

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

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During week of Oct. 19-25

Higdon issues call to prayer for annual meeting

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Herbert Higdon, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has called for Tennessee Baptists to observe Oct. 19-25 as a week of prayer for the convention and has invited all convention past presidents to join him in prayer to highlight the week.

Higdon, retired director of missions, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations, announced last week in a statement to the *Baptist and Reflector* that he had invited all past presidents to join him in a time of prayer and dialogue Oct. 23 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. He asks pastors and churches to pray for the convention which will be held Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

"I have been seeking God's guidance for our forthcoming convention," Higdon explained. "It is on my heart that we have a



HIGDON

great opportunity to become even more focused on evangelism and missions at the Jackson convention. The evidence of God's blessings upon us is all around us — baptisms are up across the state and the mission giving of our churches has surpassed gifts anticipated for the whole year.

"But as often happens in our churches," Higdon said, "we get sidetracked and diverted from God's main tasks. I believe none of us wants this to happen. I am aware there is much diversity in our state. Our diversity has made us strong and has brought us together — not separated us.

"As Tennessee Baptists we have always found ways to affirm our strengths and diversities because we have been committed to winning people to Christ and sharing the Gospel around the world. I am convinced our Lord wants us, during these days, to affirm each other's strengths. And I believe he will help us to do this.

"I could not think of a more qualified or representative group of Tennessee Baptists," Higdon stressed, "to lead us to prayer to do just that than the past presi-

dents of the convention. Therefore, I have invited all past presidents to join me Oct. 23 in Brentwood for a time of prayer and dialogue for our coming convention in Jackson.

"These men of God are committed to all Tennessee Baptists and together," Higdon continued, "I am confident our Lord God will give us light and direction to find the best way of affirming the strength and diversity of every Tennessee pastor and church and to lead our convention to stay focused on evangelism and missions.

"I believe every past president, who is able, will participate in this time of prayer and dialogue and share their wisdom for the future of our great convention," Higdon said. "As president, I call upon our churches to designate Oct. 19-25 as a week of prayer.

"I urge every pastor to join with the past presidents during this week that we can and will affirm — as never before — the strengths and diversity of every church and experience a convention filled with God's spirit," Higdon concluded. ■

Group holds strategy meeting

Sager to be nominee for TBC presidency

By Wm. Fletcher Allen & Lonnie Wilkey — *Baptist and Reflector*

KNOXVILLE — A conservative group based in East Tennessee will challenge some nominees to Tennessee Baptist boards and committees and has endorsed a Knoxville pastor for Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

About 200 people attended a rally Oct. 6 at First Church, Concord, sponsored by Concerned Tennessee Baptists (CTB), a group unhappy with leadership of the TBC's Executive Board and other areas of ministry.

During the meeting, the latest of several, Doug Sager, host pastor of the rally, accepted the invitation from CTB leaders to be a candidate for the presidency when the convention meets Nov. 11-12 in Jackson.

The meeting was called by Charles Bailey, CTB president, Laurel Bank Church, Friendsville; and Guy Milam, pastor of Springview Church, Maryville.

Bailey said the group's

steering committee met at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, several months ago to consolidate plans to challenge nominees of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards at the annual session.

"Several months ago we began to pray about who to nominate for the presidency," Bailey said. "We asked Dr. Sager to make it a matter of prayer."

Sager said "there are two visions for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. One is that the TBC would remain a strong ally of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Another vision, he continued, "would diminish that relationship to follow the lead of our brothers in Texas who are in the process of setting up their own denominational entity.

"That is not my vision for the Tennessee Baptist Convention," Sager said.

"Some of us need to step forward and not only say what we believe but act out what we believe.

"If this direction is not changed," he continued, "The

TBC as we know it won't exist in five years. I don't want to have to choose between being a Tennessee Baptist and a Southern Baptist. I want it to be one and the same."

The Oct. 6 rally also featured a message by Randy Davis, pastor of First Church, Morristown; and Greater Vision singers.

Bailey encouraged rally participants to register as messengers for the convention, and especially to be there for the election of president on Tuesday afternoon and again the next afternoon in order to challenge nominations from the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees. He said CTB hopes to have 200 messengers each from East and Middle Tennessee and 400 from the West.

"As I look around tonight I believe that we have met our goal," he said.

Bailey said the purpose is to challenge some of the nominees and that, "We hope to send out a list of names of those we plan to offer as substitutes."

— See Doug Sager, page 2

Jackson church hosts convention annual meeting

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists will gather Nov. 11-12 for the convention's 123rd annual session.

Meeting in the new facility of West Jackson Church, the convention session begins on Tuesday morning.

Preceding the annual meeting is the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference on Monday, Nov. 10, also at West Jackson Church.

On the same day, Tennessee's Woman's Missionary Union will host a Missions Extravaganza at First Church, Jackson. Home and foreign missionaries will be present.

Meetings and dinners also are scheduled by other groups prior to the two-day annual session.

Speakers for the TBC meeting include host pastor Jerry Tidwell, TBC president Herbert Higdon, North American Mission Board president Bob Record, and James Porch, TBC Executive Board executive director.

Tidwell says the church welcomes the opportunity to host the messengers. *BR*

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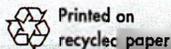
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Degeneres' threat to quit called 'good news' for Disney boycott

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ellen Degeneres is threatening to quit her sitcom "Ellen" because it has been given a "TV-14" rating by ABC-TV, a subsidiary of The Disney Company.

The TV-14 rating means the show "might be inappropriate for children under 14," according to TV industry definitions.

Degeneres' threat is "good news," said Donald Wildmon, founder of the American Family Association, one of the groups at the forefront of a growing boycott of the Disney empire.

Ellen's threat, Wildmon said, actually communicates the good news about the boycott, which gained a new level of momentum this summer when the protest of Disney's moral direction was joined by the Southern Baptist Convention, in a vote by messengers to the SBC annual meeting.

"ABC probably was prompted (to attach the TV-14 rating) because of the economic situation," Wildmon said. "The boycott is having an effect, and this is the reflection of that effect."

Degeneres called the TV-14 rating "blatant discrimination," according to an Oct. 9 *New York Times* news story.

"The only other ABC show that's ever had this label is 'N.Y.P.D. Blue,' and that has nudity and violence," she said.

A corporate spokesperson for ABC, Patricia Matson, explained the rating, *The Times* reported, by saying, "We are ultimately the ones responsible for maintaining the standards for our audience. The promise we have made to our audience is to provide them as much information as possible so they can decide what is appropriate for their children to watch."

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said Degeneres is threatening to quit because "she fervently believes lesbianism is normal, not deviant ... and that her portrayal of a supposedly normal lesbian will help to draw tens of thousands of children into that lifestyle as well."

"That is precisely why tens of millions of Americans are outraged and are boycotting the people responsible for putting this blatantly homosexual propaganda on the air," Land stated. ■

Southern Seminary dismisses longtime reference librarian

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Paul Debusman, a 35-year employee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was fired Sept. 26 apparently because he wrote a personal letter questioning statements made in a chapel address by Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff.

Debusman, a reference librarian, was 10 months from retirement. He was given one month's severance pay and immediately dismissed. As a result of the "involuntary retirement," Debusman, 64, will lose some benefits he otherwise would have received.

Seminary President R. Albert Mohler

did not return a phone call seeking comment on the firing. Seminary spokesman David Porter said Mohler would not comment because of the confidential legal nature of personnel matters.

Debusman said he still has "a lot of positive feelings for the seminary" and that he's "not trying to recruit any people" to his side of the firing dispute.

He said he wrote the letter as an attempt to correct what he perceived as historical inaccuracies in comments Elliff made during a Sept. 16 chapel address.

Debusman said he was trying to be conciliatory. "Although critical, I was intending to be in my little tiny way some kind of conciliatory spirit and expressing the

Bills introduced to protect charitable gifts

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to prevent creditors from being able to seize money given to churches and charities by people who have filed for bankruptcy.

The bills are designed to counter a series of recent rulings ordering churches to surrender tithes contributed by members who later filed for bankruptcy. In September, a Southern Baptist church in Baytown, Texas, suffered such a setback.

The Religious Liberty and Charitable Protection Act would amend federal law to prohibit a federal bankruptcy judge from forcing a church or charity to return past gifts of as much as 15 percent of the bankrupt person's gross income.

The bill also would allow a person who has filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy to include tax-exempt contributions of as much as 15 percent of his gross income in a budget for debt repayment.

It appears the bill has a better chance for quick action in the House. ■

fact that I'm brokenhearted because we can't find bigger objectives and unite even through our differences."

Elliff declined to comment on the firing. "This is, apparently, a matter concerning the personnel policies at Southern Seminary. I have no statement to make," Elliff said in a faxed response to an interview request.

However, Debusman said it was obvious to him Elliff had communicated with the seminary. Debusman did not receive a personal reply from Elliff until the Monday after he was fired.

Debusman said seminary administrators told him his actions had been "harmful" to the seminary. ■

CP coverage used for capital needs

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Seven Southern Baptist Convention entities received nearly \$5 million for capital needs as a result of Cooperative Program gifts exceeding the 1996-97 SBC Program Allocation Budget.

Eleven SBC entities received their pro-rata budget percentages from an additional \$5 million over the regular budget.

The North American Mission Board received the largest amount, \$960,887, in the capital needs distribution.

The SBC fiscal year ended Sept. 30 with a record \$155,005,723 in Cooperative Program gifts. ■

Doug Sager to be nominee for TBC ...

— Continued from page 1

Bailey referred to a recent letter mailed statewide from Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, with information compiled by Roger Oldham, pastor of First Church, Martin. He urged the audience to read the mailing, which contains information of board and committee members of recent years, connected with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, perceived as moderate, and who "need to be replaced."

Concerned Tennessee Baptists believe boards and committees and other entities in the TBC are controlled by people sympathetic with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"We don't need to be branded as troublemakers," Bailey said, "when we are using what the TBC has made available. I will continue to stand up in a

kind spirit."

He said that CBF members "are not our enemies," and said the meeting and actions "are not about a takeover."

Bailey introduced Bill Bargiol, director of missions for Big Emory Association, "who has facts we need to put in a booklet."

Bargiol said, "I am Southern Baptist from beginning to end," and that for many years he had believed and trusted the TBC. "But I no longer believe in those who are in power, particularly in the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Inc."

He added that "it has been a slow and painful process." Bargiol said the Executive Board is completely under the control of those who are members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He said, "We all need

an information sheet to inform our people of the way the TBC operates," and that he has one ready for printing.

Davis spoke of Isaiah's vision and worship experience with God, as depicted in Isaiah 6.

While there is a great emphasis today on worship styles, he said, churches should "put the books aside and place our emphasis on lost people, hurting people — this should be our focus."

Davis said "our pride is killing us; it is the greatest sin anyone can have." He said pride causes every sin, and that "our land needs to be healed, because sin is God's personal enemy."

He prayed for a spirit of brokenness throughout the entire Tennessee Baptist Convention, beginning here tonight. ■

How to change the Ugly American image

Before you run to look at yourself in a mirror, the reference to the Ugly American is not about physical appearance. It's about how we look in our innermost being.

Ugly American is a term made popular beginning in 1958 and years following, when the world was beginning to turn topsy-turvy. Colonialism was on its way out.

A new day was being ushered in by the awakening of nationalism in many areas where colonialism had thrived for many years. Europe was being transformed, struggling to recover after World War II. It was happening in the Far East also.

Americans were swaggering across the world stage, celebrating a new-found importance and strength.

Unfortunately, we did not always handle that notoriety well.

As Americans, many of whom had never traveled across state or county lines except as soldiers or sailors, began to prosper, we also began to travel.

Our new importance on the world stage gave many of us an air of bravado, invincibility. Didn't we save the world from Fascism and the Axis powers? And later, didn't we lead the Free World in rolling back communism?

Didn't we deserve the place of honor? Shouldn't the world adore us?

Well, not really. It is good to be right — right in the fight for freedom and against

evil and destructive powers. It is right to give away millions and millions of dollars to save people from despots around the world. It is right to honor the covenants with nations who are unable to protect themselves.

But these good deeds cannot counteract misbehavior and ignoring the culture of other peoples.

After years of looking at us as the Ugly Americans, some other nations now seem resentful of American prosperity.

There are some things happening which may help change our attitudes. In

It is more than a 'job'; it's always an honor

Permit the editor a personal word to you who read the *Baptist and Reflector*.

A pastor called recently to offer encouragement. Though we are casual friends at best, I could feel the warmth and sincerity of his kind words.

We often neglect to offer that sort of compassion to brothers and sisters in Christ.

In my case, I was humbled — but I also was appreciative. I know he meant it.

Weekly I sign requisitions for checks which pay for printing and mailing the *Baptist and Reflector* to our readers. Usually they amount to about \$16,000. When I perform this ritual, I am cognizant of the many Cooperative Program dollars that assist us in doing our work here for all

Tennessee, our partnerships with other Baptists have helped change attitudes about other people. Seeing the needs of people and being able to do something about them has changed many lives.

Events such as Promise Keepers, particularly the Washington assembly, are helpful in growing Christians.

Tennessee Baptists can reach out to the many cultures that are now a part of our communities — and help change lives.

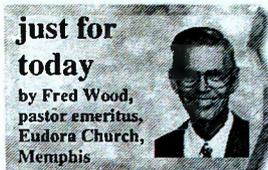
Every courtesy and gesture can help change our relationships to be genuine, warm, wherever God leads us. — *WFA*

Tennessee Baptists.

At the same time, I am aware that we earn a sizable chunk of our upkeep, through subscription costs and advertising. Mostly I think about the people who are faithful and generous — not only to give through their churches, but who are constant friends through the reading of the paper.

They have made a choice, like the pastor who offered encouragement. They have chosen also to be encouragers, not only to the staff of the *Baptist and Reflector*, but to their churches, associations, and to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

How do I know this? It's simple. I know it because of their loyalty to knowledge and cooperation is evident. — *WFA*



Start with a smile

Husband to wife: "Don't tell me I work too hard. I expect to die with my boots on."

Wife to husband: "Do you think that will keep you from stubbing your toes when you kick the bucket?"

Take this truth

How do you expect to die? A famous rebellious non-believer said on his death bed, "About to take a fearful leap into the dark," Dwight L. Moody said, "Earth is receding, heaven is opening, God is calling."

If we commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, we can follow the suggestion of poet William Cullen Bryant, "Approach the grave like one who wraps the draperies of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Memorize this Scripture

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. — Philippians 1:21

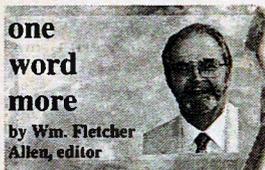
Pray this prayer

Lord, give me the same assurance of those who look upon death as a promotion. ■

Who said that?

Someone once told me that I ask a lot of questions in my sermons. I realize some people don't like questions. They just want answers, put in neat little piles like food in a cafeteria. But as you consider those two houses in the story Jesus told, (Matthew 7) you must realize that questions made the difference. — *Eduard C. Briggs, Will It Matter What I Was? Broadman Press, Nashville, 1978*

Last day in Jerusalem, memories that are lasting



I'd said goodbye to Sofie, my guide, good wishes and much appreciation.

We had tramped around the City of David most of the day — and stepped on ancient ground bedecked with modern pilgrims. We had seen several antiquities not commonly observed by ordinary tour guides and the tourists with quick feet.

She was not tired, this Sofie. Jerusalem was home ground for her and she set her own pace.

I was not a tourist — a pilgrim at best, and after the constant pounding on cobblestones, I certainly did not have quick feet. But now there was a span of time for rest, recuperation, and relaxation — about seven hours to be more exact.

At 1:30 a. m. I would get a wake-up call

from the concierge. I would jump out of bed, prepare for the tea and toast they would bring me. Do a brisk five minutes of exercise and meet the van downstairs for a 45-minute drive to the Tel Aviv airport.

But in between — I had those seven hours. Ten minutes of rest led me to the shower. After that, I finished the major portion of packing two weeks' worth of travel stuff, and hurried down to the beautiful terrace for a light supper.

The breeze spoke to me of those 14 days — where we traveled, people and places etched on my memory. The meal was good, served with grace and care.

Then I left the hotel to meander peacefully around a nearby park, and to enjoy some last minutes of atmosphere.

For about 45 minutes I wandered there, absorbed by the sights and sounds of families with little children who were grasping the last moments of sunlight for togetherness. I was thinking about my own family, and the five journalists I had been travel-

ing with. A young man, whom I'd noticed almost constantly, came to me with a question.

I'm sure he noticed that I was probably a tourist.

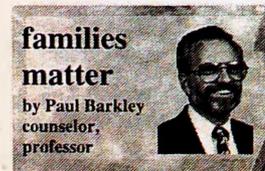
"Are you alone?", he asked. "Are you lonely?" He repeated the question several times, and I thought he was merely "practicing" English with a tourist.

And then he said he could get me a "friend." It could have happened anywhere. I said no thanks.

I thought about that encounter later as I rested and waited for my ride to Tel Aviv. Here I was in what many call the Holy City. I had experienced perhaps one of the best days of my life, soaking up all the feelings of being there — and all the thoughts of Christ walking in those same places. *Those will last forever.*

Ah, yes. Those experiences filled my heart and soul, even to now. Memories can become friends. Memories of that special day lengthened it into forever. ☺☺☺

It may be time for you to sit down and have a talk with yourself



Our family time has suffered recently because I have been unwilling to use a simple little two-letter, one-syllable word — no. I've addressed the attitude of assertiveness recently. Now let's apply some principles of assertiveness to the problem of scheduling and time management in the family.

It is a good idea to follow one's hunches. If your first inclination is to question a plan, the best strategy may be to ask for more time in making the decision. This time should be used in creative self-talk.

It's been reported that Helen Keller felt there are four main things to learn in life: to trust God without hesitation, to behave with the highest motives, to love sincerely, and to think clearly without hurry or confusion. Let's consider the last item.

First, we need to learn to listen to our own bodies. Muscle tension, headaches, gastrointestinal problems, rapid pulse, increased respiration, sweating, blushing, and dryness of mouth are part of God's early warning system for the Christian.

These are ways our body has of giving us messages of warning about activities, behaviors, persons, situations, and events that may not be good for us. You are very wise when you learn to interpret correctly the biofeedback from your own body.

The second part of self-talk is the positive problem

solving that we can do by correcting our stinking thinking. We often give in to the demands and requests of others because we think possibly, "They won't like me," or, "They will think badly of me if I don't do this for them."

We can correct this by reminding ourselves that, "I am valuable as a person because God says so, not because of what others think about me."

I saw a saying the other day that said, "Attitude is life's paint-brush; it colors every situation."

If we will develop the attitude of assertiveness in our estimation of our own value, we will be better able to ward off the unreasonable demands on our time and schedule.

That time should then be appropriately invested in the family that God gave us. ■

Tennessee Baptists trained in disaster relief

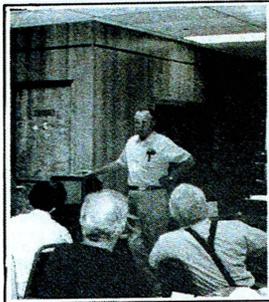
For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — Fifty-three service-minded Tennessee Baptists received training in disaster relief work in a formal setting Sept. 25-27 on the campus of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy here.

Disaster Relief University was organized by Tim Bearden, leader of the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and state Disaster Relief director, to prepare volunteers for emergency service.

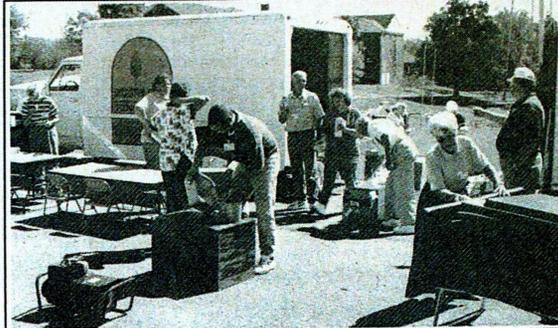
Classes included child care, feeding unit, and cleanup/mud-out. Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and mass care classes also were offered and presented by American Red Cross certified instructors.

"We have never worked harder in our lives and we have never enjoyed it more," said Bill and Joyce Curington of Roseberry Church, Mascot, during a session on first aid.



CURT FOWLER, a member of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville, and a volunteer with Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, leads a training session.

Participants in the feeding and child care components extended training through the annual Knox County Association Missions Fair Sept. 27 at Beaver Dam Church, Knoxville. The feeding unit served meals at the Missions Fair and the child care unit was on display. Disaster Relief radio operators were also in operation



STATE DISASTER RELIEF director Tim Bearden, far right, directs child care volunteers in a mock drill during training on the campus of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

at the event.

Bill Irving, a member of Alice Bell Church, Knoxville, and a trustee of HCBA, was instrumental in arranging for the Disaster Relief University on the Harrison-Chilhowee campus.

Most disaster relief participants stayed in the academy's dormitories and ate meals in

the cafeteria, interacting with the academy's students.

"We were very pleased for our students to see these adults preparing to serve others in need," said President Walter Grubb. "It raised everyone's awareness of our Christian commitment to ministry. We hope to host more events like this in the future." ■



Mt. Zion celebrates 175th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

VONORE — The congregation of Mt. Zion Church here recently celebrated its 175th anniversary.

The church was organized in 1822 and joined Sweetwater Association in 1836.



PASTOR TOMMY SELF stands in front of the sign announcing Mt. Zion Church's 175th anniversary.

The anniversary was celebrated with a morning worship service followed by lunch on the grounds. Seven of the 38 pastors who have served the church are still living and six of those spoke during the morning and afternoon services.

John Wesley Shirk, 94, and Josie Hunt, 91, received plaques as the oldest living male and female members of the church.

A time capsule was filled with written memories, photos, and memorabilia and will be opened on the 200th anniversary in 2022.

The youth of the church released 175 balloons outside after lunch which was preceded by a prayer of dedication given by Pastor Tommy Self. ■

Maddox underscores TBC and church support



For Baptist and Reflector

EDITOR'S NOTE: The accompanying story is the fourth in a series in support of the Tennessee Baptist

Scholarship Endowment Campaign.

JEFFERSON CITY — The beginning of the academic year at Carson-Newman brings good news, according to President Cordell Maddox.

The college set its ninth consecutive semester of record-breaking enrollment, saw the highest scores and biggest jump in ACT scores of entering freshmen, doubled its number of international students, and recorded record highs in gifts and numbers of donors.

Additionally, the college gained national recognition as one of the top 10 liberal arts colleges or universities in the south.

Carson-Newman was recognized by

U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 10 colleges in the region for quality, value, and efficiency for spending wisely to provide an excellent educational experience.

Enrollment for the fall stood at 2,308, compared to 2,265 last year. ACT scores jumped from 22.4 to 23.5.

Carson-Newman registered \$6.3 million in gifts for the 1996-97 fiscal year with 376 new donors to the Scholarship Fund. They gave \$802,000 which goes directly to students through scholarships.

The college's largest support came from the Tennessee Baptist Convention which gave \$2.2 million last year. Tennessee Baptist churches provided funds for 124 student scholarships this fall. To date, 16 leadership churches have signed on to begin or renew endowment pledges which now exceed \$1.7 million.

In his opening remarks to students during his fall address, Maddox noted, "Baptists of Tennessee through the years have shown their faith in Carson-Newman and

this gives me cause for optimism.

"Our Baptist supporters who believe in Christian education are with us in good times and in bad because they know what really matters is the students. ... The churches have come forward to support the young people from their pews," he said.

Nine out of 10 C-N students receive some form of financial aid. Of the total \$14.6 million in aid administered by the college, \$6.3 million comes from the institutional budget.

"I want to remind you that your education is, indeed, a gift," Maddox told students. "There are many people whom you have never met who want you to have the opportunity to study at Carson-Newman. Without their gifts, we would not be here this morning."

For more information about the church scholarship endowment programs, call the church relations office at C-N at (423) 471-3245; Paul Veazy at Union University at (901) 661-5217; or Fred Kendall at Belmont University at (615) 460-6435. ■

Tennessee Baptists discover True Love Waits question in trivia game

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — True Love Waits can now be considered as American as apple pie and baseball. With its induction into the Parker Brothers' Trivial Pursuit Genius III edition, the Sunday School Board-sponsored sexual abstinence campaign has found a place in history.

Literally.

The "History" question, "What did teenagers pledge not to do when they

signed Southern Baptist pledge cards in the 1990s?" was found on a Trivial Pursuit card recently by Sunday School Board employee Kathy Sharp and her daughter, Rebekah. They are members of First Church, Smyrna.

And the answer is: "Have sex before marriage."

"My 18-year-old daughter thought it was 'cool' that True Love Waits made it into Americana," said Sharp, who acknowledged her daughter has taken the True Love Waits pledge not

to have sex before marriage. "She even wears the commitment ring."

Richard Ross, one of the Sunday School Board founders of the sexual abstinence-before-marriage program, reflected, "It is one thing to discuss True Love Waits within the four walls of the church. It is quite another to see it spilling over into mainstream culture.

"When True Love Waits shows up in *Rolling Stone* magazine, on the big screen in 'Escape From L.A.', and even

in *Playboy*, we can be sure the secular world is taking note," Ross said. "The Trivial Pursuit card is just another affirmation that True Love Waits is anything but trivial."

True Love Waits was launched in April 1993, and since, hundreds of thousands of young people have signed a covenant to remain sexually pure until marriage. The campaign continues with an annual Valentine's Day celebration on high school and college campuses across the U.S. ■

At Higher Ground, Two Rivers churches

Lives changed in Halloween-season dramas

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

KINGSFORT — When Melissa Brackett saw "Judgment House" three years ago, her life wasn't falling apart. A straight-A student, she had never gotten involved in drugs or other negative influences.

But through the drama at Higher Ground Church, here, she realized no matter how good she was, without Christ she was headed for hell.

"I was overwhelmed by the people who led me in prayer," said Brackett, a recent high school graduate who works at an office supply store. "They were complete strangers but so loving. They were there specifi-

cally for the purpose of leading people to Christ. Their love and care touched me."

Brackett is one of thousands who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior in recent years at Halloween alternative productions known by such names as "Judgment House," "Hell House," "The Verdict," and "Party Time Weekend."

Whatever the title, pastors say God uses these productions to capitalize on the interest generated by celebrations of a very worldly holiday.

"It's the greatest evangelistic tool I've ever seen," said Ted Wilson, youth pastor at Higher Ground, now in its fifth year of presenting Judgment House. "It's one of the highlights of my life in church

work."

"Judgment House has had an incredible impact on our church," said Phil Wilson, youth pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville. "We've never baptized a lot of people from it but we're building the kingdom. When you hear stories about what God has done, you say, 'Wow, I get to be a part of that.'"

Those who have been saved during the Halloween season say their lives will never be the same.

Melissa Parker of Nashville accepted Jesus last year at Two Rivers' production. Although she had joined a church at 13, she felt confused about her spiritual condition and relationship with the Lord.

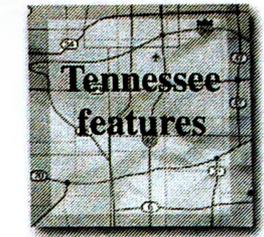
"The whole experience motivated me," said Parker, who was baptized at Two Rivers

and credits pastor Jerry Sutton with providing members an in-depth understanding of the Bible. "I always knew Christ was there but I didn't know the extent of what he went through for me."

The last scene of Judgment House portraying Christ's crucifixion touched Stacey Spain of Nashville two years ago, awakening her to the blood Jesus shed on behalf of everyone. It also made her start thinking of how Christ lived and the ways he could change her own life, she said.

She quit visiting nightclubs with friends and moved to a different part of the city. For several months she had prayed God would bring her the man he wanted her to be with; right after moving she met the man who is now her fiance.

Registered nurse Pam Beverly was moved to tears when she went through Higher Ground's Judgment House in 1994. She was so upset she walked out of the church. A deacon followed and convinced her to come back inside.



"I felt the Lord was speaking to me while I was (watching)," said the Kingsport resident, then in nursing school after a mid-life career change. "When I got saved, a burden had been lifted from me."

Not only did she sleep better, Beverly said she felt tremendous peace because she wasn't "going in circles" any longer. God also opened the doors for her to get a position at a hospital last year, she said.

"In the past six months (the Lord has) taken a lot off me and allowed me to grow and have a personal relationship with him," she said. "He gives me the strength and helps me make it through the day."

Brackett, who plays a lead role in Higher Ground's 1997 drama, finds similar benefits as she considers her future.

"God showed me if I read his Word and be patient, he'll lead me. I used to struggle, never knowing which direction to go. He's shown me how to follow him in faith." ■

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Full-time Youth & Children's Minister Needed. Resumes to: Dr. Kermit Soileau, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 643, Chipley, FL 32428.

South Harriman to offer drama

For Baptist and Reflector

HARRIMAN — For the past three years South Harriman Church here has presented the walk through drama "Judgment House."

Last year more than 1,200 people witnessed the Gospel being shared in this unique way, according to Mark Umbehagen, minister of youth and education at South Harriman.

"God touched and changed the lives of people. More than ever we realize that this ministry is bigger than any of us."

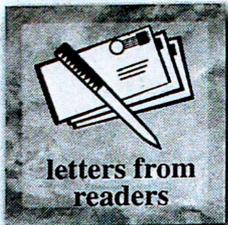
"It is God at work speaking to individuals concerning their relationship with him," Umbehagen said.

He noted that because of the way God used that drama to touch lives and change hearts, a new drama, "Judgment House: A Second Chance," will be presented Oct. 25, 26, 31, and Nov. 1-2 in the Family Life Center at South Harriman.

The script is new and was written by several of the church's youth workers, according to Umbehagen.

The drama is for both adults and youth, he added.

For more information or to make reservations, call the church at (423) 882-1816. ■



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.

Why change?

The decision of the trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to change the Sunday School Board's name is very disturbing to me. Why change the name? Are there good reasons? I am not sure what President (James) Draper meant when he said, "this is not a trendy name" and to be sure, the present name certainly represents quality in the view of many church members.

The name Baptist Sunday School Board of the SBC is recognized all over the world. The Scripture verse John 14:6 is rich and wonderful and we believe it. When I first looked at the proposed new name and logo, I immediately thought of some other denomination.

This change could very well have the ardent support of many of the convention leaders, but what about the members of local churches?

Let us not weaken the greatest denomination in all the world by making changes for the sake of change.

Beulah Barry
Kingsport 37664

involved with CBF. This reflects a carefully controlled process in selection of Executive Board members.

Those in control make certain "conservative" individuals are on the board, but always in a definite minority. In positions of power, such as president of the Executive Board, CBF people have everything under control.

Now every Cooperative Program dollar sent from faithful, cooperative, evangelistic, Southern Baptist congregations in Tennessee goes into the hands of a board which is dominated by persons loyal to, or sympathetic with, the CBF. I don't believe Tennessee Baptists want this kind of deception to continue.

Convention structures have been captured through a process of deception. It is past time for a change — Nov. 11-12 can be the date. Tennessee Southern Baptists must send 1,000 messengers committed to change to Jackson on Nov. 11-12.

J. William Bargioli
director of missions
Big Emory Association
Harriman 37748

death he was there at the hospital and then at the rehab center when I regained my strength.

We will miss his down-to-earth approach, his sort of earthiness tempered with loving grace. One day we'll have a reunion in heaven. No doubt hundreds of folks you led to Jesus already have greeted you there and thanked you with, "Bro. Jim, if it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here." Thank you, my dear brother, for being our friend and confidant. I pray to the dear Lord that your caring concern will rub off on us.

Joseph S. Johnson Jr.
Antioch 37013

please contact SBHS at 1 (800) 966-BAPT (2278). The address of SBHC, now on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University, is OBU, Box 61838, 500 W. University, Shawnee, Okla., 74801-2590.

Slayden Yarbrough
Executive Director, SBHS
Shawnee, Okla 74801

Different figures

Last week I read a letter from pastor Jerry Sutton addressed to "Tennessee State Pastors" concerning the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He enclosed a paper prepared by his friend, Roger Oldham.

Mr. Oldham lists individuals and churches who both give to the CBF and also provide leadership within the TBC. He calls into question their ability to serve when he writes, these "leaders give little to our cooperative efforts as Tennessee and Southern Baptists."

It has always been my understanding that participation in the TBC is based solely on financial contributions to the TBC and support of TBC principles, programs, and policies. At least that is what our convention constitution states.

Like many churches in Tennessee, we support a variety of ministries, not all of which are affiliated with the SBC. Should this restrict our participation in the state convention?

The records in Brentwood indicate that our church gave over \$51,000 to the TBC and its ministries last year, a far cry from the \$3,000 Mr. Oldham would have his readers to believe we gave.

I do not know how many pastors received this letter, but I am concerned that the false information it contains plants a seed of doubt concerning the loyalty and support churches like Monte Vista give to our state convention. It is hard for me to understand how spreading false information about sister churches can be edifying to the Kingdom of God.

Jerry H. Mantooth, pastor
Monte Vista Church
Maryville 37803

History's great

With the dissolution of the SBC Historical Commission on June 19, the Southern Baptist Historical Society assumed full responsibility for meeting the historical needs of churches, associations, and state conventions. Many of us continue to believe strongly that our history is important.

The SBHS voluntarily began serving Southern Baptists in 1938 and is committed to providing the products, services, and assistance to enable Baptist people and organizations to know our rich heritage. Among its services and products, the Society has available numerous pamphlets and videos on Baptist history, theology, and practice.

The Church History Resource Kit is an invaluable collection of materials for churches interested in preserving, recording, researching, promoting, and publishing their respective histories. Churches celebrating significant anniversaries can receive an attractive anniversary certificate suitable for framing from the SBHS.

Southern Baptists need SBHS. The SBHS needs the support of Southern Baptists. Who do we seek to serve? Only those churches and organizations who have a history! If you need information about our products, want to order our products, or would like to become a member of the Society,

Makes assertions

Election of officers for the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Inc., as reported in the Sept. 10 issue, is a revelation. Now serving on the TBC Executive Board is a paid employee of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, plus a CBF board member serving as president. Only 60-plus churches, out of a total of 3,000 in Tennessee, support in some way the CBF. Yet, the CBF controls the Executive Board. That is astounding.

Control of the Executive Board is demonstrated when Ken Hubbard, a faithful, committed, conservative, Southern Baptist, Tennessee pastor is bypassed for one who serves on the board of CBF.

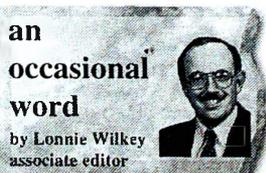
Most Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are also Southern Baptist churches. However, the Executive Board is controlled by those who are supportive of, employees of, or

Tribute to Keith

Brother James (Jim) Keith is now in even closer fellowship with the Lord he unselfishly served. The Resurrection and the Life called him to his eternal home, heaven. Amid hoopla about big-name preachers and evangelists, megachurches, and adverse publicity about money-hungry men "of the cloth," Bro. Jim came close to God's ideal for a minister of the Gospel. He never was pastor of a large church, never had his name in banner headlines, and frankly did not care for fame and acclaim.

Wherever there was a need he was there — whether in Haywood Hills Church where he was a deacon, or in a struggling mission, on the streets, or ministering at the woman's prison. If ever there was a man who modeled his Lord and Savior, it was Jim Keith. When I was on the verge of

God normally sends a blessing when it is least expected



with a group from my church to the Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" rally in Washington, D.C.

We traveled by vans to Virginia on Friday and spent the night about 100 miles from

Washington. We had to get up early on Saturday and travel into our nation's capital where we were to board the subway and go to the National Mall where the activities were taking place.

Believe it or not, thousands and thousands of people had the same idea at about the same time.

As we were standing there trying to crowd on the trains and not get separated from each other, we boarded one subway, but the door refused to close and everyone had to get off. As we contemplated our next course of action, we decided to "beat the sys-

tem" and catch a subway going in the opposite direction, then ride it back.

We did just that and when we got to the end of the line, doors opened and 50 or more African American women boarded our train. Having read about women who planned to protest our meeting, we were a little nervous. Instead of being protesters they were volunteers traveling to the site. All along the way they sang choruses of praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. Talk about a wonderful surprise. What had started out as a dubious beginning was instead a great prelude to a wonderful day and weekend. ■



Partnership Prayer Requests

October

- 15 — Pray for Sylvia McArthur of Riverview Church in Prescott, Ontario, Canada, who has severe head pains and blurred vision.
- 16 — Pray for these Baptist works in the South Zone of Costa Rica: San Ramon de Rio Claro, La Fortuna, and Carmen de Abrojo.
- 17 — Pray for the five families of First Church, Wroclaw, who had to be relocated due to the recent flooding in Poland.
- 18 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's executive board meeting to be held Oct. 25 in Southfield.
- 19 — Praise God for Dayspring '98, a church women's conference held in September in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and for the lives that were changed.
- 20 — Pray for Clay Buttemere and Rebekah Lay, children of the SBC missionaries in Costa Rica, who are attending college.
- 21 — Pray for the SBC missionaries to Brazil, Benny and Ann Sprouse, who are on medical furlough in the U.S. She is recuperating from malignancy surgery.

Be reconcilers

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — II Corinthians 5:11-6:2

How is a believer to live his/her life? We are to "Be Encouragers," "Be Overcomers," "Be Reconcilers." There is no more beautiful word than the word reconciliation. It means the coming to agreement of two or more persons after misunderstanding or estrangement. The Bible gives examples of the reconciliation between human beings. However, the dominant theme of the Bible is the reconciliation of men to God. It means the restoration of harmony between man and God. It is not God who is reconciled. It is man who needs to be reconciled. God took the steps to overcome mankind's alienation, and in Christ God provided the means of reconciliation.

Paul responds to criticism. In these verses Paul expresses a double-edge motive. First, the apostle believed that his life and ministry was under the scrutiny of God. This created for Paul a healthy fear. The Bible says "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Jesus said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Paul was aware of the absolute holiness and the awesome power of God. Second, Paul was motivated by the love of Christ. It was this love that saved him and kept him going. These motives of fear and love caused Paul to persuade men.

Be ye reconciled. Understanding what God has done for sinful humanity requires the use of several great words. There is justification where a guilty person is set free, redemption where a price is paid to purchase something back that has been lost, and reconciliation where a broken relationship is restored. Each word (and there are others) gives a different slant — a different view of the same event.

There is the ministry of reconciliation. Paul begins by saying that when you are reconciled there is a change in outlook. After Paul met the Lord on the Damascus Road, his view of Christ was forever changed. Paul expresses this change in the words "new creation, the old is gone, the new has come."

That is exactly what happened in Paul's life. Saul the enemy of Christ and the church became Paul who loved Christ and served the church. The relationship between Paul and God was restored. The subject of reconciliation is God. The object of reconciliation is mankind. God has done everything necessary to enable sinful humanity to be reconciled.

There is the message of reconciliation. When you are reconciled to God, you are given the marvelous privilege of being an ambassador for Christ. As a believer in Christ, we are to represent our Lord to a lost and dying world.

Be a reconciler. The issue is "What will you do to bring about reconciliation?" Maybe you need to approach a person with whom you feel alienated or maybe are alienated. Humanly speaking reconciliation will occur only when attitudes and actions are changed on both sides. But if you take the initiative reconciliation may occur. As an ambassador for Christ, you are expected — even commanded — to take the step or steps where you live and work and play to represent the Lord Jesus. In all of our actions and attitudes remember Who you represent. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

Found wanting

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Daniel 5:1-7, 25-28

Have you ever heard someone say, "He saw the handwriting on the wall?" Many may understand the meaning of that expression, but not everyone realizes from where it came and the fact that it came under the circumstances of judgment from the Lord.

Belshazzar's confidence (vv. 1-4)

Belshazzar's confidence translated into pride and arrogance. It is expressed in these verses at least three ways. First, he hosted a banquet or feast for a thousand of his nobles. Belshazzar's arrogance is seen in the fact that while he threw a party the enemy was encamped around the city. In fact, it was on this night that Babylon fell.

Second, Belshazzar sat in such a position that all the guests could see him. Some say that he sat on a raised platform. He took the lead in drinking the wine and led

Family Bible Lesson

his guests into a drunken stupor. Third, the phrase in verse 2, "tasted the wine," meant that he not only tasted the wine, but he was under its influence. In pride and arrogance, Belshazzar issued an order to bring out the gold and silver vessels that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem. He and his guests began to drink wine from these vessels and pay homage to false gods.

God's condemnation (vv. 5-7)

Someone has said, "The devil helps the thief every day, but one day God helps the policeman." The Bible reminds us, "Be sure your sin will find you out," (Num-

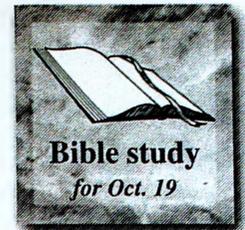
bers 32:23). At the height of Belshazzar's drunkenness and blasphemy, suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared. At that moment, quietness replaced revelry and sobriety replaced drunkenness. God's condemnation of Belshazzar's actions was clearly displayed on a white plastered wall. When Belshazzar saw this miracle his face grew pale, frightful thoughts entered his mind, his knees began knocking from fear, and his legs gave way.

Daniel was summoned by the king and he was promised that he would become third in line to the kingdom if he could interpret the writing. Daniel did not want any of what the king offered, but he did want the king to know that he had sinned against the Lord God.

Sin's consequences (vv. 25-28)

"Mene" meant "numbered," "tekell" meant "weighed," and "upharisin" meant "divided." "Mene" was written twice to stress the divine decision to bring judgment. God placed his moral laws on one side of the scales of righteousness and placed Belshazzar's life on the other side. Belshazzar came up lacking. The pride and arrogance of Belshazzar had caused him to sin against the Lord. He would now suffer the consequences which meant death.

There are several applications for us from this story. First, we are to walk before the Lord in humility. Second, as a born-again believer, be grateful that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Does that mean we will not suffer any consequences for our sins? That brings us to the third application. When we sin against the Lord we may experience his gracious forgiveness, but also we may have to live with difficult consequences. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



Obeying God's call

By Michael Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 12:1-9

My late father was a Baptist deacon and Sunday School teacher at my home church, Midway Baptist Church in Lamar County, Georgia. Once we were talking about the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (KJV).

Daddy had grown up as one of 10 children. He said that when the extended family gathered for Sunday dinner, the children would eat last. Often only biscuits and gravy remained. He said, "I knew that earlier there had been fried chicken, butterbeans, corn, and sliced tomatoes. For me, though, the biscuits were the substance of things hoped for, and the gravy the evidence of things not seen."

It is no wonder that in the great "faith chapter" of Hebrews 11 more space is given to Abraham than any other Old Testament figure. The "things hoped for" and "not seen" did not lie in a past that could not be regained, but rather in a future to be moved toward and ultimately attained. We learn much about faith from the way in which Abraham responded to God's call.

Faith involves playing a part in God's purpose of reconciliation. The account of Abraham's call follows the account of humanity's continuing sin

Explore the Bible Lesson

in Genesis 1-11. The Tower of Babel narrative told us of the worsening alienation of humanity from God and from each other. The figure of Abraham emerges from the picture of "scattering" in that narrative. He and his family are to be the agents of God's reconciling grace. Similarly, our faithful response to God's call places us in a position to serve God in the work of reconciliation.

Faith involves moving beyond the actions of our ancestors. Abraham's father Terah had moved from Ur in southern Mesopotamia to Haran, which was northeast of Canaan. Terah settled in Haran even though he had set out to enter Canaan.

The impression is given that Terah has left something undone. It is left to Abraham to hear God's call and to move into the "promised land." Our faith must also move beyond that of our ancestors in the faith. Building on what they have done, we should listen ourselves for the call of God and move forward in our response.

Faith involves believing the promises of God. When God told Abraham to go "to the land that I will show you," he also told him what he would do for him. God promised Abraham a great nation and that Abraham would

be a blessing. The implicit promise of a land is made explicit later. Declining to take risks is comfortable, but it is not faith. Moreover, believing the promises of God involves more than saying "I believe."

True belief is revealed in action. One of the most significant phrases in this narrative is the seemingly simple "So Abraham went, as the Lord had told him." Such going is not simple, however; such going is faith.

Faith involves worshiping God. Where Abraham stopped, he built an altar and worshiped. Worship involves praising God for his mighty acts as well as acknowledging our dependence on him for our well-being as we attempt to do his will. We should not get so busy trying to do the things that we believe God wants us to do that we fail to stop and acknowledge his presence in our lives and our dependence on him.

Faith involves acknowledging God's grace and moving beyond our failure. Abraham was a human being just like you and me. He put his wife Sarah and thus the promise at great risk, and we should attribute this action to a lack of faith even in the midst of his great faith. Still, God protected Sarah and thus she and Abraham were able to continue in their quest to follow God. We should be reminded of our need to experience the grace of God in the same way. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.

leaders

■ Sullivan Association recently honored **Rosalynn Gray**, who recently completed 20 years of service as an employee of the association.

■ **Tony Kent** recently began serving as music director at Doe River Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Jim Lindsay** began serving Oct. 1 as interim pastor of First Church, Newport.

■ Magna View Church, Talbott, has called **Kevin Polk** as youth director. The church also has called **William Palmer** as interim pastor, effective Oct. 5.

■ **Bill Jenkins** has accepted a call from Alta Loma Church, Madison, to become associate to Pastor David Thompson. Jenkins will develop and encourage the church in evangelism outreach and church growth strategies. He served with the SBC Home Mission Board for 12 years as a national church growth consultant.

■ First Church, Decatur, recently honored **Jerry Plaster** for 10 years of ministry as pastor. They gave Plaster and his wife, Brenda, a surprise

meal, showered them with gifts and cards, and held a special worship service in their honor.

churches

■ **Eastside Church, McMinnville**, will hold revival services Oct. 26-29 with guest evangelist Jack Goodwin, pastor of Indian Hills Church, Gallatin.

■ **First Church, Rogersville**, will hold revival Oct. 19-22 with guest evangelist Gerald Stow, president of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

■ During the month of October **Henards Chapel Church, Rogersville**, is sponsoring a children's clothing and shoes drive for the Montgomery Village Center in Knoxville.

■ **Persia Church, Rogersville**, is sponsoring a Ladies Conference Oct. 24-25 with Teresa Brown of Charlotte, N.C. For more information, call (423) 272-2012.

■ **Lakeview Church, Harriman**, will hold revival Oct. 19-22 with guest evangelist John Burris of Chillicothe,



Ohio. For more information, call Pastor Greg Kelly at (423) 882-7648.

■ **Second Church, Memphis**, has begun a \$1.7 million construction project which includes complete sanctuary and office renovation, a new vestibule, additional parking, and expansion of outdoor recreational facilities.

■ **Fairview Church, Watauga**, will hold revival Oct. 26-29 with William Horner of Bristol as guest evangelist.

■ **Springdale Church, Kingsport**, celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 12.

■ **Red River Church,**

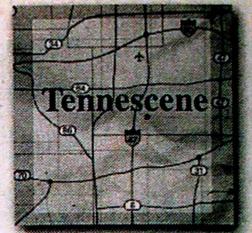
MAURY ASSOCIATION broke ground Sept. 28 for a Habitat for Humanity House in Columbia. West End Church, Columbia is spearheading the project, which is the first Habitat home for the association. Pastor W.D. Thomason of West End Church holds the shovel as he visits with Debra Kay McNabb, far left, and her two children, Elissa and Christopher, who will be recipients of the home.

Adams, will hold revival Oct. 26-31 at 7 p.m. each evening. Guest evangelist will be Jeff LaBorg, pastor of Sharon Church, Savannah.

■ **Auburn Church, Auburntown**, will celebrate its 175th anniversary Oct. 19. Cannie Leonard will bring the message during the 10:30 a.m. service. A covered dish dinner will begin at noon, followed by special ceremonies and Gospel singing.

associations

■ **Beulah Association** will host a Fall Preaching Con-



ference, Oct. 18 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Antioch Church, Hornbeak. Special guest speaker will be Terry Griffin.

■ **ALPHA Association** will sponsor an associational-wide prayer meeting for revival and spiritual renewal Nov. 3 at First Church, Centerville.

schools

■ **Belmont University's** Little Theatre will present "Holy Days," a drama by Sally Nemeth Oct. 16-19. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for students and senior adults. The drama depicts the life of Americans who stayed put during the Dust Bowl era. Call (615) 460-6199 for reservations. Belmont also was recognized recently by *U.S. News & World Report* as being in the top tier of southern universities with a student/faculty ratio of 9/1.

For Adults and Teens The Book of Titus

Fill in the qualities of God's people as described by Titus.

E L D E R	B I S H O P
O L D W O M E N	O L D M E N
Y O U N G W O M E N	Y O U N G M E N
B E L I E V E R	

BLAMELESS	LOVE HUSBAND
BLAMELESS	MODEL
CHASTE	OBEDIENT
COURTEOUS	ONE WIFE
DOMESTIC	REVERENT
GENTLE	SELF CONTROL
GODLY	SENSIBLE
GOD'S STEWARD	SERIOUS
GRAVITY	SOBER
HOLY	SOUND FAITH
HONEST	SOUND SPEECH
HOSPITABLE	TEACH
INSTRUCTOR	TEMPERATE
INTEGRITY	TRAIN YOUNGER
KIND	UPRIGHT
	UPRIGHT

Fun for the Family

Answers to the Oct. 8

Fun for the Family Puzzles

The Book of 2 Timothy for adults
DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE APPROVED BY HIM, A WORKER WHO HAS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY EXPLAINING THE WORD OF TRUTH.
- 2 Timothy 2:15

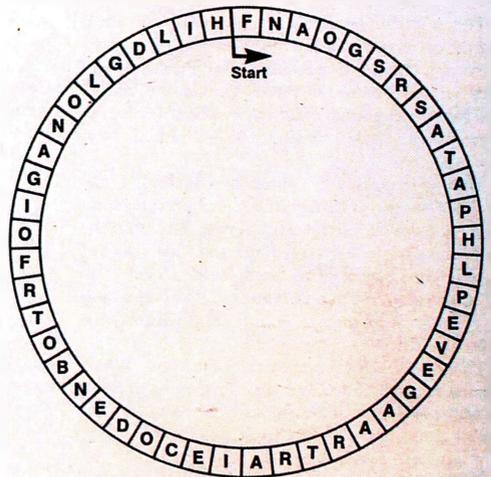
The Book of 2 Timothy



Just for Kids

The Book of Titus

Begin at the arrow and write down every third letter. Go around the circle 3 times.



-Titus 2:11

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