

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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## this week's news

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## Students prepare worldwide for 'See You At The Pole'



By James Dotson  
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Hundreds of thousands — possibly millions — of teenagers

worldwide will gather at school flagpoles once again Sept. 17 for "See You At The Pole."

The annual student-led prayer effort has served both to mobilize student prayer efforts and bolster the organization of Christian clubs on campus.

See You at the Pole began in 1990 as an emphasis of the Texas Baptist Convention. More than 45,000 participated the first year, and in 1991 the effort gained the support of a broad range of evangelical organizations in the United States and other countries. It is held annually on the third Wednesday of September.

Dean Finley, a student evangelism associate for the North American Mission

Board who helps coordinate the event among Southern Baptists, said pollster George Barna estimated more than one million participants several years ago in the U.S. Another estimate put the total at 2.5 million in 1995, with indications of continued growth last year.

Finley is asking leaders this year to file reports on a Internet-based form as soon as possible after the event through a web site sponsored by his office at the NAMB (www.syatp.org). Updates will be posted on the site every two hours on Sept. 17, including both numbers and anecdotal information.

The idea, Finley said, is for information to be immediately available for Wednesday night prayer meeting reports and other purposes. Last year more than 100,000 participants were reported on the NAMB site in the first year of Internet-based reporting.

Finley said the See You at the Pole effort has served not only to mobilize efforts

of young people interceding on behalf of their generation, but also to spur the growth of campus Bible clubs. NAMB offers materials and information on helping students organize M-pact clubs, essentially a service club with a Christian flare.

"It has really made an impact," Finley said. "... We have well over 5,000 Christian clubs that are on a database on the Internet."

Even without organizational sponsorship, the simple nature of the event has made it easy for Christian students to participate — not even knowing if anybody else will come. In some cases, reports indicate only two people met for prayer. In others, as many as 1,000 students have attended.

"And it's a place for people to make a contact," Finley said. "Many times people don't know who'll show up, and it's been interesting over the years to see people say, 'Gosh, I didn't know this many (Christian) people were here.'"

## WMU adopts Brotherhood water purification project

By Teresa Dickens  
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union has assumed responsibility for Pure Water-Pure Love, a ministry launched by the Brotherhood Commission in 1995 to provide water purification units to International Mission Board personnel living abroad.

The move of the project to WMU came at the request of

Brotherhood Commission officials earlier this summer as the agency's work was transferred to the North American Mission Board, the new Southern Baptist agency that replaced the Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, and Home Mission Board.

Jim Burton, who coordinated the project for the Brotherhood Commission and is now director of volunteer mobiliza-

tion for NAMB, said the transfer of Pure Water-Pure Love to WMU was a practical move. He said NAMB will continue to promote the effort.

"We felt that Pure Water-Pure Love paralleled some of the other work Woman's Missionary Union has with international missionaries," Burton said.

Joyce Mitchell, WMU associate executive director and new coordinator of Pure Wa-

ter-Pure Love, agreed.

"Water purifiers are such a practical and immediate way for those of us who value and support missionaries to say 'thank you' to them," she said.

The project was designed to provide clean drinking water for missionaries and their families, Burton said.

Individuals or churches interested in more information about the project may call WMU at 1 (800) 968-7301. ■



LEADING CENTER

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### 200th anniversary celebration

LITTLE FLAT CREEK CHURCH, Corryton, celebrated its bicentennial Aug. 17. Joe Chandler, right, associate director, Knox County Association, presented a plaque to Pastor Jerry Baltimore and several church members of long tenure, from left: Homer Thomas, Beryle Clapp, Charles Zachary, Edna Towe, Pastor Baltimore (standing), Mable Acuff, Raymond Simmons, and Chandler. Story and photos on page 7. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

## Arson blamed for fire in Gaza

Baptist Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza — Arson has severely damaged a reading and ministry center operated by Southern Baptists here.

The fire at the Center of Culture and Light destroyed 40 to 50 percent of its 11,964 books and all of its 274 videos, said Southern Baptist representative Paul Lawrence. Police are investigating the fire, which was started in two places in the center between noon and 2 p.m. Aug. 10.

The library has been used to serve and minister to the people of Gaza, Lawrence said, noting the fire will not be the death of the center. "Clean-up work has begun," he said. ■

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# Homeschooling strengthens values, speakers say

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — “The homeschool movement has done more in our nation than any other group of people to shore up the declining moral values in our nation today,” said Patrick Hurd, a father who educates his children at home in Weatherford, Texas.

Hurd and other speakers at Homeschool '97: Reaching New Heights, Aug. 17-20 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center called the rise of homeschooling a positive development for the nation. Approximately 1,200 people attended the conference.

Bruce Merrick, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, cited statistics showing homeschooling is on the rise.

One set of government figures indicated the number of children being educated at home rose from 300,000 in 1991 to 1.3 million in 1996.

Homeschooling consultant Jeff Myers predicted children educated at home will be among society's leaders in the years ahead.

“If there are to be leaders in the next generation, a good percentage of them must come from the homeschool community,” Myers, who also is assistant professor of communication arts at Bryan College in Dayton, said. “It's exciting to understand that, and I think it forms the context of everything we're doing today.”

Among Southern Baptists, homeschooling parents are increasing in number and are grateful for denominational resources to help them in their tasks, said Glen L. Schultz, manager of the Christian schools and home schooling section of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

“A lot of Southern Baptists have come up to me during this conference and expressed gratitude that the convention is recognizing that they're here,” he observed.

Schultz urges parents to remain focused on biblical concerns as they teach their children at home.

“As Christians, we need to make sure that our educational patterns are based on a view of the future that includes

eternity with a real heaven and a real hell,” Schultz declared. “Otherwise, we're going to betray our youth. ... We need to help children and youth develop a God-centered world view instead of man-centered.”

Another speaker said homeschool parents should realize the education of their children is indeed a parental responsibility.

“I started searching the Bible and tried to look up every word in the Bible that had to do with 'teach,’” said Steve Demme, publisher of mathematics resources for home schools and Christian schools. “Guess what I found out? That it is the parents' responsibility.”

Demme, who lives in Drumore, Pa., said parents should keep the Bible central in instructing their children.

He suggested having children read through and write out chapters of the Bible when learning vocabulary, penmanship, and spelling.

Mary Pride of Fenton, Mo., author of 17 books on homeschooling, said parents who ed-

ucate their children at home should aim for long-range generational goals.

“It's not enough to teach your kids,” Pride declared. “You have to teach your kids to teach their kids to teach their kids. ... We want to hit the goal of having great godly grandkids and godly great-grandkids. Homeschooling is perfect for this.”

During a workshop on the impact of homeschooling on the future, Hurd predicted positive spiritual change will escalate with the second generation of homeschooled children.

“It's not going to happen overnight,” Hurd said. “Folks, we are gradualists. We're not going to conquer it all in one generation, but we have to get started. Too many of our contemporaries in the Christian arena are just not doing anything. ...”

Hurd said homeschooling families should develop accountability relationships with other families who believe America needs spiritual change. “We need to establish godly alliances with like-minded families.” ■

## Baptist professor argues for same-sex marriage ban

Baptist Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Defining which type of human relationships constitute a “family” is likely to become a hotly debated issue in the Kentucky legislature soon an Aug. 19 hearing before a committee demonstrated.

A proposed resolution in the Kentucky House of Representatives, BR 143, which would prevent the state from recognizing same-sex marriages as legal unions protected by law, received its first hearing Aug. 19 before an interim joint committee for judiciary legislation. The resolution also would prevent marital unions between same-sex partners outside of Kentucky from being legally binding within the state's boundaries.

Insisting the Bible defines what a true marriage is, Hershael York added, “It should not be redefined.” York, associate professor of Christian preaching at South-

ern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., spoke in favor of the resolution.

“The building block of a home is marriage between a man and a woman. The institution of marriage is rooted in the fact that men and women are physically and emotionally different, but complementary to one another.”

York, formerly pastor of Ashland Avenue Church in Lexington, Ky., was invited by the committee to offer testimony concerning a biblical view of the family. York joined the Southern Seminary faculty in June after a seven-year tenure at Ashland Ave.

Referring to Matthew 19:4-6, York said the words of Jesus in the passage outline God's ordination of the marriage relationship. The seminary professor also stated the formation of the “nuclear family” within Scripture could be found as early as Genesis 2:21-25. York was joined in sup-

port for the bill by Judith Reisman, retired military Colonel Ron Ray, and Martin Cothran of the Family Foundation.

“We don't have to see the implications (of same sex-marriage) purely from a theological viewpoint,” York said. “If (such marriages) are given the force of law, then the public schools would have to teach that homosexuality is just another lifestyle form. Certain laws have the potential to force (such teaching) in the public arena.”

Opponents of the resolution fear such legislation denies individual rights and freedom in lifestyle choice and will encourage further discrimination against gays and lesbians. “Children raised by gay and lesbian parents are as happy and well-adjusted as those raised by heterosexual parents,” said University of Louisville law professor Sam Marcossou. “There simply is no evidence to the contrary.” ■

## Tennessee senior adults serve as volunteers at BSSB conference centers

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — While he planted flowers in the prayer garden at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Charles “Grumpy” Britt figured people saw his lips moving and assumed he was talking to himself.

That was not the case, however. He was talking to the Lord. “I enjoy the peace and quiet of the prayer garden.” He and his wife, Dean, members of First Church, Soddy-Daisy, are among several dozen senior adults who have spent part or all of the summer working as volunteers at Glorieta and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers. Volunteers agree the best part of the job is the people they meet. ■

## Tutoring training set for Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Tutoring Children/Youth Literacy Training Workshop will be held Sept. 12-13 at First Church, Jackson.

The purpose of the workshop is to train leaders who tutor children and youth. Tutoring is an excellent evangelism tool for churches. Those attending the workshop will receive training and resources in this ministry to children and youth.

Statistics reveal that one million youth, ages 12 to 17, cannot read above the third grade level.

The Jackson workshop will be led by Mrs. Lee Hudson of Memphis. For more information, call Beverly Smothers or Melanie Allen at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2013. ■

# Nearly 11,000 World Changers put Christianity into action

By James Dotson  
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — They came 10,576 strong this summer, from 585 churches, on mission to demonstrate Christianity in action. They are the World Changers: youth and their adult leaders who spent a week repairing and renovating homes for low-income residents.

This year more than 700 homes benefited from the effort during 39 separate week-long projects in 28 different cities.

The last 1997 World Changers projects ended Aug. 2, and the summer staff for the projects gathered at North American Mission Board (NAMB) offices Aug. 4-6 for a time of debriefing and reflecting on the biggest year yet for the ministry. The more than 35 college-age workers acted as support staff and worship leaders on the projects.

World Changers began in 1990 as a missions education program of the former Brotherhood Commission, and the summer work projects that began as the ministry's missions involvement component have now come to define it. This year — under the auspices of the new North American Mission Board for the first time —



**TWO HIGH SCHOOL** students help repair a roof at a World Changers work site in Memphis. — Photo by Amy Witherspoon

projects were held for junior high, senior high, college students, single adults, and senior adults.

Four projects were held overseas in Trinidad, Antigua, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, the summer also included eight World Tour projects — which combine the traditional service projects with more direct evangelistic ministry efforts.

In each case, World Changers cooperates in a partnership with community and government officials to meet an area's

most desperate housing needs. In turn, participants have an opportunity to serve in Christ's name and explain the Gospel that motivates them.

"It's almost a laboratory experience," said Andy Morris, student volunteer mobilization manager for NAMB and World Changers coordinator. "It's learning by doing, and not just hearing."

The summer workers returned with stories of changed lives, both in the communities and among the youth participants. Although most of the ef-

forts are designed more for "seed planting" than for direct evangelism, there were 640 professions of faith recorded.

And although all participants are required to complete a study and have previously made a profession of faith in Christ, more than 200 of them made other decisions such as commitments to full-time Christian service.

During the debriefing sessions, World Changers communications workers shared just a few of the summer's other highlights.

In New Orleans, Andrew Bonderud, 14, of Germantown took a break from a project site to talk with two neighbors, ages 10 and 14. He later dropped by the project office to ask if they had an extra Bible around — his had been given away after both prayed to accept Christ.

In West Memphis, Ark., a neighborhood man had been the subject of the local pastor's prayers for 27 years. "When he saw the kids there, and he saw Christ's love in action, he got saved that week," said Amy Witherspoon of Deatsville, Ala.

Because participants were housed in local schools, they also had the opportunity to develop relationships with custo-

dians — some of whom were not exactly thrilled at the prospect of extra work during the summer months. One janitor in Jackson, Mich., felt that way until he learned one of the work sites was his own mother's house. "His whole attitude changed. ... Now it was not just a bunch of kids coming to make (his) life miserable" said Erica Mickels of Dallas.

Spiritual maturity in both witnessing and worship was surprisingly high all summer, according to several of the workers.

"There is a growing consensus among the summer staff that God is doing something with this generation — that boldness, more anticipation for worship," said Morris, noting that it mirrors observations in other youth ministries worldwide.

"There is a spiritual awakening being led by this generation, and we feel like it is going to come to a climax around the turn of the millennium," he added.

As for World Changers, there are no signs of losing momentum. There are plans to increase the number of projects to 48 next year, including work for the first time in Chicago and Youngstown, Ohio. ■

## Bible readers more joyful, content, at peace, survey shows

Associated Baptist Press

CHICAGO — People who read the Bible regularly experience more joy, contentment, and peace than those who seldom or never read the Scripture, according to a recent survey by Tyndale House Publishers.

According to the study, 64 percent of frequent Bible readers described themselves as feeling full of joy. More than 81 percent said they feel content, 87 percent said they are at peace, and 92 percent agreed their life has a clear purpose and meaning.

Among those who seldom or never read the Bible, 35 percent said they are joyful, 67 percent feel content, 58 percent are at peace, and 69 percent sense a clear purpose and meaning in life.

Eighty-five percent of those who read the Bible more than once a week said they were "extremely satisfied" with their spiritual life. That compared to 41 percent of those who read the Bible less than once a month or never who said they are extremely satisfied.

The survey of 1,000 adults was conducted by Market Facts for Tyndale House Publishers to celebrate the first anniversary of the release of the *New Living Translation* of the Bible. ■

## Cookeville pastor receives BSSB LeaderLife Award

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An award to recognize models of excellence in leadership has been established by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church leadership services division and its first recipients have been announced.

Medford Hutson of Marble Falls, Texas, and Bob Mowrey of Nashville and current interim pastor of First Church, Cookeville, have been chosen to receive the first James T. Draper Jr. LeaderLife Awards.

Mowrey, a pastor for 45 years, served churches in Chattanooga, Summerville, Ga., and Fort Payne, Ala., before becoming pastor of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, in 1960. He remained at Park Avenue until his retirement in 1995. In his years at the church, it averaged 130 baptisms per year.

Among its benefits, the award provides recipients a set of the New American Commentary published by Broadman & Holman Publishers and a \$2,500 grant to be used within one year to study a leadership issue of the individual's choice.

Criteria for the award include a minimum of 25 years in ministry leadership positions; significant denominational contribution; exemplification of ministry calling, character, and competency; and modeling skills in communication, ministry, administration, and leadership.

Nominations will be sought each year from among SBC leaders, associational directors of missions, pastors, Baptist state convention leaders, and anyone else who wishes to make a nomination, said Don Mathis, director of the board's pastor-staff leadership department. ■

## ATS removes notations of concerns at MBTS; two others retained

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been notified of the removal of two notations by the Association of Theological Schools regarding trustee governance and the atmosphere of the learning environment.

Two other notations are retained with a progress report due in November of 1998, allowing time to demonstrate the effectiveness of planned improvements in financial planning and evaluation procedures.

In addition, the North Central Association has reaffirmed the seminary's accreditation by the Committee on Institutions of Higher Education.

Midwestern Seminary President Mark Coppenger called the spring visit by ATS and its subsequent June report "most helpful and encouraging."

He added, "The team recognized Midwestern's strength and progress and made suggestions for fine tuning the seminary."

All of the ATS notations were incurred prior to Coppenger's election as president in 1995. In the report of this year's focused visit, ATS praised the new administra-

tion for "more than adequate documentation in preparation for the visit" and regarded presentations as "candid and to the point."

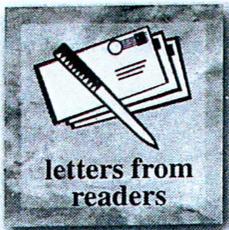
The removed notations were first incurred in 1994 after trustees denied a recommendation from the faculty and administration that theology professor Bill Stancil be granted tenure. During those deliberations, the trustee board stipulated the necessity of a two-thirds vote to grant tenure.

That action prompted a focused visit by ATS in 1994 after which the accrediting agency issued notations, representing questions or doubts

regarding school adherence to particular standards in the accreditation manual. Specifically, the first notation stated that "the Governing Board exercises inappropriate control over the Administration and Faculty."

The recently released report indicated procedural concerns have now been addressed in a policy statement on "Academic Freedom and Tenure" which was adopted by trustees in the spring of 1996.

Furthermore, the recent development of a comprehensive trustee handbook was cited as being "quite explicit about Board responsibilities and duties." ■



## letters from readers

### about letters

> Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.

> 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 confirm, 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-September

27 — Praise God for the summer missionaries that served in Michigan.

28 — Pray for missionary Greg Smith in Costa Rica who is beginning prayer walks. Ask God that a new work will be established as a result of this ministry.

29 — Pray for the staff and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

30 — Pray for Church Planting Canada as they plan a national interdenominational gathering of denominational leaders, district superintendents, area ministers, and others Oct. 27-30 in the Toronto area.

31 — Praise God for the Forest Hills Church, Nashville, team that taught at a children's day camp this month at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Radosc.

Sept. 1 — Praise God for Kim Huff, the new ministry assistant in the TBC's Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team.

Sept. 2 — Pray for Michigan churches that are without a pastor.

### Method was good

It is apparent that much time and effort was spent in developing new and exciting Vacation Bible School material that would reach out and grab the attention of children and youth.

The method was changed and it helped to reiterate the same wonderful message — the Good News of Jesus Christ. Sometimes change is good, and this is such a case.

May God receive all the glory, honor, and praise for the lives that were touched this summer by the Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede.

Tim McGehee, pastor  
Smyrna Church  
Chapel Hill 37034

### No 'lording' it

There is a continuing, concerted effort to grant appointive powers to the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We should consider carefully what Jesus taught about leadership: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you. Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your servant and whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your slave."

If we are to follow the example and teaching of Jesus regarding leadership, we should use his model of leading by loving, humble servanthood rather than by appointive authority. We must lead by redemptive service to one another rather than by lording it over one another.

I hope and pray that Tennessee Baptists, and indeed all Christians everywhere, will resist the temptation to allow any lesser authority than the Lord Jesus Christ to exercise control over his work among us.

Let us keep the organization of God's work in our midst securely under the Lordship of Christ, by means of his Spirit working freely through all of us who are committed to him. Let us not follow the example of the rulers of the Gentiles by granting control to any authority less than Jesus.

John Burton  
New Market 37820

### Apology not required

I'm responding to a recent letter in the *B&R* about "More apologies needed." I strongly disagree with this.

We should not be deceived,

## Pastor helped by Seminary Extension courses

In the fall of 1993 two very strong desires began to dominate my life — to make one final attempt to earn my bachelor's degree and the other to have a deeper spiritual relationship with God and an inner satisfaction which would tell me I was doing what God wanted me to do with my life.

I was leading an adult Sunday School class and Sunday night Discipleship at Barnesville Church, near Summertown, where I had been a member since childhood. Although I studied and tried to apply myself diligently, something was missing. As I searched, God directed me to two answers.

One was the life-changing *Experiencing God* course and the other was a small note in the local associational bulletin about a Seminary Extension class for college credit.

I was hesitant about Seminary Extension because I feared it might be a "pastors only" type class. My director of missions, however, encouraged me to take the course. He assured me it would enable me to be a better teacher and leader.

The class in Old Testament enriched my knowledge, filling in gaps developed between literature and commentaries I'd read.

I found I could also take correspondence courses through Seminary Extension's Independent Study Institute. I discovered an amazing fact. I could earn my college degree with the assistance of Seminary Extension courses. In 1994 I began communicating with



SPEARS

Judson College, a Baptist school in Alabama, about the possibility of earning my degree through their program.

Meanwhile, God also used Seminary Extension to help me focus on the missing factor in my spiritual life. One thing I had never considered was a call from God to the ministry. My father is a bivocational Southern Baptist minister. I had watched many times as his prayer-filled efforts seemed to dissolve into tear-filled heartache. Therefore, being a minister was the furthest thing from my mind as I began my studies.

However, the gentle voice of God began to nudge my conscience. Spiritual desire, attitude, ability, and training were all being shaped by God for a special purpose. ... With reservations, and against my own will, I had to seek God's purpose for my life.

The rest is history. In June I received my bachelor of arts in ministry skills from Judson. Already, the theological and administrative lessons learned through Seminary Extension courses are being applied.

In the future God may lead me to further study at one of our SBC seminaries. Even so, I will continue to periodically study through Seminary Extension. No other program offers so much education for so little expense.

Not everyone who takes Seminary Extension courses will be called to be a pastor. Not everyone will earn a college degree. But everyone who takes a Seminary Extension course will benefit greatly and be truly blessed.

Larry Spears, pastor  
Piney Church  
Hohenwald 38462

God is not mocked. Let us hear God's great speaker, the apostle Paul.

"These people, both men and women, became vain in their own imaginations. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves." — Romans 1:21, 22, 24.

These people did not want to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind. So the Bible says they are worthy of death who do these things. Read all of Romans 1.

Estelle Lambert  
Crossville 38555

### Pastor sought

Trinity Baptist Church, with a membership of 55 families, located in Baumholder, Germany, approximately 80 miles southwest of Frankfurt, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly composed of people connected with the American military.

Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Conven-

tion (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please contact me.

Woody Josey  
PSC 2 Box 5483  
APO, AE 09012

### VBS was good

This summer we had a great Vacation Bible School at our church. The life of Jesus was our theme.

We pulled out some pictures and other materials from several years ago.

Some examples:

Jesus holding a small lamb. Jesus calling the 12 disciples. Jesus in Pilate's court and on the cross.

The children asked — Why is Jesus holding a lamb? Who are those men? Did Jesus ever marry? Why did he die?

The children had deep, thirsty minds. We chose to lead the children toward the Biblical questions.

No, we did not waste money for the literature that we purchased.

A mind and an opportunity are much more valuable.

We must not underestimate our children's learning abilities and ask teachers to offer them anything but the best. Materials that honor Christ, build character, and reinforce good grammar are teaching responsibilities of the church.

Thelma Sudberry  
Shelbyville 37160

### Interim evangelism team leader named

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Ken Weathersby began serving Aug. 11 as interim Evangelism team leader for the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries.

Weathersby has served on WEATHERSBY the staff since 1993, as a church starter strategist and then as church extension team leader and black church extension/multihousing specialist for the group. He will continue present responsibilities.

He served as pastor of Douglas Avenue Church, Baton Rouge, La., from 1989-93.

Weathersby and his wife, Belva, have two children. ■



### Moratorium called on certain letters

We are calling a moratorium on letters relating to Vacation Bible School and the SBC move against The Disney Company. We have had letters on these two subjects for several weeks. A moratorium is necessary, at least temporarily. Currently, only letters received prior to Sept. 8 will be considered. — Editor

# History builds heritage for future

Once you get involved with history, you either have to flow with it or stay in your deep, wide rut.

One way is exciting. Guess which one. History can make us terribly bored or it can push us into involvement.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is young, compared to many Baptist churches and other entities. It's even younger when you think of places like the Middle East or even Europe.

But we, like the Southern Baptist Convention, are growing. So as we approach what many are calling the Third Millennium, and a new century, we must be prepared.

Without sounding sanctimonious or pious, let's agree that we can't stay where we are, in terms of growth and service. Though we may love most, or all, of Southern Baptist history, we can't live in it forever. But the foundations laid by our forefathers are sound and solid — they can be carried along with us, intact.

In fact, they provide us not only with the impetus for growth, they challenge us to climb to the top of spiritual heights.

When Broadman Press published Joe Burton's *Road to Augusta* in 1976, the jacket of that great little book used a profound phrase to describe the future for Southern Baptists — when it merely referred to the book.

"The founding of the [Southern Baptist] Convention in 1845 involved conflict and tension, but even sharper conflict was

to emerge in later years," they wrote for the inquisitive reader.

That book jacket further reminds us that R.B.C. Howell, editor of *The Baptist* and Tennessee Baptist pastor, "was the man who steered Southern Baptists through the Landmark conflict ... Howell stood for orthodoxy against a narrow, belligerent dogmatism that sought to divert Baptists from their central evangelistic and missionary concerns."

Despite J.R. Graves and some of his Landmark friends, Southern Baptists made use of Howell's sound theological views and steadfast speaking and writing.

Unfortunately, such voices are often left to cry in the wilderness, like John the Baptist.

However, prophets like Howell, have a way of saying and doing things that gnaw away at our conscience and afflict our affinity to the ruts.

Howell was elected to the SBC presidency or vice-presidency almost every time Southern Baptists met during his lifetime (1845-67). He was elected twice when he was absent. He headed the Sunday School Board (the first one), the Foreign Mission Board, and so on.

He was noted for his beliefs in the local church independence and autonomy, the ministry as a partnership of pastor and congregation, and that the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention is secondary to larger kingdom concerns, and not to be sought as a political goal nor to

be hogged as a personal treasure. He also believed in full and free communication with the people through the Baptist media.

Let's turn to Burton's book for a closer look: "Denominational organization, he saw clearly, had limited power. ... state conventions were without authority over the associations or the churches. And the Southern Baptist Convention, when it came into being, was never regarded by Howell, even though he became its second president, as having authority over the state conventions, the associations, or the churches."

He felt that the word of the church is final and no ecclesiastical power has any authority over it.

To get even a glimpse of history as a sort of prophecy, is a gift Baptists need to lay hold of.

When our focus begins to narrow rather than broaden to a world view of lost people, we have not served our prophets well. They have said to us that personal gain is totally unworthy of the Christian. They have said that to neglect the commission of Christ to pursue organizational notoriety is pilfering the best and tossing it aside.

The future that God has planned for Tennessee Baptists and Southern Baptists, we believe, is not personal aggrandizement or sensational organization, but to put the love of Christ for lost people — *first place in our hearts and being.* B&R



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Psychiatrist to woman patient: "I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones, but I can't treat you any longer. Your bill is much more than it should be."

Mrs. Jones: "I'm glad you've come to your senses, doctor. Now, if you'll make out my bill for what it should be, I'll write you a check."

Take this truth

Few things in life are non-negotiable. More and more people are beginning to haggle on prices. That may be the reason why discount stores are so popular today.

The forces of righteousness, and wickedness, however, will not negotiate in the moral and spiritual realm. Whatever we sow, we also reap.

Memorize this Scripture

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream. — Amos 5: 24

Pray this prayer

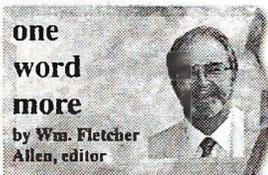
Lord, help me to treat my neighbors and other acquaintances fairly in business and social relationships. ■

Who said that?

Rose early to seek God and found him whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to seek such company? (from his diary).

If the veil of the world's machinery were lifted off, how much we could find is done in answer to the prayers of God's children. — Robert Murray McCheyne, Scottish pastor in Dundee, who died at age 29.

## Don't make excuses about that wasted time — use it



one word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Most of us have lamented the act of waiting in line, or waiting for anything.

Men especially, I think, don't like to wait for haircuts, or standing in line at the restaurant. We even dislike waiting in the grocery store or at the gas station.

There's a remedy for that, and I'm glad because there aren't many short lines or quick answers.

I was waiting recently — past the time for the appointment. I decided to use my own kind of solution. I picked up a magazine and began reading.

In a magazine article, novelist William Maxwell was interviewed on the occasion of birthday number 88.

Hmmm, interesting, I thought. And it was. When that happens, it seems I don't

have time to complete the article. Sure enough, my reading was cut short this time also.

But I read enough to gain some insight and to chalk up another unique character in my library of the mind.

Maxwell was asked, "Does it surprise you to be this age?"

Listen to his answer, this man who has reached four score and eight.

"On a recent morning," he said, "I looked in the mirror. I asked myself, 'What am I doing, attached to that old man?'"

He talked about reflecting on that idea, coupled with his age. "The child in me says he intends to live forever," he said. "The man in me says that's not a good idea. But the two of us don't argue about it." I know the feeling.

He continued with his answer, saying that he realized his age, and adding, "But I don't want to leave the party."

Now I certainly don't think I wasted time reading about Maxwell's insight. I

know that often we classify moments, minutes, or hours as "wasted." But if they are wasted, it's usually our fault.

We sometimes probably need some "wasted" time, some minutes just to be at ease and, as Paul wrote, "check up" on ourselves. That advice has merit.

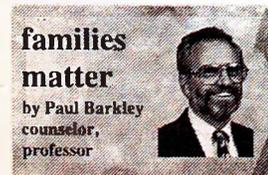
But one key to satisfaction and living within ourselves is to use the time that is available. This doesn't mean we have to emulate Martha constantly, because we depend on Marthas and Marys. Neither can we fritter away minutes by grumbling about long waiting lines or traffic delays.

When we do that, we are admitting that there are no creative thoughts available in our thought-banks.

It's been said many times that we are all given 24 hours in each day. I really appreciate the insights I gained from the first half of that magazine article. Maxwell's feelings about age and time seem healthy.

But now I'm wondering about the rest of the story! ☺☺☺

## How do we explain the unlimited potential of love?



families matter

by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Men like Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow opposed Sigmund Freud's views on human nature.

While I risk reading more into their theories than they might claim, I can

suggest some truths for the family that might come from their theories and God's Word.

Parents have the right and responsibility to guide the development of their children. We are all in the process of personal development as well as that of family members.

The Bible teaches that love covers a multitude of sins. I believe love unleashes unlimited potential in each person who is created in God's image.

While God's love for us and forgiveness of our sin sets us free to become all he created us to be, I believe we have the same potential in families to set each other free to be all we can be.

We must first learn to love ourselves as God loves us. We must remind ourselves that we are valued, accepted, cherished, and important to a loving heavenly Father who sent his Son to be our savior.

We didn't deserve it or earn it. God freely gives it. When we can experience that love, we begin to unleash the unlimited potential that is ours through our

enabling experience with God's love.

The love and acceptance that should characterize the home, make it an island of refuge in the stormy sea of challenge, criticism, and condemnation of the world.

All of us who are Christians have known the exciting and uplifting experience of starting over when we repent of our sins and experience the regeneration and reconciliation of God's Spirit. Our love in the family has the same potential in human relationships to free family members from the shackling shame of failure.

From that vantage point the child or spouse will have a more positive perspective of their own potential. ■

# Church, association minister to migrants



**LORI GILLIS** of New Salem Church teaches children in the migrant summer program sponsored by Holston Association and held yearly at First Church, Erwin.

For Baptist and Reflector

ERWIN — Migrant ministry continues to be a focus for churches in Holston Association.

In 1978 the association offered migrant day care at Calvary Church in Erwin. The program was moved to First Church the next year where it has been held ever since.

The program is for children ages kindergarten through sixth grade.

Up until a few years ago they were all children of migrant workers who came to Unicoi County to work in the strawberry and tomato crops,

said Ray Sorrells Jr., pastor of First Church.

In the last few years, children of families who are now residents in the area also participate. This year 58 children were ministered to, Sorrells said.

The eight-week program began June 9 and ended Aug. 1. Ila Nielson of First Church directed the program and was assisted by Bonnie Sorrells and Debbie Wilson, also of First Church, and Lori Gillis of New Salem Church. Kate Carter, a member of Central Church, Johnson City, and a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Chile, helped with



**DISCUSSING HISPANIC** work in Holston Association are, from left, Director of Missions Tal Thompson; Hispanic leader Pedro Cabrera; David Clines, language missions coordinator for the association; and Ray Sorrells, pastor, First Church, Erwin.

the program two days a week.

The children were brought to First Church by vans and were fed breakfast. During the day they participated in various types of activities such as Bible study, academics (mostly tutoring in math and reading), music, crafts, and recreation.

Churches from Holston and Sullivan associations provided lunch each day with members from the churches preparing and serving the food, Sorrells said. One church from nearby Watauga Association (Calvary) provided food for breakfast as well.

Some of the church groups remained behind after lunch

and provided a program.

"We are amazed at the participation of the churches in our association and of the churches in neighboring Sullivan Association," said David Clines, language missions coordinator for the association.

"They are sharing with us in the joy of sharing Jesus' love to these boys and girls and their families."

Holston Association Director of Missions Tal Thompson agreed.

"We are convinced that as we minister to the needs of the migrant community we are also sharing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ with these

children and their parents.

"We not only prepare them academically for life, but we also prepare them for an abundant life that includes a personal relationship with Jesus," Thompson said.

In addition to the program for children, First Church offered a Bible class for adults during the summer, Sorrells noted.

The goal for the class is to see it develop into a mission and church eventually, Sorrells said. The class is led by Pedro Cabrera, a Cuban native who moved with his family to the United States following Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba.

Clines, who Sorrells said was the catalyst in helping First Church begin the Spanish class and finding Cabrera to teach, is a strong supporter of the migrant ministry.

"Our workers take seriously their responsibility to minister in Jesus' name to the migrant children.

"They know they are investing in the education and lives of these boys and girls and their families just as Jesus did with his disciples." ■

## Leadership changes set for Memphis campus ministry posts

For Baptist and Reflector

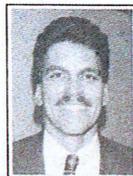
BRENTWOOD — Ron Hawkins, campus minister at the University of Memphis for 19 years, has assumed the same role at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Hawkins also will serve as senior director of Baptist Student Ministries in Memphis. In this role, he will serve as president of the board of Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Memphis, team leader for other ministry specialists in Memphis, and administrator of the area program.

Taking over Hawkins' role at UM is Kerry Smith, who previously served on a church staff in Morristown and also on the staffs of Carson-Newman College and the former Home Mission Board. ■



**HAWKINS**



**SMITH**

## Mission-Fuge projects attract Tennessee students to Florida

By Leigh Warren Singerman  
For Baptist and Reflector

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Many people travel to Florida in the summer to play and have fun in the sun.

But a group of Tennessee Baptist teenagers went to the Sunshine State for a different reason — to work and play "in the Son" at Mission-Fuge, held on the campus of Palm Beach Atlantic College here.

First Church, Bells, sent 19 youth and two adult sponsors to one of the weekly camping sessions near the Atlantic Ocean. Two Bells youth — Daniel Pigue and Josh Matlock — asked to be assigned to a construction team. They worked with the Light-house chapter of Habitat for Humanity which was building a house in northern Palm Beach County.

Pigue, a high school junior, worked to frame windows, while Matlock, a senior, helped cover an air conditioning line with metal stripping.

Both of the Bells youth had some knowledge of construction work.

Mission-Fuge campers worked on the Habitat house under the direction of Glenn Younger, a Louisiana busi-

nessman who took a leave of absence from his door construction company to minister at Mission-Fuge all summer long.

"We have been responsible for all the inside woodwork inside the 1,500-square-foot house — framing, trusses, braces, even the roof," Younger said.

Mission-Fuge campers did more than just construction during their stay.

Another Tennessean — Amanda Mitchell of Gladesville Church, Mt. Juliet — sang in "the extreme choir." This group learned a variety of songs that included traditional hymns as well as more contemporary numbers.

After a Sunday rehearsal session, they set out across the city, performing for such groups as Mission-fuge child care centers and the Braille Club of West Palm Beach.

The Tennessee delegations joined over 300 campers from other Baptist churches across the United States.

Mission-Fuge, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, offers a program for students who want to become involved in missions, said site coordinator Bryan Vaughn. ■ — Singerman writes for Palm Beach Atlantic College

## Disaster Relief training set Sept. 25-27

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Disaster Relief University will be held Sept. 25-27 at Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, Seymour.

The event is open to men and women who are interested in learning more about Southern Baptist disaster relief.

Accredited courses will be offered in child care, feeding unit, cleanup/mudout, American Red Cross (ARC) CPR/First Aid, and ARC Mass Care.

A Missions Fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 27 at Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville, where students in the child care and feeding unit classes will participate in "hands-on training" set-up and operation of the unite.

A \$50 per person registration fee includes lodging, meals, and material costs. Deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 19. Send registration checks, made payable to Executive Board, TBC, to: Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

For more information, call TBC Baptist Men's Ministries Team at 1 (800) 558-2090 or (615) 371-2025. ■

# Baptists minister through community agency

By Gloria Freeny  
For Baptist and Reflector

**SODDY-DAISY** — Racks of clothing now cover the floor where pews once stood, and shoes fill the choir loft of this old church, which has been converted into a ministry site. There is no singing here now, but one can almost hear the angels rejoicing as souls are saved.

Good Shepherd Outreach Ministry was started in 1993 by Tony Wilson, then pastor of Union Fork Church here. His vision was to create a central point in the community where needy families could come for food, clothes and, while they were visiting, hear the Gospel.

Wilson and his wife, Leslie, asked a couple who were members of their church, Wilson and Donna Peters, to direct the ministry.

At that time, the Peters were planning to retire on the beaches of North Carolina. But God changed their plan, they explained.

"Now we are mission bums instead of beach bums," said Donna with a smile.

A building was rented from



**SHOWING** the sign for the ministry are the directors, Wilson and Donna Peters, and their daughter, Brittany.

the Baptist Children's Home located near Chattanooga and the ministry took off! Area churches began donating clothes and money. Concord Church, Chattanooga, donated racks, the clothing was displayed, and needy people began to come.

After four months of operation, the members of Cross Roads Church, Ooltewah, donated a former sanctuary for the ministry.

Good Shepherd Outreach Ministry adopted its current name (formerly it was Press Toward the Mark Ministries)

and incorporated. The service is directed by a board of trustees. Good Shepherd is operated 12 hours per week by the Peters and six regular volunteers. It has given assistance to about 1,030 first-time families and has seen 65 people make professions of faith.

The Peters light up when they talk about those who have been saved. "It's why we're here," said Wilson Peters.

Everyone the center helps is screened, but they never turn anyone away, Donna explained. Their first priority, though, is sharing the Gospel,

which they do prior to providing help. However, they assure people they will receive help whether they make a spiritual decision.

People are treated with respect and dignity, the couple explained. The ministry has provided health care needed by students, including medicine for head lice, subsidized residence in motels, bought diapers and formula, and paid utility bills.

The couple claims miracles have occurred at the center. They learned about a woman in the area whose trailer house burned. Surprisingly, a few months earlier, a trailer house had been donated to the center and no one had discovered how to use it in the ministry. Youth from New Salem Church, Soddy-Daisy, cleaned it for its new resident.

In late summer last year the center's air conditioner broke down. In spring a man from another county made a \$1,500 donation which allowed the center to be air conditioned again.

Support comes from many different areas. The Southern Baptist North American Mis-



sion Board provided a ramp for handicapped visitors. Churches of all denominations and individuals give support. This is true despite the fact the couple doesn't solicit funds.

"God brings in what we need. We have learned not to worry," Wilson said. "If there's no money today, we know we won't have a need today."

They have experienced the work of Satan too, they report. Every time a person professes faith in God, something goes wrong, they said. Once the van had a mechanical problem, and once the computer shut down. But they are willing to fight this force, they added.

The center plans to add a family night to expand the ministry. They exclaim: "We're just holding on and watching to see what God is going to do next!" ■ — Freeny is a member of New Salem Church, Soddy-Daisy

## Something important happened in 1797

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

**CORRYTON** — Little Flat Creek Church has existed for a long time — in fact, it's been 200 years since the church began.

It follows that there was an all day celebration here on Aug. 17 for the bicentennial event. Participants came from near and far.

So Pastor Jerry Baltimore and the congregation were not surprised

that at least 25 churches were represented at the afternoon "dinner and singing on the grounds."

Little Flat Creek joins a rather elite group of Tennessee Baptist churches that have reached the milestone of 20 years.

R. C. Harless, pastor from 1985-88, preached the morning message and taught a history lesson at the same time. He talked about the beginning of Baptist work in Tennessee as settlers moved across the mountains. And he reminded

the congregation of their heritage and responsibility to pass it on.

The original church was organized Aug. 19, 1797, and was the first public building in the community.

It was 1799-1800 when "the massive hewn logs were locked in place, the cracks chinked and daubed and the roof laid and weighted down."

Through the years, Little Flat Creek members somehow have managed to keep many of those logs — and last summer church members used them to help build a replica of the first church on the grounds of the present property.

The church bought property, built a new

worship house, and moved in 1857. The move was made necessary because the Cumberland Gap and Louisville Railway put a track through the original site. The new building cost \$713.00.

The church started the bicentennial program Friday night, Aug. 15, with a Gospel concert.

On Saturday evening, members had a cemetery lighting service with candles for each grave site.

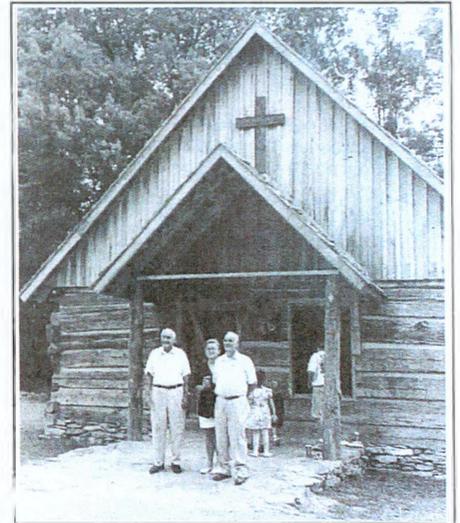
The 200th birthday was celebrated simultaneously with homecoming.

Joe Chandler, director of missions associate, Knox County Association, presented a 200th commemorative plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, to Pastor Jerry Baltimore and several members of long tenure.

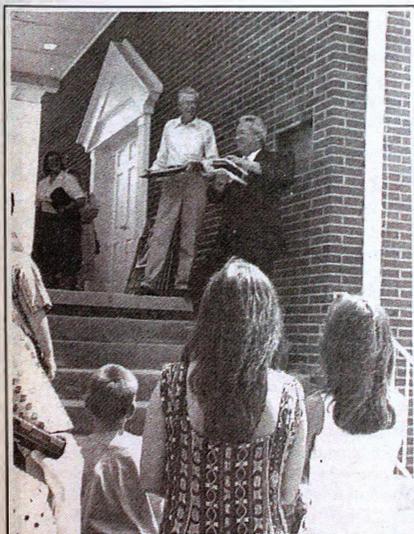
Herman Lakin, former pastor and former member of the church, was present. Lakin is a native of the Corryton area and went to school locally also. He recalled that one year of his schooling was spent at Little Flat Creek because of construction at the school.

Baltimore has been pastor since 1995.

Several local and area singing groups performed during the services. **B&R**



**ORIGINAL LOGS** were used in part of the rebuilding of the original church building. The replica was a busy attraction during the day.



**BERYLE CLAPP**, left, and Pastor Jerry Baltimore opened a "time capsule" from 1962.



**MARY AND HERMAN LAKIN** enjoy the festivities of Little Flat Creek Church's 200th birthday celebration.

# Tennesseans introduce Costa Rica to World Changers

By Wally Poor  
For Baptist and Reflector

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Like any good Southern Baptist, Steve Sloas is out to change the world. He's starting with Costa Rica.

Actually, Sloas and his wife, Lisa, of Memphis, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to do the treasurer-business manager work here, stepping into the shoes of Don and Jo Redmon who left for furlough and retirement Aug. 1.

But the Tennessee couple came to Costa Rica with a wider missionary vision than just for this Central American country.

While they were members of Cordova Church near Memphis, they worked with youth and became involved in World Changers, then a project of the SBC Brotherhood Commission which has since merged into the North American Mission Board.

World Changes involved Baptist youth devoting a mission trip to painting and repairing homes of needy people.

When the Sloases departed for Costa Rica to attend language school, they took with them a vision of getting youth there involved in a World Changers-type ministry.

God led them to San Pedro Baptist Church here where the nationals have bought into the

concept of World Changers.

The Sloases initially hesitated to join the San Pedro church because a missionary couple, Rick and Laura Lane, were already there. The Lanes, however, invited the Memphis couple to help them with youth work at the church. The Sloas' language teacher, Ana Camacho, also works with youth at the church.

The Sloases began to talk to the Lanes and Camacho and her husband, Reuben, about their idea of getting Costa Rican youth involved in World Changers-type projects.

They showed the Camachos an article in the International Mission Board's *The Commission* magazine which talked about a group of World Changers who had done work and evangelistic projects in Nicaragua.

The Camachos were sold on the idea and took it to their pastor. The church was favorable to the idea so a local project was planned.

"We went to an orphanage in Atenas. They needed help on cleanup, minor repairs, and painting. It was typical World Changer stuff," Sloas said.

More than 40 young people and 10 adults participated in the project.

Now the group is planning to journey to Guapiles, an hour and a half from San Jose. They will link up with youth from a new work being started by Ben and Susie Argil and Keith and Pam Travis.

Sloas' vision goes beyond the San Pedro church. He hopes that other Baptist churches will become interested in World Changers as they observe what the San Pedro youth are doing.

And he has an ever longer-range dream — to take a group from San Pedro to work in the United States.

The success of the project is further confirmation that the Lord led the Sloases to Costa Rica.

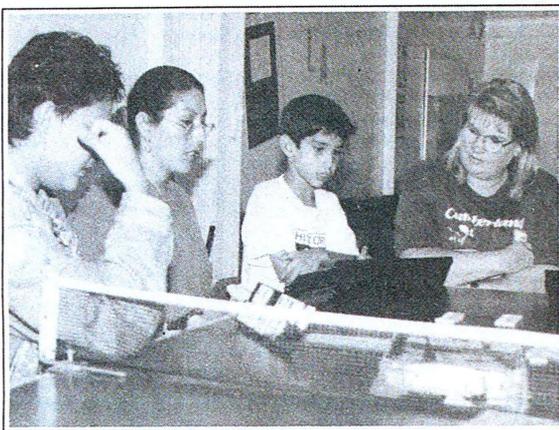
During the appointment process, Sloas shared his vi-

sion of working with youth. One of the trustees related that she had talked with the Lanes in Costa Rica and they were praying for someone to help with student ministry.

The Sloases have proven to be the answer to prayer. ■

September 1997

Season of Prayer  
for State Missions



TENNESSEAN LISA SLOAS, right, joins in during a 'fun day' at San Pedro Church in Costa Rica. Sloas and her husband, Steve, have introduced World Changers to the Costa Rica youth there.

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## Classified

**NEEDED** Central Church, Alcoa, needs a part-time Youth Minister for approximately 15-25 youth. Resumes will be sent 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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## Fan The Flame Leadership & Bible Conference Sept. 24, 25, 26, 1997 Hunter First Baptist Church Elizabethton, Tennessee

Speakers include:



Rick Coram



Dennis Deese



Junior Hill



Phil Hoskins



Johnny Hunt



Herb Reavis

**Other Speakers:** Hal Fletcher, Sherrel Nave, Greg Mathis, Larry Knight, Lee Bradley, Harold Hudson  
**Musicians:** Scott Andrews, Patty Hodge, His Praise, The Anchormen, Greater Heights, Brent & Erica Murray, Chris Allman, Jessica Cole, and others

### Schedule

**Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.** — Johnny Hunt, Hal Fletcher, Hunter FBC Choir  
**Thursday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m.** — Sherrel Nave, Greg Mathis; 1:40 p.m. — Dennis Deese, Phil Hoskins; 6:30 p.m. — Junior Hill, Rick Coram, Higher Ground Baptist Choir  
**Friday, Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.** — Rick Coram, Larry Knight; 1:40 p.m. — Lee Bradley, Herb Reavis; 6:30 p.m. — Harold Hudson, Herb Reavis, Tri-Cities Baptist Choir, The Anchormen

### Other Information

**Directions:** Hunter FBC is located 3 miles north of Elizabethton on Highway 91 (Stoney Creek Highway).  
**Registration:** Registration is required. There is no registration fee; however, love offerings will be received. Early registration is suggested due to limited space. Child care is not available.  
**To Register:** Call Hunter FBC at (423) 543-1381 or fax information to (423) 543-2948.

## churches

Members of Grace Covenant Church, Meadowview Church, and Harvest Community Church, all of Knoxville, worked in Panama Beach, Fla., Aug. 3-9. A 43-member team led two Vacation Bible Schools each day, served at the Panama City Rescue Mission, and led a Wednesday evening worship service at a church which drew 500 people. As a result, 13 people made professions of faith, two made commitments to full-time Christian service, and more than 100 people made other decisions.

A team of 19 members of Stock Creek Church, Knoxville, served in the World Changers program in Charleston, S.C., this summer.

**Ebenezer Church, Knoxville**, held a noteburning recently as part of its year-long centennial anniversary celebration. The congregation is now debt-free.

**Charleston Church, Stanton**, held its 125th anniversary celebration Aug. 3.

**First Church, Hunter**, will hold a tent revival Aug. 31 - Sept. 4. Dennis Deese, pastor, will speak. Area church choirs and others will present music at the services.

**Ewtonville Church, Dunlap**, will hold its seventh annual Ladies Bible Conference Sept. 12-13. Special guests include Mrs. Tennessee, USA, Cynthia Strong of Cookeville, and Lois Jane Huddleston, Gallatin, a musician. For more information, call the church at (423) 949-3141.

A recent revival at **Riverside Church, Harri-**man, resulted in 11 people making professions of faith,

three people joining the church, and numerous people making other spiritual decisions. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of Gleason, spoke.

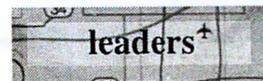
**Third Church, Mur-**freestboro, will hold its 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 21. Activities include a drama, opening a time capsule buried in 1955, recognition of charter members, luncheon, and afternoon musical concert. Bucky Phillips will speak.

**Sunnyside Church, Kingsport**, broke ground Aug. 3 for a \$962,000 educational facility. The building will have 14,000 square feet housing classrooms, offices, and restrooms.



**First Church, Parsons**, will ordain Will Quinn, Damon Mays, and Ronnie Vise as deacons during September.

**Pat Holly**, organist, Pleasant Hill Church, Martin, for 10 years, was honored by the church for serving as an organist for 50 years. She also served as organist of Calvary Church, Union City, for 18 years.



**Antioch Church, Benton**, has called Hoyle Ellis as pastor.

**Raymond Vogtner**, pastor, New Hope Church, Hermitage, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of service as a minister.

**George DeLozier** of Lake City, retired pastor, Basswood Church, Knoxville, was honored Aug. 3 by Clinch River



**PARTICIPATING** in Centrifuge camp in Panama City, Fla., this summer were members of Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville, from left, front row, Heidi Parker, Heather Parker; second row, Trevor Adams, Krista Nunnery, Crystal Tarpley, Emily Dugger, Nicholas Mulliniks; third row, Derrick Russell, Stacey Harger, Nikki Shelton, Deborah Webster, Gary McEwen, pastor; back row, Nich Hamm, Ben Lowe, Cortney Bowker, Colleen Irby, John Park, Harold Irby, youth minister; Bryant Barnes; Patty Adams; and Faye Mulliniks.

Church, Lake City, which named him pastor emeritus of the church. DeLozier was ordained by Clinch River Church in 1953, and served as pastor from 1954-56 and from 1964-73. He recently was interim pastor, West LaFollette Church, LaFollette. The Lake City congregation honored him during its morning worship service, had a luncheon, and a special afternoon service.

**Brian Ragan**, youth ministry leader, Stock Creek Church, Knoxville, has resigned, effective Aug. 2, to accept a job in Nashville.

**Marty Comer** of Mt. Vernon Church, Saltville, Miss., has been called as pastor of Sand Ridge Church, Lexington.

**Bill Sorrell**, minister of youth and recreation, Audubon Park Church, Memphis, for five years, has resigned to pursue his interest in writing.

**Bill Damron**, pastor, Olive Branch Church, Ripley, has been called as pastor, Friendship Church, Paris.

**Scott Hood**, music assistant and worship interim, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, has resigned, effective Aug. 3.

**Pine Grove Church, Duck River**, has called Marvin Suitter as interim pastor.

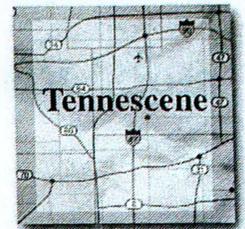
**First Church, Linden**, has called Gary Dozier as pastor, effective July 27. He was a church planter missionary in Rockford, Ill.

**Contemporary Church, Mt. Juliet**, has called Greg Collins of LaVergne, as minister of youth. Collins is an extension student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

**Highland Church, Hohenwald**, has called Sam Livingston as pastor. He was ordained by the church July 13.

**Aaron Llewellyn**, minister of music, Liberty Church, Covington, has resigned.

**Ashport Church, Ripley**, has called Regan Craig as



minister of youth.

**Joe Clark** has been called as youth and education director of First Church, LaVergne.



**Julie Moore** of Chattanooga, was appointed a US-2 missionary to



MOORE

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 24 by the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga. She will serve for two years. Moore is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga.



**Big Hatchie Association** will hold "M" Night Sept. 22 at First Church. Ripley. George Guthrie, professor, Union University, Jackson, will speak.

**Knox County Association's** camping ministry drew 1,102 campers this summer during eight weeks of its program.

The Baptist Center and Food Bank of **Polk County Association** assisted 139 families in July.

## Tennessee samplers

by leaders of churches, associations

### A river's message

By Marcie Kobosky, youth/college assistant  
First Church, Jefferson City

It seemed to echo everywhere! There was no place that I could escape it. Maybe the sky would swallow it into its great vast emptiness. Maybe the rocks would create an endless boundary between us. But slowly I soon realized it was everywhere.

Even before I saw it I heard it. The closer I got to it the more inviting it became to me, for the louder it got. Finally, my eyes framed for the first time what my ears had seen all along — the journey of the Nolichucky River.

The river itself was truly breathtaking, but it was the sound of the river that gave it life. The steady beat of white water crashing onto the steadfast river rocks soon became a symphony of nature that could not be silenced. No tree could hide it, no sky could hold it, no rock could bind it. It was ready to be heard — waiting for just the right moment to proclaim the majesty and wonder of God.

Then a harsh reality came to me, how many times do I try to escape the voice of God, to bind and hide it or

even translate it a little to fit my own journey. Could it be that God is silent or could it be that we are just too busy to listen? Maybe we all can pause for a moment and hear the beautiful symphony that our creator is playing for us. ■

### A good refuge

By Gerald Hodges, pastor  
First Church, Camden

"The Lord is good, a refuge in time of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).

Remember the simple blessing you used to pray as a child? It went something like this: "God is great. God is

good. Let us thank him for our food."

The middle phrase echoes the first line of this verse in Nahum: "God is good." Those three words may be said, as a child would, easily and without thought. But they contain a profound truth. God is good, not evil, not neutral. And his goodness is active. He cares for those who trust him. He is actively looking out for our best interests.

When you feel surrounded by violence and hatred, and the world seems to be falling apart, remember, God is good. When you feel lost, abandoned, and adrift in a sea of anxiety, remember, God is good. When you experience gut-wrenching loss and pain, and the question, "Why," tears at your soul, remember, God is good.

He is your safe refuge! ■

# Pastors' Retreat offers Bible study, fun, fellowship

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Camp Carson, in the mountains of East Tennessee, provided the perfect setting for the annual Pastors' Retreat, sponsored by the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of Tennessee Baptist Executive Board Ministries.

Approximately 147 people attended this year, up from last year's attendance. The theme of the meeting was the "Power of Prayer."

During the retreat, pastors honored Jerry King, former TBC evangelism specialist who was granted medical disability in May. He received several gifts including a plaque/clock combination from the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group. King was responsible for coordinating the Pastors' Retreat for many years.

Speakers included the three officers of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference — Morris Anderson, First Church, Pigeon Forge; John Rushing, Northside Church, Columbia; and Jimmy Terry, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville. Other speakers included Frank Blevins, pastor, First Church, Bluff City; Anthony Jackson, church planter, Memphis; and King.

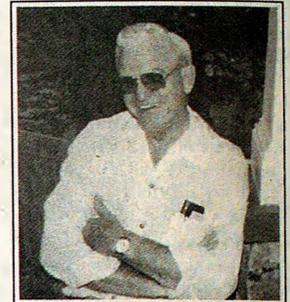
Baptist Sunday School Board retiree Art Burcham led a series of Bible studies focusing on the book of Luke, the 1998 Winter Bible Study topic.

Tracy Wilson, minister of music at First Church, Dandridge, served as camp musician. Special music was presented by 4Glory, a quartet from First Church, Sevierville.

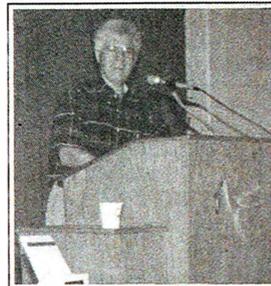
Ministers also enjoyed various forms of recreation, ranging from golf to hiking to ping pong. The recreation program was directed by Archie Fendley of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. ■



**JERRY KING**, second from left, accepts gifts from Larry Kirk, leader of the TBC Executive Board's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, and ministry assistants Polly Lucht, right, and Linda Estey during the Pastors' Retreat. In the foreground is King's father, Mayford King of Jefferson City. — Photos by Bobby Kail, pastor of Crossland Avenue Church, Clarksville.



**BIG EMORY ASSOCIATION** Director of Missions Bill Bargiol enjoys himself at the annual Pastors' Retreat.



**ART BURCHAM** leads Bible study during the retreat.



◀ **ENJOYING A TIME** of fellowship together during the annual Pastors' Retreat at Camp Carson are Jim Millsaps, left, of Oak Ridge, and Guy Farris of Cookeville.

## For Adults and Teens

### The Book of Philipians

Cross out the letters of the false statements. Write the remaining letters on the line below, beginning at the bottom.

- D Paul wrote the book of Philipians.
- H Paul was writing to other prisoners.
- R The saints at Philippi were partners with Paul in the Gospel.
- O We are encouraged to love more and more.
- S Because Paul was beaten and in prison, his ministry was hindered.
- L Christ will be honored either in life or death.
- N Once we believe in Christ, we don't have to suffer.
- E Paul's joys would be complete if everyone would be of the same mind.
- H Paul encouraged us to prefer each other.
- O Paul objected to those who preached Christ from wrong motives.
- T Christ's life is to be our example for living.
- N At Jesus' name, every knee shall bow and tongue confess Jesus is Lord.
- E It is all right to grumble when asked to help in the church.
- L Paul was going to send Timothy and Barnabas to Philippi.
- I Epaphroditus nearly died for the sake of Christ.
- H Paul tired of writing encouragement to the people of Philippi.
- E Whatever gain Paul had in himself, he counted it as loss.
- C Paul continued to press on toward the goal of the upward call of God.
- S Because of Paul's ancestry, he was righteous in God's eyes.
- I Our bodies will be changed to be like Christ's.
- T Everyone at the church was in harmony and agreement.
- O We should not be anxious about anything.
- U There were no Christians in Caesar's household when Paul was in Rome.
- J We should be content in whatever situation we are.
- E Christ will help us in all things.
- C Epaphroditus kept the gift that was sent to Paul.
- R God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:4a

## Fun for the Family

### Answers to the July 16 Fun for the Family Puzzles

**The Book of Ephesians** for adults  
NOW TO HIM WHO BY THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS TO ALL GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN. —Ephesians 3:20-21

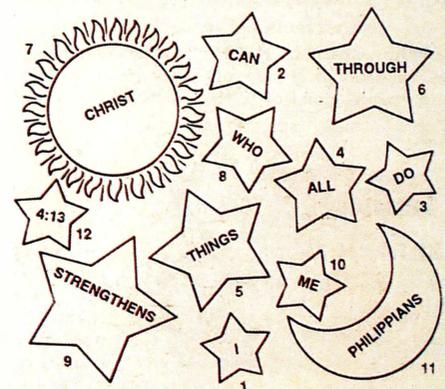
**The Book of Ephesians** for children  
CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT. —Ephesians 6:1

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

## Just for Kids

### The Book of Philipians

Write this verse using the ☉, ☾, and ☆ s.  
Write each word on the line below with the same number.



1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10		
				11	12

## Life and Work Lesson

# Alcohol, drugs

By Aubrey Hay

### Focal Passage — Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-35

Alcohol is a drug as surely as is heroin or any other of the mind altering substances. The text for our lesson today, speaks of the results of "strong drink" and warns of the consequences. Although the Bible does not speak specifically of drug addiction as we know it, what is said about alcohol is applicable to any other addictive, illegal drug.

One need only read the newspaper or watch the evening news to realize the damage done to lives and the cost to society by the use of alcohol and drugs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates the consumption and abuse of alcohol costs our society \$86 billion a year. A great majority of homicides in any major city has direct links to drugs and alcohol. One could wish that our government would approach the problem of drinking alcohol with the same fervor that it has taken in the use of tobacco.

**The deceptive nature of alcohol (ch. 20:1; 23:31-32).** There is a sinister and deceptive nature to alcohol. For many drinking is associated with a "good time." Those that advertise the use of alcohol always cast it in the light of a grand party and what is done when people get together to socialize. One beer commercial used the phrase, "it doesn't get any better than this." What a pity that the use of alcohol is portrayed in such a light. A more accurate picture would be of the drunk tank of any metropolitan jail, or the senseless bravado of someone intoxicated swaggering and reeling to the embarrassment to all those who observe.

The writer of Proverbs said, "whoever is deceived thereby cannot act wisely." The deception is pervasive. One version translates this verse as, "he who is led astray by it is not wise," indicating that alcohol takes charge of the users life and leads him along the wrong path. Alcohol impairs judgment, inhibits restraint, and physically causes one to lose control. It is strange, indeed, why anyone would deliberately do anything to themselves to cause such a reaction.

**The case for total abstinence (vv. 19-20).** With the knowledge of what alcohol does, it seems that the reasonable thing to do is to shun it completely. The writer's word to us is, "Hear and be wise ... guide thine heart ..." The instructions here have to do with being. It is a call to act and chose to be in control of one's action. No one should surrender his or her will to someone or something that will cause them to act in a way that is detrimental to being. The accepted practice in society is "don't drink and drive," or "know when you've had enough." The wisest thing is to let it alone.

**The true picture of alcohol (vv. 33-35).** We need to turn from the glitzy image of the liquor industry to the real picture of alcohol and drug abuse. Among the result of drunkenness is like being bitten by a venomous snake. The drunkard's eye sees "strange things," and the mind "utters perverse things." It is like laying down in the sea and being struck by the mast, but not feeling anything. The hold of this state of intoxication is so great that he says as soon as he awakes, he will seek another drink.

No one can be indifferent to the abuse of alcohol and drugs in our society. Our life should reflect what Scripture teaches about this substance. — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Board.

# Live responsibly

By Connie Davis

### Focal Passage — Hebrews 16:1-16

For several years I taught Sunday School at a juvenile detention center. It was a fulfilling experience.

The young men attended the class despite peer pressure and other options which were available, like sleeping in. Often nearly 10 percent of the residents came. Many knew the Bible and its teachings. We had some lively discussions.

My experience was enjoyable despite the "punishment pall" of such a setting. I found I could relate with these young men. I saw them learn and change as they considered God and his teachings. Many would share personal experiences and needs with me. And I benefited from meeting other volunteers who served at the center.

### Responsible relationships — vv. 1-4

Christians are reminded in this passage of the importance of relationships. Some relationships are fostered in our homes, as we open it to others. It's a serendipitous benefit to be reminded that, among those who are invited into our homes, may be angels.

## Family Bible Lesson

Some relationships are made through ministry, as I mentioned above. Every Christian knows that as we join others in service, we form a bond which is unique. This would be true in any kind of ministry, but service to prisoners is the focus in this passage. It seems to be a reminder that prisoners need contact with Christians.

Our prisons are much better than those in Bible times, but prisoners still need ministry. The need is

greater today in one way because of the burgeoning number of people incarcerated.

Finally, Christians are reminded that a married couple's relationship is special. "Marriage is honorable," we are told, and the bond of marriage should be kept "involute," (*New English Bible*). One of the bonds of marriage, sex, should be protected. Those who practice sex outside of that relationship will be judged, the Scripture says.

### Responsible stewardship — Hebrews vv. 5-6

Of all the populations in the world, residents of the United States need to be warned not to "live for money," (NEB). Despite our wealth and the drive for wealth in our country, Christians can count on God for our material needs. So it's not outlandish to hear the direction to "be content with what you have."

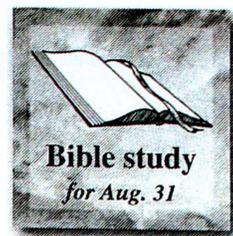
### Responsible leaders — vv. 7-9

So many Christian leaders have led me and formed me. Chalon Meadows, pastor, First Church, El Reno, Okla., and his wife, lead the pack. Bro. Meadows was a humble leader. As I consider his life, as the Scripture directs, I want to follow his example.

Our ultimate leader, though, is God and his son, Jesus. We are reminded that Jesus "is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. So do not be swept off your course by all sorts of outlandish teachings" (NEB). Our knowledge of God isn't the only foundation for our faith, but our souls gain strength from the grace of God.

### Responsible worship and service — vv. 10-16

Christians no longer have to sacrifice gifts to God because Jesus was our sacrifice. We can thank him through worship. Another way we can say thank you, the Scripture says, is "to show kindness and to share what you have with others" (NEB). — Davis is assistant editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.



# Giving ourselves and resources

By Jerry Chapman

### Focal Passage — I Corinthians 15:58-16:9

This is the last lesson in I Corinthians in the unit entitled "Standing Together as God's People." The last two lessons were on Jesus' resurrection and the promise of the believer's resurrection. Until that time arrives Paul indicates that believers should be found faithful and in service to him. The closing message is a blueprint for service.

**Serve by giving ourselves — ch. 15:58.** Resurrection gives motivation for service. Every Christian has victory over sin and death because of Jesus' resurrection. This demands our commitment which leads to "always abounding in the work of the Lord." And believe me it is not easy. Paul used the word "toil" to express physical exhaustion. But it would not be in "vain." Christ has secured us now and will secure us in the end. Giving ourselves is the first step in Christian service.

**Serve by giving our resources — ch. 16:1-4.** When we give ourselves for God's service he turns to

## Explore the Bible Lesson

those areas which are true tests of our faithfulness. We are asked to share our material possessions with others. Paul told the Corinthians that the Jerusalem church needed help and if they helped it would not only show their gratitude to the Jewish believers for sharing the Gospel with them but cement the church's unity. So Paul urged the Corinthians to give of their material possessions systematically and regularly. They should give proportionately and generously. He urged the church to take responsibility for the gifts and handle them with the greatest integrity. This is always necessary. We all have a responsibility to handle our own resources with care and honesty.

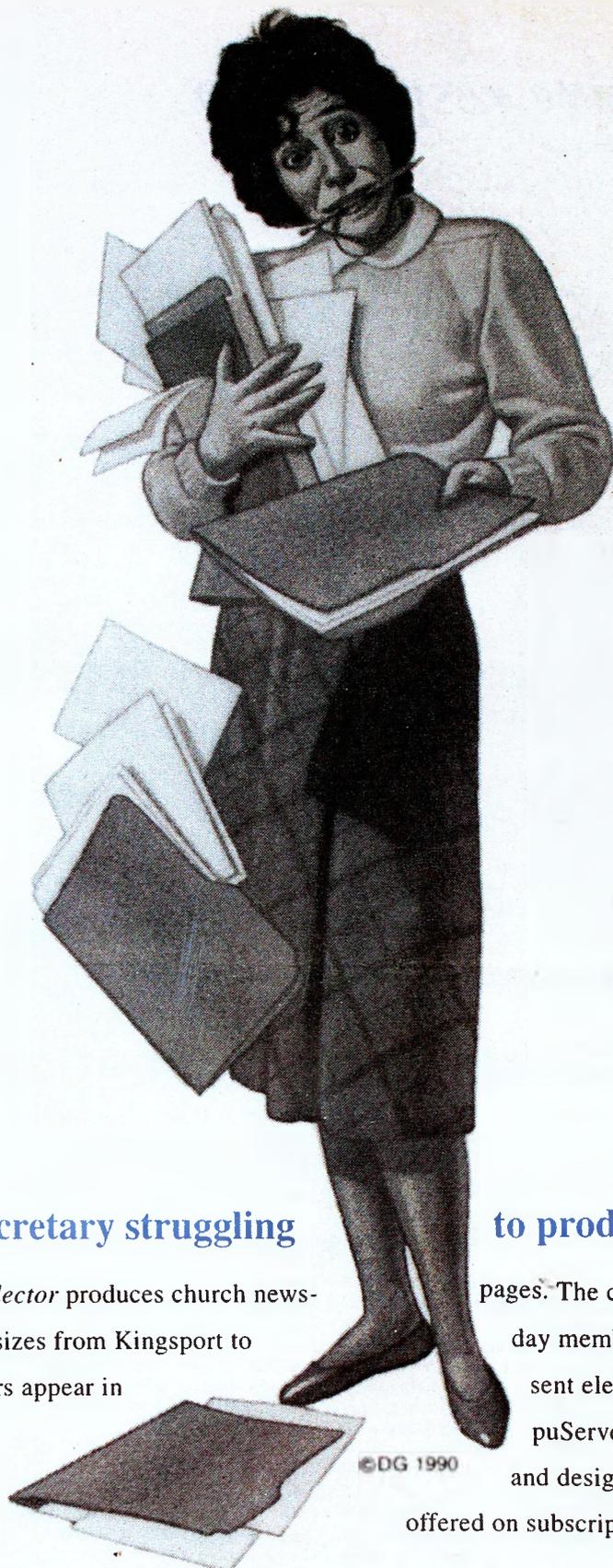
**Serve by helping others serve — vv. 5-18.** Paul planned to visit Corinth. But first he wanted to visit the churches through Macedonia. He wanted to stay a long time with the Corinthians. He wanted to continue on his missionary journeys but didn't know where God would

send him. However he hoped they would provide him the means to continue his journeys. God had opened the door for Paul long ago and he was continuing to open doors for service. Paul wanted to be obedient to God's call.

Whenever you do God's work there will be "many adversaries" to encounter. What do you do in cases of opposition? Give up? Run? Hide? Or be faithful and continue, trusting God for the victory? Opposition was growing for Paul but this was his plan.

**Conclusion — vv. 19-24.** The quality and quantity of our service for Christ depends, on our part, on our love for Christ. Paul was distressed that some did not love Christ. So he asked Jesus to return ... quickly. Even though that didn't happen, he prayed for God's grace and love to be expressed to every believer. Paul realized that our faithfulness and obedience joined with God's grace equaled total success.

As you continue to serve God remember his grace and love and exercise your faithfulness and obedience. True service will be rendered for the kingdom's sake. — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.



**Is your church secretary struggling**

The *Baptist and Reflector* produces church newsletters for churches of all sizes from Kingsport to Millington. The newsletters appear in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Churches use half pages, full pages, and several

**to produce a newsletter?**

pages. The copy is sent about a week prior to the day members receive their issues. Copy can be sent electronically via the internet or CompuServe, or by FAX or other methods. Layout and design services are provided. Discounts are

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