

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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

Revamped VBS materials bring 'stampede' of good reports

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A "stampede" of good news about Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools is coming in from around the country.

Taking advantage of the Baptist Sunday School Board's VBS theme for 1997 — "The Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede" — churches have used horse-riding cowboy pastors, pony rides, petting zoos, and even a full-fledged rodeo to interest children in the Gospel.

In May of last year, the BSSB scrapped its already completed VBS materials for

1997 and designed a new format on a fast-track production schedule. The new theme-permeated materials were heavy on evangelism and included rotation schedules, common Scripture passages for all age groups, a contemporary worship rally, and a strong emphasis on missions.

The western theme and renewed focus on evangelism apparently paid off as the BSSB has received numerous "good news" reports from churches across the United States.

Among the churches across the U.S. that used a "real live" rodeo was one from Knoxville. See story on page 4. ■



DOUG SAGER, pastor of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, took to the saddle for a rodeo sponsored by his church. Approximately 3,000 people attended the rodeo and more than 2,000 were enrolled in Vacation Bible School at the church. See story on page 4.

B&R Day helps acquaint 12,000 readers with paper

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Thank you, Tennessee Baptist churches! More than 120 TBC churches responded to *Baptist and Reflector* Day by ordering 12,272 copies of the paper.

None of the 126 churches currently include the *B&R* in their budgets, so those who ordered are not regular readers.

We hope to change that.

The purpose of *B&R* Day is two-fold. First, the staff wants to introduce the paper to prospective readers and others, and the staff also hopes enough interest is sparked for many of the churches to respond by putting the paper in the church budget.

The number for use on *Baptist and Reflector* Day, Aug. 17, was significantly larger

than last year's 107 churches and 8,632 papers.

Wm. Fletcher Allen, *B&R* editor said the paper's staff has aggressively sought to increase circulation. "Now we see some positive results," he said, "and we will build on them."

Not only was *Baptist and Reflector* Day one of the "selling points," Allen said, but incorporated into the Aug. 13 issue was a new page design and a Golden State Mission Offering eight-page insert.

The workers' strike against United Parcel Service threatened to impede delivery of the special orders, Allen said, but the United States Postal Service handled the orders well, he said.

Allen thanked the USPS and several Tennessee Baptists who volunteered to deliver some orders. Across the state, associ-

ations' directors of missions were standing by to lend assistance.

Many churches used the special edition of the paper to promote *Baptist and Reflector* Day on Aug. 17 or later. And many churches will use the Golden State Mission Offering section to promote the state mission offering and the Week of Prayer Sept. 7-14.

At least two associations made sure their churches had some papers. Bob Campbell, Fayette; and Dennis Pulley, Robertson County, ordered for all their churches.

Late last week, the *B&R* staff was still trying to fill orders for churches.

It was a combined effort and appreciation is given to all who helped, including Franklin Web, which prints the paper regularly. — *B&R* Staff



Conference leaders

The Baptist Center recently hosted the Tennessee Black Church Leadership Conference for 105 men and women from across the state. Conference leaders included, from left, Jay Wells, Baptist Sunday School Board and pastor of Simeon Church, Nashville; Robert Wilson, North American Mission Board; Ken Weathersby, TBC Executive Board Ministries; and Michael Pigg, a pastor from Charleston, S.C. — Photo by Connie Davis

Churches asked to submit 1997 VBS reports

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Vacation Bible Schools in Southern Baptist churches in 1996 attracted almost 3.2 million people and resulted in more than 53,000 professions of faith, according to statistics released recently by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Becky Martin, VBS consultant for the board, noted 15,350 churches mailed in detailed reports for 1996. Martin urged churches to turn in their 1997 reports on the Annual Church Profile so the BSSB can monitor the impact VBS is making. ■

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about your newsjournal

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- > **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
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Woman cared for mother with disease

Caretaker shares lessons concerning Alzheimer's



Baptist Press

GLORIE TA, N.M. — If Myra Book had to choose between dying

of cancer or Alzheimer's disease, she would choose cancer.

After caring for her mother, Mabel Gailey, through seven years of Alzheimer's, Book describes it as a "heart-wrenching disease that none of us wants to go through."

Book, associate director of missions operations and events at the North American Mission Board, spoke at a conference on ministering to people affected by Alzheimer's during the recent Jericho Southern Baptist Missions Festival at Glori-

eta Baptist Conference Center. Also participating in the conference were Fred Loper, NAMB national medical missions consultant based in Oklahoma City, and Rob Flippen, chaplain at Mercy Hospice, also in Oklahoma City.

Book's mother was diagnosed with the disease in 1987 when she was 82 years old after the family first noticed her memory problems. She died in 1994.

Looking back, Book said family members going through problems with an Alzheimer's patient need to attribute them to the disease, not to the patient.

She urged conferees with friends caring for an Alzheimer's patient to call them often to offer encouragement

and to come by and relieve them for an hour to get out of the house.

"You can sit with people and cry with them," Book said. "But until you've walked through it on a personal basis, it's difficult to understand."

Describing Book as having done the right things in caring for her mother, Loper emphasized that Alzheimer's "is not an inevitable result of growing older. At 65, about 10 percent of the population has Alzheimer's. By age 85, just below 50 percent have some form of dementia, including Alzheimer's."

To help Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, Loper and Flippen urged regular personal visits and actions to meet specific needs.

Loper suggested churches may want to consider providing respite care one day a week at the church for patients who are able to get out. Also, he said churches could implement a care team concept, training a 12-person team to provide "respite or full-time care for a person in the latter stage of the disease."

Loper, Book, and Flippen emphasized the importance of obtaining current information about Alzheimer's available through hospices, hospitals, and Alzheimer's associations in most cities.

The national Alzheimer's Association may be contacted at 919 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60611. ■ — Linda Lawson

BSSB modifies delivery as shipping crisis worsens

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board has made delivery of Fall Quarter literature its major concern and is continuing to adjust shipping methods in an effort to provide dated literature to churches by the first of September in spite of a worsening U.S. shipping crisis.

By Aug. 15, restrictions and backlogs by carriers overloaded as a result of the United Parcel Service strike had required a week of daily evaluations and changes in shipping options at the BSSB.

President James T. Draper Jr. said approximately 13,300 packages of dated literature were in the board's order fulfill-

ment system on Aug. 13 and were to have left the board by freight, U.S. Postal Service and air carrier no later than Monday, Aug. 18. An estimated additional \$155,000 will be spent to provide materials that were ordered by the Aug. 6 cutoff date for September-October-November quarterlies. No additional charge will be made to church customers whose orders were at the board on Aug. 6.

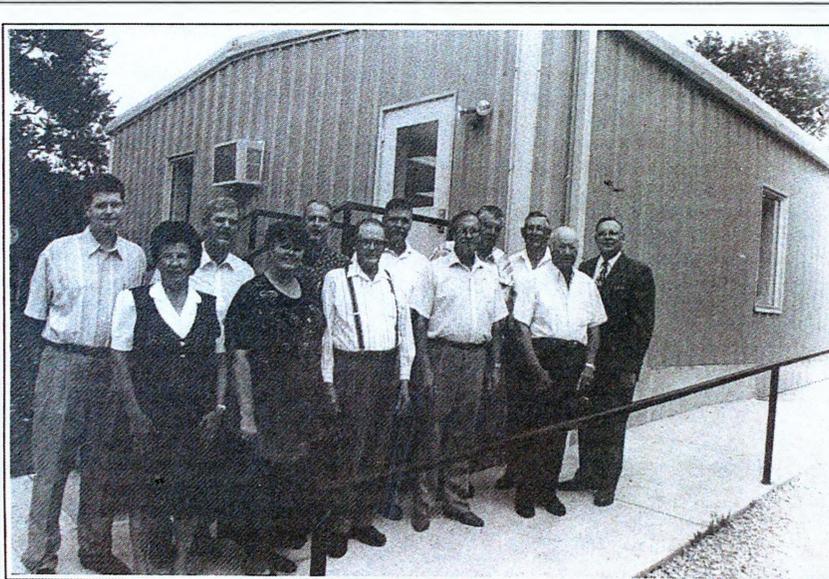
The decision came the week after the board announced it would spend an unprecedented \$500,000 to provide the remaining 30 percent of Fall Quarter orders that had been placed by the deadline.

Orders for October monthly publications were to be processed and stored for shipment until an early September evalu-

ation of shipping options.

Meanwhile, undated orders of more than 100 pounds will be shipped by freight, and packages of undated materials weighing less than 100 pounds will be sent to U.S. Postal Service regional centers for delivery, along with dated orders placed after Aug. 8. Carriers are not guaranteeing delivery dates.

Churches that placed orders after Aug. 6 and that are within driving distance of Nashville are encouraged to have a member pick up materials in Nashville with no pick-up charge. Three work days should be allowed for processing. Confirmation that the order is ready to be picked up may be made at (615) 251-5959. ■



New building dedicated

SANTA FE CHURCH, Maury Association, celebrated homecoming and dedicated the new Fellowship Hall Aug. 3. Pastor Jack Taylor, far right, stands with some who helped with the construction of the hall, from left: Joey Potts, Daisy Burns, Billy Potts, Brenda Potts, Ray Potts, Leonard Potts, Roy Potts, Lytle Wise, Bobby Davis, Buddy Burns, James McGee, and Taylor. Homer Kelley, former pastor, was speaker for the homecoming service. Lunch was served in the new building. Revival services began that night. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Senior Adult Conference Set

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 1997 Senior Adult Conference will be held Sept. 16-18 at the Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Pigeon Forge.

Registration is \$12 per person. Make checks payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention and mail to: Donald E. Mauldin, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. For more information, call 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2027. ■

Estill Springs' 90th set for Sept. 13-14

For Baptist and Reflector

ESTILL SPRINGS — First Church, Estill Springs, will celebrate its 90th anniversary Sept. 13-14.

Homecoming is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 14, with two morning services at 8:30 and 11. Harlan Loggins, pastor from 1973-79, will preach. The weekend begins with a churchwide picnic on Saturday. ■

Sincerity please, and no straw men

Sincerity is an important virtue, but it is useless if not employed in the Christian life. It cannot be a random ideal.

At some point, preferably sooner than later, we have to come to grips with this. We can be sincerely wrong. We can practice sincere Christian mediocrity. We can eliminate all the positives in life and just be nonchalant about commitment.

There are many recipes for living the Christian life sincerely. But like recipes for cake or steak, the right ingredients, measurements, and the right cooking time are "the proof of the pudding."

Does it matter who I am? For those who come after me, will it matter who I was? The answer for the Christian is a resounding "Yes, it does matter!"

In Joshua 14, Caleb, now 85, reminds his friend of a promise Moses made to him 40 years back. "Joshua," he said, "you're our new leader. Do you remember what Moses said to me when I asked for the high ground, the tough hill country of giants and fortified cities? He said that I, and my tribe, could have it when the right time came.

"That time is now, Joshua. You remember also that you and I were the only two of 12 spies who said we could take the Promised Land.

"And now, Joshua, I am just as strong at 85 as I was then. I still want the hill country." Joshua agreed. He gave the ter-

ritory to Caleb and his people.

There were no straw men in Caleb's life. There were none for Joshua. Imagine, keeping alive your dreams and your commitment to God for 40 years while wandering in the terrible wilderness.

See now Jesus at Galilee, telling Peter to push out from the shore, move into the deep water, throw out the nets.

See Peter agreeing, but probably grumbling softly. See him and the others as their nets begin to break and overloaded, begin to drag the boats down.

See Peter stoop in amazement when he recognizes Christ the Savior. Hear Christ say, "Come, men, leave it all, follow me. I'll make you fishers of men."

There is enough Christlike sincerity in these two Biblical events to keep us busy for hours. But also know there are enough straw men trying to dissuade Caleb and Joshua, Peter, John, Andrew, and the others — to keep them busy for eternity.

Sincerity alone will not suffice for us — and it was not enough for Caleb and Peter. Add commitment to the right purpose, and you have sincere commitment.

But beware of the straw men. Even Christians can use straw men to hide motives. They can throw straw men in front of sincere people to give us a different impression. They can use them to convince people that certain ones are not following Christ, abusing the Word, consorting with non-believers. You see, a straw man is

merely weak or imaginary opposition to keep someone occupied elsewhere, or to cause others to doubt your sincerity of belief. It's a false argument.

Now see Peter and John, after Christ's death and resurrection, grown into sincere and obedient servants of Jesus Christ — willing to risk embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, physical danger, in order to heal a man.

He sits by the gate called Beautiful, faithful to many years of begging, but sincere to the wrong ideal. Peter and John do not give him the alms he wants. Instead, acting from sincere commitment to Christ, they are able to heal his crippled legs.

And another straw man bit the dust. It is not true that the man can never walk. It is not true that God has been punishing him for some hidden sin.

In the name of Jesus, they gave him what he needed — healing.

Straw men are not worthy for a force as spiritually endowed Tennessee Baptists or Southern Baptists. *But because of them, we often waste our time and lose our way.*

The aim in using straw men is to keep others from seeing what you're doing, and to throw suspicion on others who may be innocent.

Sincere commitment to Christ demands we use only his methods, live his lifestyle, put others before ourselves, and never use straw men (false accusations). They have been in use too long already. *WFA*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Two elderly ladies are boarding the plane.

First lady to the pilot: "Now young man, I don't want you flying this airplane faster than sound."

Pilot: "I probably won't, ma'am, but why would you make such a request?"

Lady, in response: "Because we want to talk."

Take this truth

Light travels 186,000 miles per second, and that's almost as fast as gossip. Most of us talk too much.

The worst thing about it is that sometimes the brain stops working and the mouth keeps on talking.

Memorize this Scripture

But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. — Matthew 12:36

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to zip my lip when I am tempted to express my opinion about matters that are none of my business. ■

Who said that?

"The doctrine of the laity is biblical. It is God's plan for fulfilling his redemptive mission in the world. Regardless of the response of the people ... of the time it will take ... of the cost to each of us, we have no choice but to seek to make it real in our own lives and in the life of the church." — *Findley B. Edge, in The Doctrine of the Laity, Convention Press, Nashville, 1985*

Look out for cool polar bears and Shrimp Newburg

one word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



Real life supports the view which says the grass is always greener

drink with the polar bear on the bottle. I told her, "It's just soda water, bitter, and real fizzy." Betty and I warned her gently that the investment of a quarter meant she would have to drink it if she chose it.

She chose it. She put in the quarter and jumped with excitement as that cool white polar bear slide down the chute.

Her first taste was a big gulp, and quickly she put up a brave front. Very soon tears began to roll down her cheek.

Good parents that we were, we allowed her to get something else after three or four swallows. It was a bitter lesson!

Years later I was with several co-workers, eating at a rather fancy restaurant. One called for Shrimp Newburg as an appetizer. The rest of us had something more simple.

The waiter placed our choices before us. My friend looked at what the waiter had brought him, smiled, and said, "I ordered Shrimp Newburg."

Almost apologetically, the waiter responded, "But sir, that *is* Shrimp New-

burg!" We laughed, but of course we did not expect him to eat it.

So many times in life we make choices flippantly, almost irresponsibly. We choose without knowing what we are asking for.

Look back. Remember those choices that soured quickly because they were wrong, because you had not even thought beyond the "I want it" stage — or perhaps we want it because the boss wants it, and we think he wants us to want it.

Maybe we voted for something at the Southern Baptist Convention because the leadership said it was right, even though they didn't give us enough information or sufficient time.

Jesus calls us to be mature Christians. Whether or not the boss chooses, or whether leaders or friends do it — our individual responsibility is to do exactly what Jesus Christ wants us to do. He wants us to exercise our minds and choose right. He wants us to listen to him. Otherwise that cool white polar bear will slide down the chute and bite us. ■

on the other side of the fence. Or at least it appears that way.

We made a trip out west years ago when our daughters were much younger. And we were too.

It was a long trip — all the way from South Carolina to Houston, Texas. The Houston motel had one of those great new inventions — a fancy cold drink machine.

One night we visited that machine, and allowed the girls to make their own choices. The pictures of the drinks were very enticing, but the older two, Amy and Jennifer, chose drinks that were familiar.

Monica exercised her right of choice, turning back wise advice to avoid that

When fatigue interferes, you need help from these five fighters

families matter

by Paul Barkley counselor, professor



In the busy and hectic world where we live, I continually hear the complaint of how tired people are. Fatigue is damaging to family relationships because most

people cut corners with family time when fatigue is a problem. Vacations may be postponed, the weekly family night out may be skipped, or someone may be too tired to talk about the problem. There are five strategies for dealing with this dilemma.

Analyze the feeling. Robert Schuller tells of re-

marking to his wife about being tired while on vacation. "You're not tired, you're just relaxing," she said. But there are times when fatigue is a frame of mind that disguises boredom, disorganization, indecision, hidden hostility, guilt, frustration, or trapped feelings. When these are acknowledged, fatigue fades.

Assess the physical. Some fatigue feelings are caused by physical conditions such as being overweight, low-grade infections, lack of activity. A medical checkup is valuable in fighting the fatigue source.

Acknowledge the fantastic potential. People can do amazing feats in emergency situations. Men have been able to lift a car off a friend in the emergency. We have untapped personal resources.

Accentuate your focus. Do you notice how much

worse you feel when you talk about it? When we vocalize our negative descriptive thoughts, we intensify them. Some people seem to enjoy bad health. Jesus once asked a man, "Do you want to get well?"

Accept your friend. We all need a friend, a little help. The psalmist declared, "The Lord is the strength of my life." Paul wrote that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. Scripture, when combined with the realization that when Christ saved us, he freed us from energy draining emotions of guilt, shame, self-doubt, and indecision, enabling us to fight the fatigue.

God gives us the energy to "renew our strength and mount up with the wings of eagles." Consider these five strategies with your family. ■

Sponsors authentic rodeo

FBC, Concord, goes all out with VBS theme

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — For one week in July the sanctuary of First Church, Concord, here was transformed into a western setting, complete with a big red barn and animals.

The church, led by Pastor Doug Sager, took full advantage of the 1997 Vacation Bible School theme "The Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede" by sponsoring a full-fledged junior rodeo to climax the week's activities.

The church enrolled 2,004 people, including 527 faculty,

in VBS this summer, according to Steve Peak, associate pastor of childhood education. More than 700 church members helped in VBS in one way or another, Peak said.

There were so many participants that the older children, who used a Marketplace curriculum, held VBS at a nearby school, he noted.

The church publicized VBS by holding a 4th of July parade along with a VBS carnival, Peak said. The church gave away 2,000 plastic boot mugs advertising VBS at the church, he added.

Peak said 100 children ac-

cepted Christ as Savior on Thursday which traditionally is the church's evangelistic day for school-age children.

The week's activities were climaxed by the Wilde West Stampede for Jesus Junior Invitational Rodeo.

The rodeo, sponsored by First Church, was produced by Jerry Reynolds, president of Jerry Reynolds Evangelistic Association, and coordinator of Tennessee Equestrian Ministries. Reynolds also serves as a rodeo chaplain.

The Junior Rodeo contestants ranged in age from kindergarten through 8th

grade and came from Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, Reynolds said. They participated in 14 events, ranging from bronc and bull riding to roping events. There also were specialty rodeo acts and rodeo clowns as well.

Reynolds, a former director of missions in the state, said the idea for the rodeo was originated by Doug Sager, pastor of First Church, Concord, after he read of Reynolds' new ministry in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Reynolds said the event in Knoxville was the first one of its type that has been totally church-sponsored.

He estimated a crowd in excess of 3,000 people attended the event held at Brooklawn Farms, about a mile from the church. Seating was constructed for 1,500 people.

Reynolds was overwhelmed by the commitment of First Church members.

On the evening prior to the Friday night rodeo the church brought in enough volunteers to transform a vacant field into a full-blown rodeo arena complete with grandstand in about two hours, he said.

"The church was not afraid of what God could do," Reynolds observed. "The way they responded financially, physically, and prayerfully was an encouraging thing to

watch," he added.

Some recent letters to the *Baptist and Reflector* have been critical of the VBS theme.

Reynolds disagrees. "I don't feel the Gospel is being diluted. The message is still Jesus saves," he said.

Peak agreed. "The theme created a lot of excitement," he observed.

"The main purpose of VBS is to introduce Jesus to boys and girls. We're at a time where for VBS to be an outreach, it has to have creativity," Peak said.

He said the church has made an increased effort to use VBS as an outreach tool for the church since Sager became pastor about five years ago. At that time the church had 450 enrolled in VBS, Peak said, noting that it has grown steadily since.

"We see it (VBS) as a golden opportunity to reach kids for Christ," Peak said, adding that VBS also has opened doors for the church to reach parents as well.

"We want to see a difference in the lives of children because of VBS," Peak concluded. ■



ATTIRED WITH COWBOY HATS, these two youngsters were among more than 2,000 who were registered for Vacation Bible School this year at First Church, Concord, Knoxville.



BARE BRONC RIDING was among the events at a rodeo sponsored by First Church, Concord, Knoxville.

Once a Mormon, Nashville Baptist now shares Gospel of Christ



By Tobin Perry
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Steve McNutt knew he had a decision to make this Sunday,

after weeks of rejecting the altar calls at Belmont Heights Church here.

As the congregation began singing the hymn of invitation, "Standing on the Promises," McNutt knew God was asking him to surrender to Christ.

But it wasn't that easy. McNutt was a Mormon.

And from the Mormon perspective, leaving what they consider "the true church" meant spending his eternity in hell.

After the second verse, Pastor Joe Stacker asked one more time if anyone had a decision to make.

McNutt felt as though Stacker was talking directly to him. He looked over and saw his Sunday School teacher, Pamela Poteat, praying fervently.

Almost unconsciously, McNutt's shaking hands reached out and grabbed the pew. "Then I started to break down," he said later. "I thought, What are people going to think about this?" It was at that point where the spirit of the Lord took over. I remember that my whole body was just loosened

and tears fell down my face."

When McNutt slid out of the pew and walked to the front of the Nashville church, he threw his arms around Stacker. In a matter of minutes, the struggle was over. He prayed and asked Jesus to come into his life.

For McNutt, a native of Nova Scotia and a doctoral student at Vanderbilt University here, the journey from Mormonism to a saving faith in Christ was a journey with many stops in between.

It began in south Texas, where he was a Mormon missionary from 1984-86, venturing into many homes to present Mormonism. Being in south Texas, he encountered a high percentage of evangelical Christians, and on many occasions they shared their faith with him.

"At that point in my life, I was not willing to look further into what they were saying, but those things stuck into my mind," McNutt said. "That was the beginning of my questioning. I felt something even though I didn't really know what I felt."

Another element that helped bring McNutt to Christ was Christian music. Although a Mormon, he was a big fan of Southern Gospel.

"It would just touch my soul," McNutt said. "I would buy all I could because I liked it, and I knew my heart was feeling something."

At 31 years old, McNutt said, he finally realized the fallacy of the Mormon religion — no matter how hard he tried he would never be able to work his way to God.

Although disillusioned, McNutt continued attending Mormon services until January 1997. About that time, he noticed an ad in a Nashville newspaper and, for some reason, he couldn't get the ad out of his mind. After a few months of internal struggle, he ended up on the doorstep of Belmont Heights Church.

"It might be different for someone else who grew up in the church, but when I walked into the church I felt the spirit of the Lord. I can't explain the joy I felt," McNutt said.

But no matter what he felt that first Sunday, fear kept him away from Christ. Eternal damnation and separation from friends and family haunted him for several Sundays to come.

Soon, however, the love of Christ working through the congregation made its way into McNutt's heart as members shared "about the grace of God and the goodness and hope that comes in knowing him," he recounted.

The staff and congregation began explaining to McNutt what it meant to be born again. In Mormonism, he often heard words such as grace and forgive-

ness. But for McNutt, they were just words, not something he'd experienced. Now, at Belmont Heights, he saw them enacted within real lives.

As the weeks went by, McNutt was offered countless opportunities to give his life to Christ.

On May 18, 1997, McNutt not only heard God's call, but this time he responded with his life. He was baptized the following Sunday.

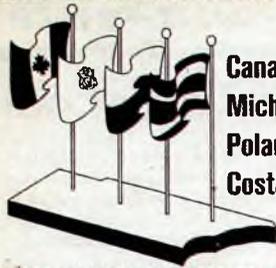
Almost immediately God replaced the hopelessness and disillusionment in McNutt with an unspeakable joy. "Now that I know Jesus and have accepted him as Savior, he has given me so much," McNutt said.

This new Christian has begun telling his story to Mormon friends. "They tell me they can see the joy in my life, and when they see that joy they can't believe it," McNutt said.

"I was really a depressed person, very cynical about life. I didn't think there was any way else to be.

"But when I accepted Christ, my life was changed ... When they see this transformation between a sinful, depressed person to someone who sincerely talks about the love of God, they sense something."

Sharing the Gospel, McNutt said, has become "one of the greatest blessings of my life." ■



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

I had the privilege recently to participate in a dedication service of the new building of Evergreen Church in Cadillac, Michigan.

While listening to the testimonies of the people, I once again reflected on how great Partnership/Volunteer Missions really is.



SHARP

Volunteers taking a week of their vacation, paying their own way, and responding to *The Macedonian Call* just thrills my heart. As I heard the thanks coming from one person after another, I realized afresh and a new what volunteers mean to a small congregation.

"If it had not been for the volunteers from Tennessee, we would not be here today," someone said. "God blessed us working through volunteers!"

"The work of this church was accelerated by 10-20 years because of the help we got from Tennessee," said another.

Would you be one of the volunteers God is using? You are needed!

Please pray and consider your place of service. Projects are coming in now for 1998, and we will have them available in the next issue of *The Macedonian Call*. Some great projects are still available for this year and we need you.

Thank you Tennessee Baptists for allowing God to use you to bless others as a Partnership/Missions volunteer.

God Bless,

Terry

Workers in Costa Rica

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

Through partnership program

First health care team serves in Costa Rica

By Dewey Dunn, Wally Poor, & Marcia Knox
For *The Macedonian Call*

The first Tennessee/Costa Rica Baptist Partnership health care team recently returned from Costa Rica opening the door for future projects to meet human needs and strengthen Baptist work in the country.

The team worked in the South Zone of Costa Rica May 31 – June 8 practicing specialized medicine, holding hospital, rural, and church clinics, teaching medical classes, and giving testimonies.

The volunteer team consisted of physician Bryan Chastain; nurses Jill Brock and Theresa Hill, all of McMinnville; and physician Dewey Dunn and his wife, Bobbie Dunn, both of Nashville. Assisting the team were missionary Sue Smith; partnership assistant/van driver Walter Rodriguez; and a translator and pastor's wife, Fannie Chanto, all of Costa Rica.

Missionaries Bill and Linda Egbert serve the South Zone in Costa Rica and they welcomed the volunteers to the area. Team members also worked with Edgar Escobar, who is a Costa Rica physician and works for the government-supported health care system in rural health clinics. Escobar assumed responsibility for the work of the Tennessee team.

The project, which was designed to work with the country's system of socialized medicine, also focused on relationships with local health care professionals which laid the groundwork for future projects.

Dewey Dunn, a gastrologist who is a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville,

treated patients at the regional hospital serving the area. Dunn examined 37 patients in three sessions with help from Costa Ricans. Smith assisted by translating the patients' histories. The team left two pieces of medical equipment for use at the rural hospital.

Chastain, a member of First Church, McMinnville, developed a special friendship with Pablo Orellana, a pediatrician at the hospital. Chastain was able to treat patients in the hospital and hospital clinic. He had the opportunity to give his Christian testimony. He also worked in the rural clinics and lectured at the symposium.

Nurses on the team also lectured at the symposium lectures. Brock, a member of Sunset Hills Church, McMinnville, spoke on obstetrical nursing and presented protocols for the labor and delivery room. Hill, a member of First Church, McMinnville, spoke on AIDS.

Bobbie Dunn examined about 130 people and provided free glasses. Rodriguez, the van driver, and Linda Egbert helped



PLANNING a clinic while in Costa Rica are, from left, Jill Brock, Theresa Hill, Fannie Chanto of Costa Rica, Bobbie Dunn, Dewey Dunn, and Bryan Chastain.

her.

A clinic was held at La Fortuna church outside of Ciudad Neily near the Costa Rica/Panama border. There patients had access to a "pharmacy." A large supply of medicines for women were distributed in the church clinic and also in the rural clinics. It is hoped that these clinics will be repeated by others.

Missionary Egbert was busy throughout the project working as a translator and assisting in the clinics. He reported the contacts he made through the week were valuable for his work. He plans to work with Escobar on future plans for other health care projects and spiritual activities in the South Zone.

"The unity of the team needs to be emphasized," Dunn said. "The bonding occurred because of our common bond who is Jesus Christ." ■

Tennesseans reach goal of 4,000 shoe box gifts

For *The Macedonian Call*

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists! An idea which began in the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office to support the Tennessee/Costa Rica Baptist

Partnership was developed by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union and other members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Awareness and Involvement Group. WMU and Partnership/Volunteer

Missions promoted it.

Then it was adopted by Tennesseans, who have supplied over 4,000 Christmas gifts in shoe boxes for Costa Rican boys and girls.

The shoe boxes were filled with the same contents which include candy, markers or crayons, pencils, a Christian coloring book, stickers, a toy, and a toothbrush. Girls in Action (GAs) who attend-

ed camp this summer helped by bringing items to make up the shoe boxes and they assembled many.

Royal Ambassadors (RAs) raised funds and brought the money to camp to be used to ship the gifts.

The staff of Collegiate Missions helped collect, sort, and pack shoe boxes. The staff of Partnership/Volunteer Missions is finalizing the shipping plans.

Boys and girls in Costa Rica will be very happy this Christmas thanks to the efforts of Tennessee Baptists.

Please do not send any more shoe box gifts. TBC employees are finding it hard to walk through the halls of the Baptist Center in Brentwood. ■



SORTING through some of the 4,000 shoe boxes are, from left, in front, Terry Sharp, Bernie Baker, Dianna Hughes, and Carol Davidson, and in back, Vickie Anderson of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

**Partnership
Prayer Requests**

August

- 20 — Pray for the pastorless churches of the Michigan convention.
- 21 — Pray for Naomi Edwards of Nashville, Cynthia Birdsong of Murfreesboro, and Lynn Pate of Michigan, who will lead a prayer walk in Costa Rica in September.
- 22 — Pray for the Executive Board meeting of the Michigan convention meeting today and tomorrow.
- 23 — Pray for the summer children/youth programs being held in Canadian churches.
- 24 — Pray for Michael Collins, executive director of the Michigan convention.
- 25 — Pray for missionaries Pam and Keith Travis as they minister in San Rafael de Guapiles, Costa Rica, and learn the language.
- 26 — Pray for Karen Peterson, daughter of Brenda and Jerry Wortman, missionaries in Canada, who has cancer.
- 27 — Praise God for the summer missionaries who served in Michigan.

Smyrna team learns monetary lessons in Canada

For The Macedonian Call

Jesus said "Go ye therefore," instead of "Send ye the money," said Eddie Mosley, minister of education, First Church, Smyrna, and he knows why.

Money given to missions through Southern Baptists Cooperative Program doesn't replace personal relationships

among individuals and the enthusiasm they can share, he learned with other Tennesseans who worked in Canada recently.

Seven Tennessee volunteers from First Church, Smyrna, led Backyard Bible Clubs (BYBCs) in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. They worked to build relationships for Crossroads Church with residents of

three housing subdivisions.

The team members were Dick Overby, Lori Mills, Michelle Strickland, Susan Wagoner, Betty Frank, Sue Seat, and Mosley.

"We realized this small Canadian church, with an average worship attendance of 15-20 people, did not have enough people available to conduct BYBCs," Mosley said. "The few people that had been disciplined enough to lead a BYBC had full-time jobs which kept them from serving."

As a result of the work of the Smyrna team during one week, 35 families in three different communities were contacted. Also a subsidized housing complex that was previously not open to the church became open during their week of service.

"Sending money alone would not have provided the people needed to work in these communities."

Another factor the team had not realized was the isolation experienced by a congregation in this setting, he added.

"Seldom is the enthusiasm from a mission group experi-

enced in a partnership church," he said. "Conversations about what God is doing at First Church, Smyrna, and in Tennessee were well received.

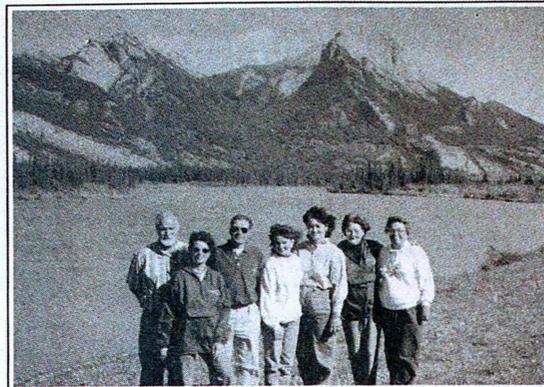
"Just sending money could never share this excitement," Mosley added

Another long term result of the effort was the relationships developed, said Mosley. "Christianity is a two-prong relationship, one with the Father and the other with other Christians."

The team members now have friends in Edmonton that they pray for and will communicate with for a long time. "We are telling others at First Church, Smyrna, about Crossroads Church and its pastor Walter West."

Without financial assistance many churches would not exist, Mosley said. However, "without the time to share our enthusiasm, our manpower, our prayers and relationships, the partnership mission churches might not survive.

"Consider today how God would have you share with mission areas?" ■



TOURING while in Canada is the team from First Church, Smyrna, from left, Dick Overby, Lori Mills, Eddie Mosley, Michelle Strickland, Susan Wagoner, Betty Frank, and Sue Seat.

Associational team landscapes

For The Macedonian Call

With the idea that if you can plant a flower, then you can be a missionary, 19 volunteers from six Gibson County Association churches traveled June 21-28 to Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. They landscaped and did construction on the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

A total of 12 ladies comprised the landscaping team which installed a drip irrigation system for watering trees and plants. They also planted

and staked around 100 trees and shrubbery, and added rock and mulch borders to areas in the seminary gardens.

The team's seven men assisted in the pouring of a concrete slab floor for a maintenance building, constructed a bus station for children, installed a fence around a playground, and did other maintenance work for the seminary.

"Mission work is more than preaching revivals and holding crusades," said Jay McIntosh, pastor of Poplar Grove Church, Trenton, and team leader.

"Volunteers can use their gifts in other parts of the world whether that gift is planting a tree or hammering a nail."

According to McIntosh, "Christ uses people exactly where they are and produces growth." He approached his church members with the idea of planting flowers on a mission trip, if they felt that their gifts were not in preaching or evangelism. "They could beautify a seminary campus so that the students could enjoy their educational experience."

Through the work of the Gibson County volunteers Canadian Baptists will be able to train, to learn, and to prepare students better.

Gibson County volunteers funded the mission trip through its associational mission fund, the Wingo Offering, which provided \$300 assistance per volunteer and \$1,000 for construction costs.

Many of the Gibson County volunteers have already expressed a desire to return next summer and conduct a similar project at the seminary.

The volunteers came from six churches: Poplar Grove, Trenton; First Church, Trenton; First Church, Rutherford; Antioch Church, Humboldt; White Hall Church, Trenton, and New Bethlehem Church, Dyer. (Marcia Knox contributed to this story). ■

How can volunteers help Disaster Relief work?

by Tim Bearden

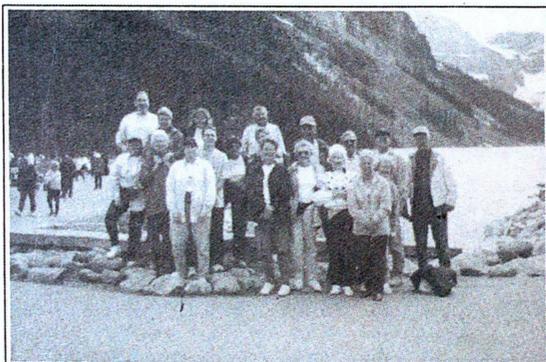
For The Macedonian Call

Costa Rica is a beautiful country. The rain forest there has been host to several Hollywood movies. In the beauty, the need is great.

Baptists in Costa Rica feel God is leading them to minister to people in a time of disaster. Among the needs in floods, earthquakes, volcanoes or other disasters are food and shelter.

A desire of the Baptists is to have small portable feeding kitchen that will feed up to 1000 to 2000 meals a day. They have asked Tennessee Baptists to help provide the training and resources for such a feeding unit.

The Costa Rica Red Cross in also interested in CPR and First Aid instructors providing classes for Red Cross volunteers and workers. Due to the years of Disaster Relief experience Tennessee Baptists have, God has placed us in a position to help minister in this small central American country. ■



VISITING a national park in Alberta are team members, from left, first row, Kim McIntosh, Shirley Hester, Nell Breeden, Retta Reynolds, Bobbie McCurdy, Mary Wilson; second row, Winnie Fields, Melba Brown, Brent Green, Joyce Reynolds, Ellen Dodd, Robert Dodd, William Breeden, Jay McIntosh, Bob Wilson; back row, Terry Fields, Bettye Green, Leticia Taylor, and Marion McCurdy.



LOOKING OVER a Red Cross command post in Costa Rica are, from left, Costa Rica's director of National Red Cross Emergencies; head of the Evangelical Alliance, Reuben Cortez; missionary Ben Argil; and Mickey Caison, National Disaster Relief director, North American Mission Board.

Clarksville church leads Polish youth camp

By Rita Sue Harrison
For *The Macedonian Call*

"Spoko" is the word of choice for 17 partnership mission team members from First Church, Clarksville, who worked July 3-15 in a Polish Baptist Seminary youth camp outside Warsaw.

We learned this Polish word from Charles and Barbara Layton, Tennessee/Poland volunteer coordinators following a 15-hour flight. The word "spoko," which means "cool" was very appropriate while working in the youth camp.

Our team from First Church, Clarksville, consisted of teachers, college students, retirees, business men and women, a principal, a nurse, a dental assistant, and a former SBC home missionary.

The seminary has Tudor style buildings and the surrounding areas are very beautiful and well maintained. Another Tennessee partnership group had planted shrubs, flowers, and built a gazebo. It enhanced

the seminary's landscape.

Our mission was to assist the director of the camp, Mirek Szachiewicz. One responsibility was to lead in crafts and recreation.

Youth from all over Poland traveled by bus and train to the camp. Several of the youth were very fluent in English which helped the other campers as well as the Tennessee volunteers.

Our team craft leaders showed the campers how to make salvation bead bracelets, felt banners, bookmarks, and prayer rocks.

The Polish youth were extremely creative and seldom requested help or suggestions while working with crafts. We deeply appreciated gifts made by several campers.

Several on our team also brought "Cross in My Pocket" reminders that had been translated into Polish. Many others had brought candy, gum, and other goodies that were shared.

We were fortunate to have four college-age team members who had the opportunity to join with the youth

campers. We depended on those four for their excitement, energy, and enthusiasm when it was time for recreation and games.

Evenings provided special opportunities for singing in English and Polish, followed by spontaneous prayer. Larry Riley, First Church, Clarksville minister of education and team leader, preached on several occasions.

The Fourth of July was exciting as our Polish friends provided a picnic for us with Polish style hot-dogs and potato salad. We were also asked to share with them what the United States, our country, means to us and why we celebrate Independence Day. It was really inspiring to celebrate the day with the missionaries who are serving in Radosc.

When Gustaw Cieslar, seminary rector, and Henryk Podseadly, seminary administrator explained to us the effect that Communism had on the people of Poland, we thought about the blessing of living in a country with religious freedom and to be able to serve our

Lord every day.

While the campers participated in specific events, we traveled to Gdansk, Krakow, and other well known cities. There was a lot of enjoyment as we produced for the campers a "Tennessee Night." We related some Tennessee history and showed a video displaying the colorful countryside of our own state.

"Minnie Pearl" introduced country music to the campers.

Bill Tober, the former home missionary, assisted the seminary with the computer system. He was also our link to the United States as the e-mail postmaster.

Each of us on the team learned new ways that we could witness and share the love of Christ. We brought with us these new ideas and plan to use them in our own "mission field" of Clarksville.

The team members bonded and the Poland experience strengthened our own commitment and faith. We brought back a new excitement for missions to our church family. ■

Couple serves at Polish seminary

For *The Macedonian Call*

When Paul and Peggy Grossman, SBC emeritus missionaries, were asked to join a team from Woodmont Church, Nashville, on a mission project to the Baptist Seminary in Poland, they said "Yes."

"After serving 29 years in West Africa as career missionaries where we welcomed the help of many volunteer groups to Liberia, Senegal, and Burkina Faso, it was a joy to be able to volunteer our talents to help other missionaries and people of other countries," the Grossmans reported.

Serving as the missionaries-in-residence at Woodmont Church, the Grossmans joined the church's second mission trip May 3-17 to complete a mission project at the Baptist Seminary in Radosc.

Also participating in the project were Pete and Mary Ford, Al and Dot Herzog, Sue

McEnany, and Doris and Carlton Carter, all from Woodmont; Jesse and Nancy Fairfax of Woodstock, Ga.; Chester Smith of Oregon; and Bruce and Anne Chase of West Virginia. The Carters and Chases remained in Poland to work several more weeks.

The volunteers continued the work of the first group from Woodmont which was making 150 mattress covers, repairing seminary students' clothing, landscaping, finishing a gazebo, working in the library, and building playground equipment.

"We turned off the highway on a dirt, gravel, and sand road which led to the Baptist Seminary lane which was another world. It was simple, quiet and a place truly dedicated to God," noted the Grossmans.

"It was a real joy to work with the seminary students and with its rector, Gustaw Cieslar. Cieslar encouraged

each volunteer with his rounds of visits to the various work sights praising the work and displaying obvious joy in the improvements being made to the facilities.

"Several volunteers spoke in the seminary chapel. Though the message was in Polish, the joy of the Lord permeated the room. We learned that 12 students would graduate at the end of May.

Cieslar had a vision of giving each graduate a sport jacket for the occasion, but money had not become available. Needless to say, the volunteers provided the money.

"We took a weekend trip to Krakow and attended the Sunday worship service of Krakow Baptist church in a building which was formerly an important historic Polish house. The large room was filled beyond capacity with people of all ages.

People sat in the foyer and in an adjoining room as well. People had notebooks in hand, taking notes on the sermon after standing for almost 45 minutes singing unto the Lord."

The couple reported that work remains at the seminary, such as completing the chapel building, finishing dormitory rooms, and adding to the library.

"We count it a real blessing to meet new Christian friends who speak a different language, are a part of a different culture, and view the world differently than we do," the Grossmans said. "Nevertheless, they are a part of our family because we're all part of God's family." ■

Cleveland choir serves in Michigan churches

For *The Macedonian Call*

The Chapel Choir of First Church, Cleveland, sang in four churches in Jackson, Lansing, Muskegon, and Dorr, Michigan, July 13-16 as part of their annual partnership work with Michigan churches.

The host church for the Michigan tour was New Beginnings Church in Dorr which is pastored by Tony Duck. Duck is a church planter with NAMB whose salary is partly paid by First Church, Cleveland. New Beginnings Church has had an ongoing relationship with First Church, Cleveland, for several years.

Other churches that the Chapel Choir visited in Michigan were Gorham Church, Jackson; Bethany Church, Lansing; and Grace Community Church, Muskegon. They also presented an outdoor park concert in North Park, Dorr.

While in Dorr the youth choir conducted seven Bible clubs which enrolled 250 children and recorded 20 professions of faith. The final concert was attended by 250 Bible club members, parents, and members of the Dorr church.

Mission Tour 1997 is a mission outreach of First Church, Cleveland, Music and Youth Ministries. This year's trip included 60 choir members and 18 adult sponsors. Tom Wickes, minister of music, and Stan Gibson, student intern led the group. Allan Lockerman serves as pastor at First Church, Cleveland. ■



PAUSING at the Polish Baptist Seminary are, from left, Al and Dot Herzog, Paul and Peggy Grossman, Sue McAnany, Mary Ford, Chester Smith, and J.L. 'Pete' Ford.



CHAPEL CHOIR members present a concert outside New Beginnings Church in Dorr, Mich.

Costa Rica Projects

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 teach Spanish music with evangelistic theme.

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: Family Issues Workshop
 A team of 5 is needed help Central Church in Heredia provide family issues workshops and offer guidance on counseling.

Michigan Projects

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.

VBS/BYBC

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

Canada Projects

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

Poland Project

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.

Tennessee Projects

Construction

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 #: 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 #: 96
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 New Song Church needs team of 10 youth/adults 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

Camp

Project #: T-6
 Dates: May-September '98
 Location: Benton
 Description: Camp
 Camp Agape in Benton needs volunteers to serve as kitchen help, camp nurse, general maintenance and craft workers. Teams of 3 adults per week are needed.
 Contact: Andy Jordon, (423) 338-4153

Project #: T-7
 Dates: May-September '98
 Location: Benton
 Description: Camp
 Camp Agape in Benton needs teams of 4-8 each week to do river hospitality and campground ministry. Creative arts/sports and BYBC workers can work two weeks or entire summer. Around 30 people are needed each weekend along with summer missions supervisors.
 Contact: Andy Jordon, (423) 338-4153

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 #: 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 #: 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

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 #: 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

First Church, Nashville, youth minister in Detroit

by Marcia Knox
The Macedonian Call

Plans changed for a youth group from First Church, Nashville, who were scheduled this summer to go to West Clarkston, Michigan, and begin a new church start through Back Yard Bible Clubs, and creative ministries.

Instead the 29 youth and eight adults worked June 22-28 at HOPE Baptist Center in the Cass project area of Detroit doing inner-city ministries in an area sometimes known as the "DMZ," according to youth mission sponsor Randy Lanford.

The youth taught BSSB Church Recreation Adventure Week materials on nature in Cass Park to project area children and Bible studies to the homeless.

They also fed the children and the homeless lunches and took 50 children to a Detroit Tigers baseball game.

Lanford said the youth taught morning and afternoon sessions of the Adventure materials to children whom they rounded up on their trips into the projects.

"Our best day for attendance was 110," he added. "The youth were told to follow the lead of the children when working and surviving in a high crime area."

"Not long after our first meeting plans changed for our mission trip," according to Audra Rollins of Franklin, a youth from First Church, Nashville.

"God wanted us to go elsewhere. He sent us to inner-city Detroit where we would lead day camps in a park for kids living in the projects.

"Before we arrived in Detroit, none of us knew what to expect. Our worries were unnecessary be-

cause God was already there. He had planned our every move. We were simply vessels for His work.

"The kids from the projects were extremely receptive and they remembered everything

we told them," she added.

"They needed attention and love, and we made sure we gave both to them. God knew where He wanted to use us. All the gifts He gave each student on the trip came together

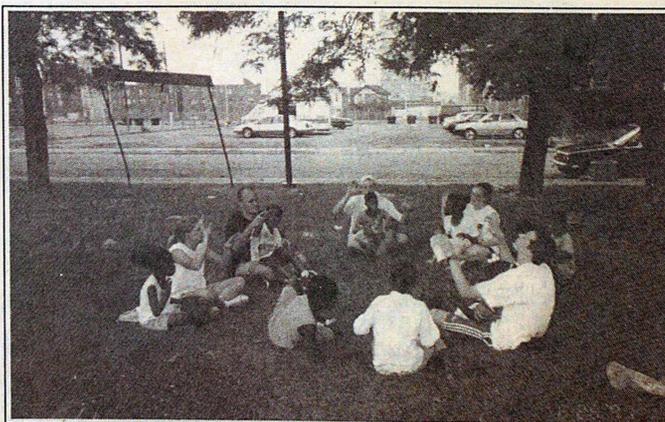
for an incredible result.

"I learned from our trip to Detroit is how to work with children and how to handle myself in a major crime area, but the greatest lesson was about the power of God's protection.

"I don't think I was ever afraid even in the worst part of Detroit. It's incredible to know that with God on your side anything is possible. He won't let anything come your way that you can't handle."

"This at first meant nothing to me," said Thomas Gifford of Franklin. "As the trip got underway, I began to love it.

"This trip could have been my spiritual awakening. I can't explain how good it feels to do what we did, and I feel I can testify and witness to anyone." ■



PLAYING GAMES with children who live in a government-subsidized housing area of the inner city of Detroit are, from left, John Nigro, Thomas Gifford, Kimberly Bridgers, and Nathan Parker.

ERLC mailing designed to quantify economic protest against Disney

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is preparing a mailing designed to quantify Southern Baptists' economic protest against The Walt Disney Company.

The ERLC will ask Southern Baptists to provide an estimate of the money they are not spending on Disney products and services on commitment cards that will be included in the September-October issue of *Light*, the agency's

ethics newsjournal.

The insert also will include a fact sheet on Disney's reported moral lapses for church leaders to distribute to congregations.

The reproducible cards focus on Southern Baptists' "responsibility to be good stewards" of God's resources and ask individual Southern Baptists to affirm

their commitment "to withhold (their) patronage of those corporations which promote ideologies and enact policies which are biblically reprehensible and abhorrent to God."

The insert notes that with a minimum of one million Southern Baptists pledging to not spend at least \$100 over the

next 12 months, the Disney company will see proceeds fall by at least \$100 million.

The fact sheet, titled, "It's a Strange World After All: Disney Sings a New Song," offers an assortment of informational tid-

bits on the Disney corporate entities that are reportedly guilty of "bashing" Christians and families and promoting a homosexual agenda. The sheet can serve as a bulletin insert or leaflet. ■

HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

A new and exciting ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is in need of a full-time husband and wife houseparent team.

This new ministry in Elizabethton will provide care for single teenager mothers and babies. Maturity and a commitment to minister to hurting young people is vital.

For more information, please call collect: Dr. Danny M. West, vice president, (423) 929-2157.

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BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR: Needed for small church with unlimited potential. Send resume to M.D. Henstee, 946 Point View Circle, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122.

CHURCH PIANIST: Seeking a pianist/accompanist at Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet. Position is available immediately. Call (615) 758-7238.

NEEDED: Central Church, Alcoa, needs a part-time Youth Minister for approximately 15-25 youth. Resumes accepted through Sept. 15. Send to P.O. Box 337, Alcoa, TN 37701.

NEW POSITION: Scottsville (Ky.) Church seeks full-time Minister of Education and Outreach. Send resume to Scottsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164, or call Larry Wilcher at (502) 237-5444, ext. 5345, days.

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1997 Regional Leadership Conferences

Follow Christ's Example:

Prepare to Serve

The Christian Growth Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries will again provide training for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Media Library, and Collegiate Ministry leaders.

Conferences are scheduled as follows:

West Division

Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 25-26 — Leewood Church, Memphis, 6:45-9 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 25 — FBC, Lexington, 6:45-9 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 25 — FBC, Dyersburg, 6:45-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 26 — FBC, Paris, 6:45-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 26 — FBC, Jackson, 6:45-9 p.m.

Middle Division

Monday, Sept. 8 — FBC, Tullahoma, 7-9 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 8 — Hilldale Church, Clarksville, 7-9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 — FBC, Goodlettsville, 7-9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 — FBC, Franklin, 7-9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 — FBC, Hohenwald, 7-9 p.m.

Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 22-23 — FBC, Cookeville, 6:45-9 p.m.

East Division

Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 22-23 — Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 29 — Central Church, Hixson, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 29 — FBC, Kingsport, 6:45-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 30 — FBC, Cleveland, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 30 — FBC, Morristown, 6:45-9 p.m.

Make Plans Now To Attend!

Your local director of missions or Sunday School ACTeam has information about the 1997 Regionals, or you can contact the Christian Growth Development Group at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2083.

Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop

Sept. 12-13

Madison-Chester Baptist Association office

This conference is designed for anyone who is involved in literacy missions. Mrs. Lee Hudson of Memphis will be leading the workshop. Meals and breaks are provided through the Golden State Missions Offering. The cost of the manual is \$10.

For registration information, contact Beverly Smothers, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, at (615) 371-2031.



Disaster Relief University

Harrison-Chilhowee
 Kings Academy, Seymour, Tenn.

Sept. 25-27

Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 25

4 p.m. — Registration Opens

6 p.m. — Dinner

7 p.m. — Opening Session — Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

Friday, Sept. 26

7 a.m. — Breakfast

8 a.m. — Classes — Child Care, Feeding Unit, Cleanup/Mud out, ARC CPR/First Aid, ARC Mass Care

10 a.m. — Break

10:30 a.m. — Classes Continue

12:25 p.m. — Lunch

1:30 p.m. — Classes Continue

3 p.m. — Break

3:30 p.m. — Classes Continue

5:30 p.m. — Break

6 p.m. — Dinner

7 p.m. — General Session — Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief II

Saturday, Sept. 27

7 a.m. — Breakfast

8 a.m. — Rap-up Session

10 a.m. — Leave for Missions Fair**

11 a.m. — Set up Feeding and Child Care Units

4 p.m. — Graduation

** Participants in Feeding and Child Care training should plan to stay through Missions Fair at Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville, where the Feeding Unit will be set up for operation. The Child Care Unit will be set up for display.

Disaster Relief University Registration

Cost: \$50 for lodging, meals, materials cost

Deadline for Registration: Sept. 19

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

Church _____ Association _____

Send check and registration to Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Makes checks payable to Executive Board, TBC. For information, call 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2025, or (615) 371-2025.

Conference set for bivocational ministers, spouses

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Bivocational Worship Conference will be held Sept. 6 at Camp Linden.

The meeting, sponsored by the Church Staff Leadership Group of TBC Executive Board Ministries, is offered at no cost to bivocational coordinators, ministers and wives, and key leaders of bivocational churches. Call Diane Wells at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2053, by Aug. 29 to register. ■

Baptists play key role after crash of Korean flight

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press

AGANA, Guam — Tony and Kristi Smith have experienced their share of natural disasters in the two years Tony has served as pastor of Marianas Baptist Church in Guam, including four major earthquakes and two typhoons.

But it was the Aug. 6 crash of Korean Air Lines Flight 801 less than five miles from the church that has become the most intense and emotionally draining relief effort the church has ever undertaken.

Smith was asked by the Salvation Army to coordinate counseling services for rescue workers and family members of victims, as well as collection and distribution of food and drinks at the site. About 125 of the approximately 200 members of the church were involved in relief efforts the week following the crash.

"One of the greatest things I've learned is that you can never have your church over-prepared to deal with emergencies," Smith said in a telephone interview.

At least 199 of the 226 people aboard the plane were killed.

Smith, a Kentucky native, said he first learned of the crash from an emergency medical technician who is a member of the church.

The call came at 4 a.m., about two hours after the accident. Several other members were among the first on the scene, helping pull some of the 27 survivors from the wreckage. ■

Kingston volunteers construct new sanctuary in Michigan

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSTON — Sixty-two volunteers from First Church here have returned from a summer mission trip to Mount Clemens, Mich.

The volunteers helped construct an 8,800 square-foot sanctuary for Central Church.

The group consisted of 52 men and women and 10 youth. The volunteers included retirees and people from various vocational backgrounds. Only two of the volunteers were carpenters by trade.

When the group arrived, only the concrete pad had been poured for the foundation. During the next five days, the volunteers erected steel columns and girders, walls and

trusses, and enclosed the walls and roof with wood sheeting.

This was the 12th consecutive year First Church has helped construct a church building. The first trip began in 1985 with 16 volunteers and the number has grown each year since.

The church has built facilities in Maryland, West Virginia, Georgia, and Michigan.

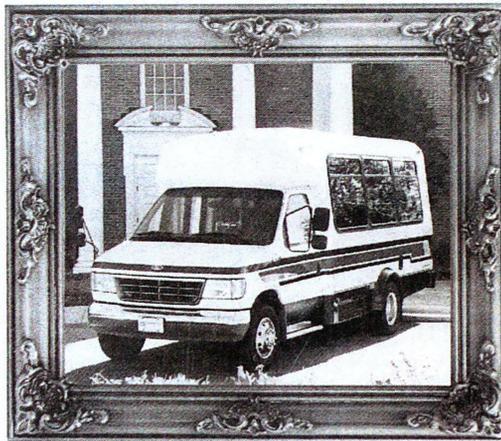
George Standridge of Shiloh Church, Kingston, travels with the First Church group and leads the construction work.

For the past three years, volunteers from a church in Lusby, Md., joined the group from Kingston. The Lusby church was the site for two previous construction projects by Kingston volunteers. ■



SIXTY-TWO VOLUNTEERS from First Church, Kingston, recently helped Central Church in Mount Clemens, Mich., construct a new 8,800 square-foot sanctuary.

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FOR MORE INFO:
1-800-254-2022

Violence

By Aubrey Hay

Focal Passage — Genesis 6:11-13; Psalm 55:9-11; Jonah 3:6-10; I Peter 3:9-12

Violence is a physical act of force that damages, hurts, or abuses another. It may be used to get one's way, for revenge, or in some cases for sadistic pleasure. It is the abusive and unjust use of power. It is an uncomfortable but realistic potential that lies within each of us. Some people are more willing to resort to violence, but all human kind has some propensity toward violence. Scripture teaches us that:

Violence is against God — Genesis 6:9-11. The prelude to the building of the ark was the violent behavior of all human kind. "The earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence." This sad condition started earlier when Adam and Eve chose to sin, ending a special relationship that God had begun with them in the garden of Eden. Violence was almost immediate, as the offspring of Adam and Eve became embroiled in a dispute in which Cain killed his brother Abel.

The pervasive nature of violence — Psalm 55:9-11. One can wonder why, when violence is so universally feared, that it is so pervasive. David lamented the violence he observed, but he himself was a man who practiced violence. Only a casual observation at our present day reveals that we have not improved in turning from violence. The twentieth century will be recorded in history as the most violent. In my years at mediating conflict in churches, I have to say that violence is often present there too. Our struggles often reveal a latent willingness to resort to force when things do not go our way. In dealing with the subject, we must first ask ourselves if we have used underhanded ways to get what we want.

The choice against violence — Jonah 3:6-10. It is obvious to those who want to see that violence is against God and while it is a universal part of our human nature, we do have a choice against using violence. It is remarkably insightful of the nature of violence that Jonah was unwilling to preach to Nineveh, even while the king of the wicked city was sitting in sack cloth and ashes. God was pleased that Nineveh repented, but Jonah pouted at God's grace. We do have a choice to live and act against the pervasiveness of violence. It is only by the grace of God that we can overcome the sin of resorting to force against each other.

Living without violence — I Peter 3:9-12. To deal with the violence within us is the starting place in living without violence. There is a reciprocal nature to violence, even as there is for nonviolence. "A soft answer turneth away wrath ..." is spoken in the same spirit as is the advice of Peter. He says, "... not returning evil for evil, insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead." The cyclic nature of both the relationship of love and hate is obvious. If we return evil for evil, we give energy to the cycle of hate. In like manner, if we respond in love, we return good for evil, and the cycle of violence is broken.

The lesson is obvious. We will succeed in living without violence only as we come to see God's plan for non-violent living. If we are successful in living for him, we will be successful in living without the use of violence. ■ — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Board.

Renewing commitment

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Focal Passage — Hebrews 12:1-11

Renewal and commitment are two words that belong together. Our commitment to Christ is only as deep as whatever it is at the present time. The Lay Renewal movement is helpful especially in reminding laity of the need for renewing commitments. Time after time, I have seen men and women weep with joy at that time of renewed commitment. Usually that joy is combined with a sense of responsibility — and a renewed determination to be God's person.

Every Christian needs a renewed commitment. The essence of that renewed is that we should not procrastinate. Do you remember trying to talk yourself into getting on with a project or solving a problem? It's like a mother or father trying to get the little child to try a taste of something they've not eaten before.

Begin now — v. 1. This is the starting place for re-

Family Bible Lesson

newing your commitment. It is much easier to begin doing the IRS form on April 1. It is so simple to begin dieting after the holiday season. It's best to delay a decision on that project until you have studied it five or six months. Or is it? Procrastination is the thief of time!

It's easier to delay a decision on the nominating committee's request for you to serve as a teacher. A renewed commitment says, "Now!"

It is not an option whether to run the race. We are here, the time is now, what about the future? In running a marathon, the runner has to prepare by practicing for months. He learns how to be a smart runner. He learns how to endure pain and mood swings. And then one day he stands at the starting line. Is he committed

to the race? Has he renewed the commitment? The time is now! I have been there and done that — and renewed commitment is the key to success.

Remember, the heroes of the faith are watching, and people all around us are watching us. So we put aside every distraction, every interest, anything that stands between us and the goal. And we are committed.

Choose a spiritual model — vv. 2-4. In achieving our goal of spiritual maturity through renewed commitment, Jesus is our first and best model. We will be successful as long as our eyes are on him, our captain (author) of our faith. And he will be at the finish line also when we complete the race.

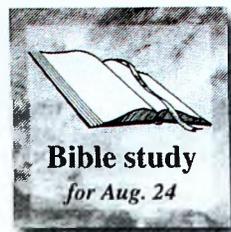
Accept spiritual discipline — vv. 5-9. In running the marathon (26.2 miles), it's easy to "lose" your mind. It is hard to stay focused. Like people without Christ, we may say in times of hardship, "If Jesus loves me, why is this happening to me?" Personal loss and suffering tends to sharpen our lives — and especially our faith.

The child may not like punishment, but when it is over, she is likely to say, "Boy, I'm glad that's over. It wasn't so bad after all."

Our righteous Father is always fair, always perfect. His chastening is always what we need.

Strive for spiritual goals — vv. 10-11. God's discipline helps us focus on things that are "first place." We learn again to strive for holiness rather than worldly pleasure. Also, God wants us to enjoy the righteousness that comes with renewed commitment. When rebellion subsides, his peace flows through us.

The marathon of life can be tedious, full of distractions, problems, delays. But as we run, we run straight toward the goal — and commitment renewed. Christ, our Captain, is at the starting line and the finish line. — Allen is editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.



Believing in our resurrection

By Jerry Chapman

Focal Passage — I Corinthians 15:35-57

If you believe in Jesus and his resurrection then you will have no problem believing in your own resurrection. That's the message Paul wants us to learn from this passage. We hear so much today about life after death. Ideas flourish from those who believe in reincarnation or from those who have experienced some after life experience. This was a part of Paul's day as well as our own. But Paul realized that Christianity rested on Christ's bodily resurrection and that gives basis for our own. Paul tells us about our own resurrection.

Questions about our resurrection are okay (v. 35). There are two questions asked by the doubters of resurrection: "How are the dead raised up?" and "With what kind of body will they have?" Whether hostile in intent or not these questions show a lack of understanding of faith in Christ. But just because you raise questions about the resurrection does not disprove its reality. Asking questions is the beginning of turning our thoughts toward what is truth.

God always provides the answers (vv. 36-50). Jesus seemed to use things around him to answer

Explore the Bible Lesson

people's questions. Paul used this method as well. He uses analogies from botany, zoology, and astronomy to provide answers. Using an agriculture metaphor he compares life and death to a seed dying in the ground only to rise as a plant.

Now the analogy has its limitations but the similarities and differences can be applied to our earthly body and our resurrection body or "heavenly bodies." It is a picture of decay compared to life; dishonor compared to glory; weakness compared to vitality; and mortality compared to eternal life. This comparison is seen in Adam and Christ — human life compared to spiritual life.

The human body of "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." Jesus indicated in John's Gospel that he was going to prepare a better place for us (John 14).

Resurrection for us anticipates Christ's coming again (vv. 51-54). The resurrection issue for us is settled as far as Paul is concerned. He now shifts to the second

coming of Christ. It was a mystery then and still remains one today. Whatever may be the meaning of this passage there will be a transformation for everyone, whether dead or alive, when

Christ returns. Not all the details are provided but a "trumpet will sound." It is a calling forth of Christ but a calling forth of those who are believers. Paul shares other acts in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. But the message is clear, death is no longer a threat to us. It is "swallowed up in victory."

Victory belongs to each believer (vv. 55-57). These are words of praise and thanksgiving. This is from the Old Testament book of Hosea 13:14. The word "thorns" is changed to the word "victory." The feminine form of this word is Nike, the name of the Greek goddess who was a symbol of superiority. Paul challenged death to show its superiority over humanity. Death may sting or hurt but Christ has taken the sting away. Christ has victory over death and therefore believers have it as well. Christ has overcome the power of sin and death. We have a victory which lasts for eternity.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.



■ For the 12th consecutive year, youth of **First Church, Jacksboro**, helped **First Church, Elk Valley**, a smaller, rural congregation, hold a Vacation Bible School. Some 60 children and youth participated and 13 made professions of faith. Billy Smith, minister of education at the Jacksboro church, led the project.

■ **Contemporary Church, Mount Juliet**, has constituted. It was sponsored by New Hope Church, Hermitage, and First Church, Old Hickory.

■ **Southland Church, Memphis**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a church Sept. 27-28. Bobby Douglas who served as pastor 1965-74 will speak during the Sunday morning worship service. Activities include an open house, luncheon, and history presentation. For more information, call (901) 363-3858.

■ **Trinity Church, Cordova**, will offer a "Seminary" on Sunday evenings beginning Sept. 7. Courses, which will meet for three weeks, will be "How We Got Our Bible," "Tips for Bible Study," "Survey of the Old Testament," and "Survey

of the New Testament." For more information, call (901) 759-5955.

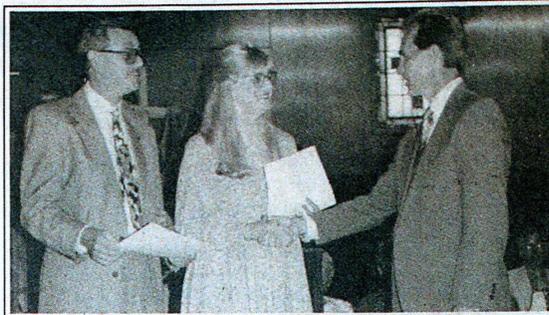
■ Senior adults are invited to attend a "Senior Celebration" at **First Church, LaVergne**, Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The program will include music, testimonies, speakers, and lunch. For more information, call (615) 793-6423.

■ **Solid Rock Church, Prospect**, will hold a "Praise and Worship Revival" Sept. 8-11. Joel Carville will speak.

■ **Colonial View Church, Cookeville**, will hold revival Sept. 14-17. Joe Brooks will speak.

■ **Peaceful Valley Community Church** has been started recently by Memorial Church, Maryville. The congregation meets in Townsend Elementary School, Townsend. The sponsorship gives Memorial Church a way to minister to an area they had to leave about 50 years ago. Memorial Church had to leave its site in 1945 to make way for the Smokey Mountain National Park. At that time it was named Missionary Church and later Cades Cove Memorial Church.

■ **Little Mulberry Church, Tazewell**, received one of five recognitions made by the Bap-



BEING CONGRATULATED are Joe and Linda Ledford as they are commissioned by Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton, as Mission Service Corps workers of the North American Mission Board on July 13. The couple received a NAMB certificate from their pastor, David Wade. The Ledfords already are involved in ministry to children through the Watauga Association. They were assigned to be catalysts for multi-housing areas.

tist Sunday School Board as an outstanding small church library. The church has a resident membership of about 100 and loans more than 1,000 books a year. The presentation was made to **Mossie Ray**, head librarian, at a leadership conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Also attending the conference was Nila Lynch, librarian, and Nancy Ramsey, associational Woman's Missionary Union director.

Board. Joe is a native of South Fulton and graduate of Union University, Jackson. He is director of missions, Metro Peoria Association.



■ **Union University, Jackson**, will open its fourth extension of the R.G. Lee Center at the **Beulah Association** of office. It will offer "Introduction to Christian Evangelism," beginning Sept. 8. For more in-



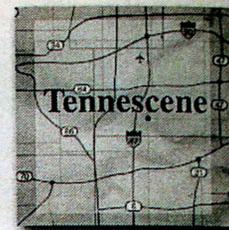
■ **First Church, Smartt**, has called **Philip Dougan** as pastor. Dougan formerly served as pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville, and interim pastor, Cornerstone Church, McMinnville.

■ **Gary Griffis**, pastor, Leclair Church, Memphis, has been invited to serve as conference pastor for the Central Russia Pastor's Conference, which is sponsored by the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia Federation. The meeting will be held in October in Surgut, Russia.

■ **Joe and Becky Gardner** of Peoria, Ill., have been appointed missionaries by the North American Mission

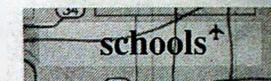


PARTICIPANTS from Tennessee in the first Christian Women's Job Corps National Certification Training event of the Woman's Missionary Union were, from left, first row, Gayle Ingram, Franklin; and Meriam Fox, Lenoir City; second row, Melinda Brady, Memphis; Creely Wilson, Brentwood; Charles Parker, pastor, First Church, Jacksboro; Janice Cox, Nashville; and Diane Shepherd, Woodcock Baptist Center, Nashville. The Tennesseans joined 175 people from 30 states at the Aug. 7-9 event. It was held at WMU's headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.



formation, call (901) 885-2151.

■ **Bradley County Association** is hosting the Appalachian Extension Center of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary this fall. Classes, which will begin Aug. 25, will include "Introduction to Preaching," "New Testament Survey," and "Ministry of Christian Education." For more information, call (423) 476-5493.



■ **Union University, Jackson**, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will offer five seminary classes this fall. The classes begin Sept. 8 and continue for 13 weeks. For more information, call John Adams at (901) 661-5160.



RECEIVING A PLAQUE to honor Bethlehem Church, Crossville, on its 125th anniversary celebration July 27 is Douglas Sevier, second from right, chairman of deacons, from Roy Davis, right, director of missions, Cumberland Plateau Association. Sevier is joined by other leaders of the church, from left, Rodney Rector, pastor; Harry Woody; David Dodson; Bob Wattenbarger; Glenn Wyatt, Larry Tramel; and Tim Copeland. Bethlehem Church has started seven congregations in its history, which was researched and written for the occasion. Reporting on the history during the celebration was Meade Woody, 91, oldest living member.



'Wait and hurry up'

By Jay Sulfridge, pastor
Little Mulberry Church, Sneedville

"Hurry up and wait." I have picked

up a few phrases from military life, filtered down through my father to me. Some of them are a bit too colorful to mention, and some too specific to be of much use.

Some of them, like the illustration above, fit civilian life pretty well. No doubt, you have been frustrated by a "hurry up and wait" situation at some time.

There's a bit of that philosophy in effective Christian service, except it's reversed, "Wait and hurry up." Many failures in our walk with Christ come

from not following this complete formula.

First, we need to wait. Wait on God. See what he is doing, where he is working. Wait on his revelation to you, showing you where and how you need to work. When you see that open door, hurry on through it!

The second common mistake is waiting on God, then dropping the ball in the response department. If God has assigned you, you don't need any more incentive to get to work. Waiting time has expired; now it's time to hurry! ■

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.