1-11

The apostle Paul had warned the Corinthians about many problems. Among them were the existence of sexual immorality, fighting over Christian freedom, and the abuse of spiritual gifts. However, the greatest problem and threat to the Corinthians and us today is the disbelief of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death. If Christ did not live beyond the grave then we have no hope of doing the same. All that we do and say has no truth. Why is this lesson so vital to our faith and life as believers? Here are the reasons.

The centrality of the Gospel (vv. 1-2). Paul had proclaimed good news to the Corinthians and they had accepted it. The result was salvation. They were "saved." This means they had been saved, were being saved, and will be saved. It is a continuing process ... for a lifetime. Anyone who does not have a genuine salvation experience with Christ is not a Christian. Essentially there is no evidence in a person's life if he doesn't "hold fast the word."

The content of the Gospel (vv.

Explore the Bible Lesson

3-8). This is the essence of all that we as believers live for today. Chapter 13 indicates love is the life-blood of doing ministry for God. Paul had heard the Gospel from a believer. He accepted Christ on the Damascus Road and became a follower. Now he was proclaiming the Gospel to the Corinthians. It is of great importance and yet a simple message. Christ died "for our sin." This is God's answer for all humanity. This act was proclaimed years before in the Old Testament Scriptures. He was buried in a borrowed tomb, raised from the dead after three days. It was God's predetermined plan.

Verses 5-8 list some of the witnesses which saw Christ after his resurrection. He appeared to Peter, the 12, 500 lay people, James, all the apostles, and Paul. There were others but Paul wanted the Corinthians to know this was a true historical fact. There were witnesses. We are 21st Century witnesses.

The changing power of the Gospel (vv. 9-11). Paul realized he was not worthy of Christ to change

his life. He was a police-band leader out to persecute any and all believers for their faith in Christ. However, Christ changed him from a persecutor into a proclaimer. And what did it? The grace of God. God's grace does it for anyone who calls on him for salvation.

It would be one thing for Paul's life to be changed and nothing more happen as a result of the changed life. But Paul proceeded to tell others. For Paul it did not matter who proclaimed the Gospel. God uses the Gospel message to change lives. Everyone who has been changed by the Gospel is in one sense a witness of Jesus' resurrection. Therefore, we all have a responsibility to share this life-changing message. And what may happen to someone will not be from our efforts but from the truth of the message. The Holy Spirit uses the Gospel to turn people's lives around. It is a process which begins with a positive response but continues for a lifetime.

Who will you share the Gospel message with this week? — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.

leaders

■ **First Church, Hohenwald**, has called **Aaron Armstrong** as minister of youth and **Kelvin Smith** as minister of music. Armstrong is a student at Union University, Jackson, and Smith was minister of music, First Church, McKenzie.

■ **William E. Troutt**, president, Belmont University,



TROUTT

Nashville, has been appointed to serve on the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.). The bipartisan commission was created on July 12 when President Clinton signed the FY97 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The commission's report will be used during deliberations on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

■ **Cherry Road Church, Memphis**, has called **John Mueller** as minister of music and **Bob McConnelly** as minister to senior adults.

■ **McLean Church, Memphis**, has called **Don Aycock**, director of pastoral care, Baptist Memorial Health System, Memphis, as interim pastor.

■ **Russell Irwin**, pastor, First Church, Seymour, has resigned.

■ **Friendship Church, Sevierville**, has called **Jerry Ogle** as pastor.

■ **Allen Farris** has been called as pastor of Central Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Central Church, Oak Ridge**, has called **David McPherson** of Rockdale Church, Conyers, Ga., as pastor, effective Aug. 10. He is a former youth minister at the church.

■ **Circle of Faith Church, Petros**, has called **Lonnie Lowe** as pastor.



CELEBRATING the debt-free status during the centennial anniversary year of Ebenezer Church, Knoxville, are church leaders who are burning a note representing the church's debt. Participating are, from left, John Abbott, Carolyn Snyder, Ruth Branch, and Jim Clayton, pastor. The ceremony was held June 29.

churches

■ **Edgefield Church, Nashville**, is holding a Christmas in August event for the inner city ministry of the San Antonio (Texas) Association.

■ **Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg**, will hold revival Sept. 21-24. Sam Hollis will speak.

■ **Oak Hill Church, Leoma**, sent 15 members to work in Mexico this summer. They repaired two churches and did evangelistic work. Also the congregation will hold revival Aug. 17-22. Dennis Erwin will speak.

■ **Summertown Church, Summertown**, dedicated its new sanctuary July 27.

■ **Several Nashville area churches** will participate in a Community Christian Celebration Aug. 10 at McGavock High School Stadium. Hope Hines, sports director, WTVF Channel 5 will speak. Youth will attend a separate service at Lincoya

Hills Church, Nashville. It is sponsored by the Donelson-Hermitage Minister's Association. For more information, call (615) 883-3248.

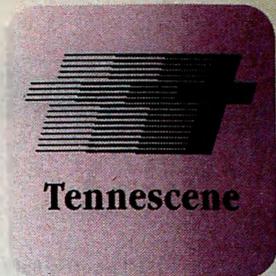
■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will hold a Supernatural Sunday School Sunday Aug. 17, which will kick off its Aug. 17-20 revival. Aubert Rose of Benton, Ky., former associate pastor, First Church, Atlanta, will speak. Stacey Pearcey will lead the music.

■ **Una Church, Antioch**, will hold its centennial celebration Aug. 23-24.

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, will hold a Prayer Revival Aug. 10-13 with Dan Crawford, speaker, and Ken and Lois Holland, music evangelists, directing the music.

■ **First Church, Morristown**, held a groundbreaking service on July 27 for its new fellowship hall and educational building.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, will hold a church

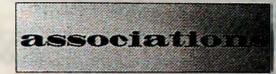


music sale Aug. 16. On sale will be multiple copies of music, choir robes and stoles, and other music ministry related products. For more information, call (901) 324-5541.

■ **Charlotte Road Church, Nashville**, held homecoming activities Aug. 3. Joe C. Estes, pastor, Parker's Creek Church, Bon Aqua, and pastor from 1986-89, spoke.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Lexington**, will hold revival Aug. 8-10. Fred Ward, pastor, First Church, Huntingdon, will speak.

■ **Hopewell Church, Savannah**, will hold revival Aug. 17-20. Danny Lanier of Little Rock, Miss., will speak.



■ **Shiloh Association** will hold a workday at Walnut Grove Church, Savannah, Aug. 23. Volunteers will build a roof over the new baptistry addition and do some inside work. For more information, call (901) 632-0145. Also the association will hold a seminary extension class on the book of Matthew beginning Aug. 28. Jimmy Garrett, pastor, Gravel Hill Church, Ramer, will lead it.

■ **Nashville Association** will host a PrayerWalk Nashville '97 Sept. 13. For more information, call (615) 259-3034.



PASTOR AND former pastor of Hillsdale Church, Dixon Springs, pause during festivities for its 180th anniversary July 20. Richard Patton, left, pastor, hosted Wert Campbell, former pastor, who spoke. Honored were Gustine Burrows, 92, the oldest member. Will T. Chamberlain spoke on the history of the church. It was organized as East Fork Goose Creek Church. The congregation has met continuously except for two years during the Civil War.



Tennessee samplers

A role model

By Terry Carver, pastor
Edgefield Church, Nashville

I recently finished reading Billy Graham's autobiography, *Just As I Am*. I have always been a great admirer of his. I, along with many others, believe that his ministry has made one of the greatest positive impacts on this world in the history of Christianity. He has greatly influenced my life and my ministry with his televised crusades, books,

magazines, films, etc. It was a thrill to participate in his Memphis crusade and to hear him at the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

As I read his story, I wanted to look for those special qualities that Dr. Graham exhibited which allowed God to make his ministry so effective. These are some of those qualities that appeared to be so vital to his success:

- a firm conviction in the truthfulness and power of God's Word
- a burning passion to reach people for Christ
- an intense desire to make the Gospel accessible to all in the context of their culture
- an openness to change, new methods, different styles, and fresh ideas
- the faith and courage to take risks even in the face of criticism
- a sensitive, gracious, and humble spirit, but that is also firm and unyielding on important matters

- a belief in the value of teamwork
- even with a historic past, remaining focused on the future

I share this with you because I am convinced that Dr. Graham's ministry serves as a model for any individual Christian, and especially for any church. If we would make a conscious effort to exhibit these qualities, I believe God would bless our effort in a tremendous fashion. We may not touch billions of lives as Dr. Graham has, but God will assuredly use us to reach many right where we are. I thank God for this great spiritual leader, and hope that we can model his ministry. ■

Missions results

By Jeffrey S. Jones, minister of youth & children
First Church, Martin

Many times the students who partic-

ipate in the mission trip experience don't think about or realize the impact their ministry has. I just heard about a situation that could be a real encouragement to our students who served in Kansas.

Debbie Carter, the missions coordinator for Trinity Church, told me that at a meeting at their mission congregation in Manhattan, a lady told how a youth survey team had changed her life.

She said the instrument that God used to get her and her family involved in the church was the Martin survey team that came to her house and got her name and other information.

Her son went to a Bible school last year and began attending the church. Later, she also joined the church, and is active now in serving the Lord.

The fruit of our labors will not always be known or seen at the time of service, but God knows and sees all. We must learn to simply trust him to take care of the results. ■