

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 42

Statewide Edition

October 22, 1997

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Mississippi Baptists reflect on fifth anniversary of legalized gambling



Baptist Press

GULFPORT, Miss. — At the fifth anniversary of legalized gambling in Mississippi, gamblers continue to flock the Mississippi Gulf

Coast, bringing their problems with them. When they've hit rock bottom during those years, a helping hand has been available.

"We're staying busy," said John Landrum, a Gulf Coast pastor who resigned his church shortly after the first casino opened to begin a full-time ministry, Chaplain to the Mississippi Beach, with his wife, Linda.

"The (local) economy is booming. You can't get around that," Landrum said, "but the human needs that go along with legalized gambling are also rising.

"There are a lot of marital problems, among both casino patrons and casino employees. We know the stress that gambling can place on a patron's marriage, but we don't often consider the stress on a casino employee's marriage.

"Their personal problems are heightened because of the pressure under which they work," Landrum recounted. "You wouldn't believe all the government and

casino regulations they must follow to the letter, and every move they make is videotaped by the casino security system."

Landrum noted many area churches have felt the direct, personal impact of gambling.

His advice to communities considering legalized gambling is simple: "Do everything you can to keep it out. If it's there, do everything you can to minister to people affected by it."

Keith Fulton is a pastor just across the line in Neshoba County, home of the Choctaw Indian reservation and Silver Star Casino. He observed Christians are divided as to how to face the casino.

"There are those who see it (the casino) as absolutely wrong and want to punish the employee or anyone who goes out there," he said.

Others see it as just harmless entertainment, he said, adding that there are many others who can't decide if it is a moral issue or an entertainment issue.

He said he could cite story after story of people who've lost everything to gambling. "All you ever hear about are the winners. Nobody ever hears about the heartbreak.

"This is a moral issue, not an economic or entertainment issue. While we want to confront the sin, we need to act redemptively toward the sinner," Fulton added. ■

Lottery battle likely, according to Bates

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Look for Tennessee legislators to deal with the issue of a state lottery once again when they begin meeting in mid-January, predicts Bill Bates, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Now is the time to act, stressed Bates, retired Union University administrator and former Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

He urged Tennessee Baptists to contact their state senators and legislators now to let them know their feelings regarding gambling, and particularly, the lottery.



BATES

The lottery issue in the past has been kept alive by Sen. Steve Cohen of Memphis and it is likely that he will make another attempt to change the state constitution to remove the word "lottery" from it, Bates observed.

"I would like to urge everybody to make this a matter of prayer for now until the legislators act that our senators and representatives will do the right thing," Bates concluded. ■

Earl Wilson will be nominated for TBC presidency

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A pre-convention story in the Oct. 8 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, noted that names of Earl Wilson and Doug Sager, both of Knoxville, have surfaced as possible candidates for the presidency of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Messengers to the annual session in Jackson Nov. 11-12 will elect a president for the 1997-98 convention year.

Sager was announced Oct. 6 in a Knoxville meeting as the candidate for a group called Concerned Tennessee Baptists.

When contacted by the *Baptist and Reflector*, Wilson, retired president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, former pastor in the state, and now is interim pastor at First Church, White Pine, confirmed he was a candidate and released the following statement:

"Some months ago when I

agreed to have my name placed before the messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for president, I gave two conditions: One that I would not 'campaign' for the office. I see the office of president as an 'honorary one,' conferred, after prayer, by convention messengers. It is not a 'political prize' to be won by who has the best campaign and gets out the most votes. Nothing would be more divisive and damaging to our convention's work than for each group to promote its own candidate for president. Therefore, I have made no phone calls nor have I written any letters asking for votes or support.

"The second condition is that if I should be so honored by the messengers, I would, in love and fairness, be president of all Tennessee Baptists. I have no desire to be the president of a 'group' regardless of how small or large. I see the office of president as a helper,

healer, and encourager doing what he can to promote harmony and unity. He must also assist the convention leaders in keeping our convention 'tied' to its biblical roots and to strengthening its commitment to missions and evangelism.

"It is no secret that I love the Tennessee Baptist Convention. And I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I have had to serve our Lord through its ministries.

"At this moment, our convention is involved in more mission projects than ever before. And it is enjoying its best financial condition in years. These achievements could not have been possible without good leadership, and more importantly, the prayerful support of our pastors and churches. We must not permit anything to divide or distract us or to weaken our strong commitment to missions and evangelism.

"It has been my joy and

privilege to attend the convention for more than 45 years, including 33 as a pastor, from grassroots churches, and 12 as president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

"During those 12 years I traveled the state speaking in small churches, large churches, associational meetings, senior adult conferences, etc. Because of these experiences I got to know and feel the 'heartbeat' of Tennessee Baptists. I know them to be people of the Book and committed to winning the world to Christ. To this end they give themselves and their resources.

"I also discovered something 'special' about Tennessee Baptists. They 'think' for themselves. They resent being told what to do, how to think, and how to 'vote.'

"This special characteristic will keep our convention on course and working together to win our communities and world to Christ. ■

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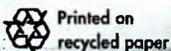
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► **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association

► **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

► **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

BSSB mails Mormon video to SBC churches

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Sunday School Board began mailing Oct. 14 free copies of a 17-minute video, "The Mormon Puzzle," to more than 38,000 Southern Baptist churches.

The video, produced by the North American Mission Board, was introduced at the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas and is designed as a resource for SBC messengers who will attend the 1998 convention meeting in Salt Lake City.

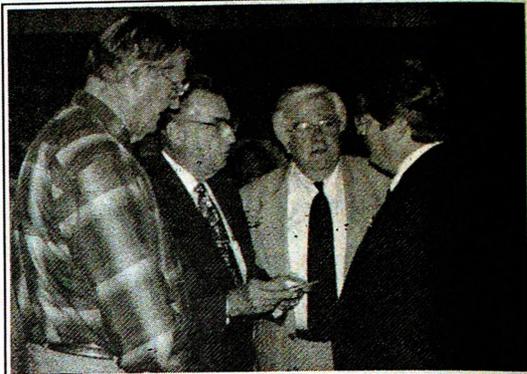
"This gracious gift by Dr. (James T.) Draper (Jr.) and the Sunday School Board evidences once again the new day of cooperative partnership among our Southern Baptist

agencies," said Bob Reccord, NAMB president.

Draper, in an accompanying letter, said he hopes pastors "will preview this video and identify ways you can use it in your church. If you will be sending messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, plan training sessions next spring that include a showing of the video. Show it to the deacons, other leaders in your church, and finally to your entire church family."

The video will give messengers attending the convention next year an "understanding of Mormon beliefs," the BSSB president said.

"We want to represent our Savior in a spirit of love," he added. ■



New church staff visit Baptist Center

Pastors Patrick Henry, left, Smyrna Church, Humboldt, and Mike Hammonds, right, Hickory Grove Church, Trenton, visit with James Porch, right center, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Gerald Stow, president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The two pastors were among 48 new church staff members from across the state who recently attended an orientation session at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Union conference explores future of Christian higher education

Baptist Press

JACKSON — Christian colleges and universities should seek faculty who exhibit high standards of scholarship and spirituality, said speakers during a conference at Union University, Oct. 10-11.

"The fundamental task of the Christian professor is nothing other than to incarnate an authentically Christian way of life," said David P. Gushee, associate professor of Christian studies at Union. "We teach with our lives as well as our lectures and can reasonably be expected to do so."

While some secular universities may judge faculty mainly for academic performance, Christian institutions should consider also the personal dimensions of life, said Gushee, who spoke during a conference on "The Future of Christian Higher Education."

Co-sponsored by the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities, the conference was hosted in cooperation with

Union's Center for Christian Leadership, of which Gushee is director.

"The 21st-century student may well come from a home in which Christian faith is altogether absent," Gushee declared. "Many of my students do. ... The students of this generation bear in their bodies and in their souls the scars of our society's disastrous moral collapse."

"The primary contribution we (faculty) can make to their lives is simply to invest in students; to live healthy, authentic Christian lives in their presence; and perhaps by God's grace thus to begin the moral reconstruction of their lives where this is needed."

Robert Sloan, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, told conferees faculty selection is a key to keeping Christian colleges true to their purposes.

"It is the faculty of an institution who carry the intellectual freight," Sloan stated. "It is the faculty who carry the traditions of learning, which they have received and

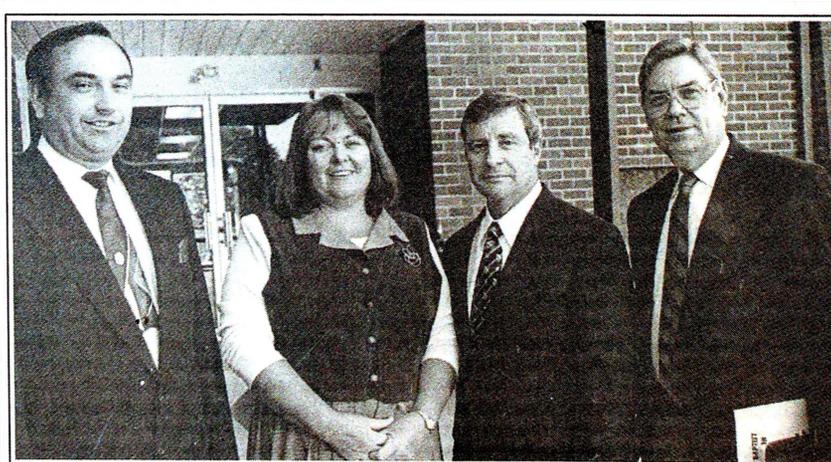
seek to bring forward."

Employment of faculty members should involve both academic and spiritual considerations, Sloan said.

Christian faculty members should demonstrate their faith commitment not only in properly articulated doctrine but through the practice of spiritual disciplines, said Claude O. Presnell Jr., executive director of the Tennessee Foundation for Independent Colleges. "For higher education to be Christian, it must be taught by those who not only identify themselves as Christians but live lives with the marks of Christianity," Presnell said.

He urged conferees to consider the impact of a faculty member's personal life upon the lives of students.

"Students can quickly perceive the shallowness of those who intellectually claim to be Christians yet live lives of atheists," Presnell warned. "... Students are longing for professors who are transparently Christian in their scholarship and their lives." ■



Truett Association meets in Waverly

Truett Association met at First Church, Waverly, recently for its annual meeting. Participating in the meeting, from left, are William Gray, director of missions; Brenda Sewell, clerk; Gary McEwen, pastor of Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville, moderator; and Aubrey Hay, TBC Executive Board ministry specialist and interim pastor, First Church, Waverly. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Convention photos available for all TBC messengers

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Photographers from PCA International Inc. will make portraits in Room A-133 of West Jackson Church, Jackson, on Monday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. until 6:45 p.m.

The service is offered at no cost for everyone attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to Barbara Owen of the TBC Executive Board's Communication Services Group.

Portraits will be mailed to those who have them made.

New members of the TBC Executive Board especially are urged to have their portrait taken, Owen added. ■

How to change the ugly Baptist syndrome

Who has the most spiritually meaningful or morally comfortable life — the Christian in the workplace, or the Christian in fulltime church or denominational work?

Should the "Baptist" answer be any different?

Personal faith in Christ is the central channel of power for Christian life and activity. It is the guiding light in all our dealings with people — whether in religious settings or in the world.

Dmitri Merejkowski, Russian writer, wrote in *Jesus the Unknown*, that he had had a New Testament for 30 years. It was tattered and needed rebinding.

He said, "I read it daily, and shall continue to read it so long as my eyes can see ... It ought to be rebounded, but I cannot find it in my heart to send it away; indeed, the thought of being separated from it for even a few days frightens me ..."

"The world, as it now is, and the Book cannot continue together. One of two things: either the world must become other than it is, or the Book must disappear from the world."

He was writing about the age-old, life and death struggle of God's Word with the sinful hearts of men and the evil which they have fashioned. The struggle may be open, or it may be subtle, hidden. It is waged within the church, and it is waged in the world of business, education, sci-

ence, in politics and the justice system. It is waged in the homes.

The struggle is waged wherever there are people, wherever there are choices.

It's because of that conflict that this valid question is asked. Of course the answer should be simple.

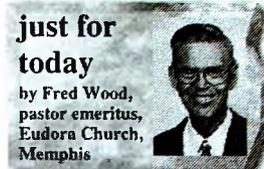
Every Christian should have a spiritually meaningful life, morally pure, and obedient to Christ.

Like Merejkowski, we cannot bear to be separated from the Book. And, even more important in the Christian's life, we must live by the Word.

As people of the Book, we must live so that the world will come to the Book, and know Christ personally as Savior and Lord.

In this respect all Christians bear the same responsibility. Whether in the business world, the marketplace, the church, the home, or in denominational life — we are people who know Christ personally and live abundantly for him.

For the Christian in the workplace, in church life, and in denominational life — the struggle lessens when we "walk with the Lord" in the light of his Word." — WFA



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile

June: "I don't like him."
Jane: "Why?"

June: "I invited him to my party and he came."

Take this truth

Have you ever learned to distinguish between what a person says and what that person really means?

Unfortunately, hypocrisy dominates our society.

We shouldn't have to do it, but often we need to be very perceptive to make it in today's world.

Try not to be guilty of that sin yourself.

Memorize this Scripture

Speaking the truth in love ... grow up into him. — Ephesians 4:15

Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to say what I mean and mean what I say. ■

Who said that?

The habit of praying for others makes you noble. Your thoughts grow wider and higher, your selfishness melts away. You become Christlike. You bless mankind. You are loved by all who know you. People think you are beautiful, for you become radiant with the smile of Christ. Your joy comes from what you give, not from what you accumulate.... He that loses his life shall find it. ... We are needed as channels between God's power and the world's need. — *Prayer, the Mightiest Force in the World*, Frank C. Laubach, Fleming H. Revell Co., 1959, Westwood, N. J.

Don't bypass hymns of faith and heritage

Music is a powerful force in life. Some sounds, called music, may not merit the classification.

As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, music is in the ear of the listener.

Music is an integral part of worship in most churches, especially Baptist churches. Music is instruments activated in harmony, and voices producing melodious sounds.

One definition puts it in simple, concise words: "an agreeable sound," such as, "music to her ears."

Lengthy dissertations could be written about music in today's world. There is much distance between the masters — Bach, Mozart, Grieg, Chopin, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, and many others — and

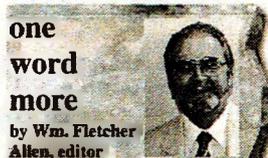
those whose lyrics say nothing and whose compositions often sound *decomposed* or *deafening*.

As for church music, Baptists and other evangelicals have had many masters of powerful, beautiful, meaningful hymns, anthems, and choruses. They bless our worship experiences, our Christian growth, and inspirational times together.

Today's churches are using more praise choruses. While they are good, there should be caution that children and youth are taught the hymns of heritage.

These touch the entire Christian life, and are reminders of how we should live and die in Christ, always in service. The young people need this — and Christians of all ages also are benefited. — WFA

This road and that road — we choose our direction



one word more
by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I saw a football game the other day. I won't name the teams — that would

not serve any good purpose.

We could learn lessons of life by paying close attention to what's happening, even when we're watching football or other games.

It wasn't the first time I was aware of it, but the team that plays the best, takes care of "business," and acts positively to adversity, has the best opportunity to win.

Usually the game is played on an unbiased playing field. The officials are not perfect, even though they try hard not to make judgment errors.

The team that won't accept defeat usually isn't defeated — except by some quirk. And the rules are the same for all

players on both teams. In the game I watched, the teams worked well together when things were going well, or perhaps it was the other way around.

Anyway, the players' attitudes were much better when they cooperated and were winning.

I noticed a lot of grumbling and accusing on the sidelines when something went wrong. When a ball was dropped or a runner thrown for a loss, when the quarterback threw a bad pass — there was pretty strong quarreling and finger-pointing.

One of the teams excused their sloppy play by pointing out that a couple of their key players were injured and couldn't be in the game. Does that sound familiar?

And I saw some players with witless pride — celebrating self when they did something good.

I am remembering Robert Frost's verses about two roads and making choices. "The Road Not Taken" is a reminder that

the hardest path is often the best, and as he put it, "the one less traveled by."

Choices made for our own direction should never diverge from where Christ's path leaves the well-worn path of ease and comfort.

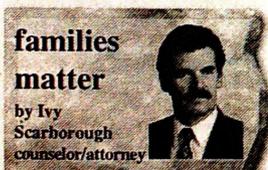
Frost said one of the paths he saw in that yellow wood was well-traveled, the way of the lazy traveler.

And the other was "grassy and wanted wear." He didn't say so, but we could add that that troubled road also had guideposts along the way for weary pilgrims who chose it intentionally.

In his poem he ended with a poignant but joyful note. "I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Poems aren't always the clearest road maps, but they can be. Greedy, selfish persons may earn riches and temporal fame — and the choice is always ours.

What should be considered when adoption is couples' goal



families matter
by Ivy Scarborough, counselor/attorney

Question: My husband and I want to adopt a child. What should we consider?

Unfortunately adoption has become big business.

Through handling many different kinds of adoptions we have learned there are many pitfalls and complexities to take into account. They vary according to the type of placement and adoption.

Most adoptions begin one of two ways. One, through private placement of the child by the biological parent directly with the adoptive parents. And the

other way, through placement by a state-licensed agency, either governmental such as a human services department, or church and religious-based organizations.

In my experience, Christian agencies are the most promising.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of a private placement is speed. Agency adoptions, especially through governmental agencies, often take a lot of time.

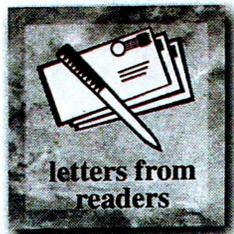
If private placements are permitted in your state, you can maximize your opportunities for a placement by letting many people know of your desire to adopt. It is especially helpful to tell ministers and doctors.

First, make certain this is legal in your state and be cautious in dealing with responses. A respondent may not tell the entire truth about the child's avail-

ability for adoption or his medical history.

Anti-abortion counseling services are useful sources of referrals because they are often effective in persuading mothers to reject abortion and place their children for adoption instead. Many are turning to international adoptions but these are very complex and require the help of an adoption agency as well as a lawyer experienced in international adoptions.

Regardless of which you choose, consider Jesus' statement: "He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and who welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me.'" — Mark 9: 36-37. ■



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 conform, it will be returned.
- > Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.

Care for ministers

In God's wonderful sovereign plan, he allowed me to become pastor of Hermitage Hills Church. This wonderful group of God's people have been kind and gracious to my family, and I want to share a little "good news" and thanks to my congregation.

Last year my oldest son was awarded a football scholarship to a university eight hours from Nashville. It was going to be almost impossible to see him play on Saturdays, drive all night, and be coherent enough to preach two services Sunday morning. I had never missed any of my son's games. A precious lady in our church came to tell me God had spoken to her about working it out for my wife and me to see our son play football. She arranged for us to be driven to every game we wanted to see, allowing me to study and sleep on the way home so that I would be ready to preach on Sunday. What a blessing! We have a couple in our church that is arranging for us to fly to a game in November.

Many countless acts of kindness have been demonstrated by our wonderful people. I know what Paul meant when he said to the Philippian church, "I thank God for every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3).

October is proclaimed as Clergy Appreciation Month across our nation. This is one pastor that is appreciative of a wonderful church family. I challenge our churches to take care of the men and women who serve you in ministry. It will never be forgotten both here and in eternity.

*H. Dean Haun, senior pastor
Hermitage Hills Church
Hermitage 37076*

Chairman responds

As chairman of the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, I am compelled to respond to the letter by J. William Bargiol in the Oct. 15 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

I begin by declaring my loyalty and commitment to our Southern Baptist Convention. As pastor of First Church, Covington, I am proud that our church gives 16 percent of her budget to the SBC Cooperative Program. Last year we gave \$146,491 to Southern Baptist causes.

Further, I affirm my pride in being a Tennessee Baptist. I grew up and was spiritually nurtured in a small Baptist church in rural West Tennessee. With the exception of my seminary years, I have been a lifelong resident of Tennessee. My ministry has spanned 26 years and five Tennessee Baptist churches. I love Tennessee Baptists because they first loved me.

It grieves me when a Baptist brother makes a sweeping statement about the Executive Committee being controlled by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. That simply is not true. I, for one, have attempted to fulfill my Executive Board responsibilities with integrity and under the control of the Holy Spirit. The men and women on the Executive Board with whom I have served and come to know are also people of integrity and under the control of no one.

Moreover, it is unwarranted, certainly unfounded, and in my opinion, un-Christian to accuse the Executive Board, in part or in toto, of practicing deception. If I am wrong, please show me the facts.

I go on record as one who is committed to being a member of the building crew and not the wrecking crew. I am committed to the proposition that we do all we can to assure balanced representation on our boards and committees, and that the voice of every Tennessee Baptist across the state be heard.

*Bill Northcott, pastor
First Church
Covington 38019*

Concern voiced

I attended Oct. 6 a rally-type of meeting sponsored by a group referred to as Concerned Tennessee Baptists. Many Baptists were made aware of this meeting through a mass mailing and our state Baptist paper.

I found some comments of the speakers very interesting. In one breath, it was claimed they were not interested in a "takeover" over the TBC; and in the next breath they mentioned messenger goals for their group from the three divisions of our state, offered assistance in finding motel rooms for messengers, and made no apology that some of the reports at the annual meeting in Jackson would be challenged from the floor because of their lack of trust in some of the present committees. While all of these things are within their right, I believe this kind of agenda is extremely disruptive and divisive.

I trust that Tennessee Baptists will see the danger in this type of "grasping for power" movement and voice their opposition to it when we meet in Jackson.

*Dillard A. Mynatt
Gatlinburg 37738*

What about me?

I was born a Tennessean and I've been Baptist "all my life." I came to faith and was nurtured in Christ in First Church, Martin. I was a Sunbeam, and in primary, junior, and intermediate departments in Sunday School. I learned music in Junior Choir, basic doctrine in Training Union, and I surrendered to the ministry as a Royal Ambassador at Camp Linden.

I began serving on a church staff at age 15 and have served ever since. I enrolled in seminary studies at Union University and graduated from Southern Seminary. As a pastor, I have been a dedicated supporter of missions, never leading a church to give less than 10 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program. I believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that we, as believers in Christ, are guided and instructed by God's Holy Spirit. The plan of salvation is presented in my church every Sunday morning.

I have been declared "ineligible" to serve on any board or agency of the SBC because I recognize the right of some within my church to contribute to "non-SBC" ministries (such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Mid-America Seminary). Now I hear that I may no longer be considered a "faithful, committed, conservative, Southern Baptist, Tennessee pastor" and that I am among some Tennessee Baptists who "need to be replaced."

I have two questions: Am I no longer a Tennessee Baptist? If I am not, who is?

*John P. Fairless, pastor
Brook Hollow Church
Nashville 37205*

Call to minister

I have watched as many in our Tennessee Baptist Convention family have fought for a change in the appointment of committees for our convention. I attended the TBC meeting last year and listened to those on both sides. I have read in your paper of continuing efforts to see the process through, and I now feel compelled to write and offer another opinion.

I have read about a letter, of which over 3,000 copies were mailed out, which asks some Tennessee Baptists to come out in force at upcoming convention meetings. I wonder how many letters have been mailed out by these same men inviting new families in their communities to attend their churches? How many visits have been made to those who are lost and dying without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? Have we already reached our world for Christ? Have we no need to continue in the business of our Heavenly Father? I don't ask these questions to be spiteful or mean. I ask so we will look at ourselves, as ministers, and return to our calling.

When deciding to surrender my life to full-time Christian ministry, I felt a mandate and a call to share Christ with others, not serve on a board or possess political power. The Great Commission calls us all to "go out into all the world," not serve on powerful committees. I sincerely feel it is time to return to the calling we have been given, to reach others and minister in Christ's name. It is in his service that we will find our contentment, joy, and peace.

*Tina A. Collins
minister of music
First Church
Jacksboro 37757*

Sad day

It is a sad day for the Tennessee Baptist Convention when some are trying to involve politics, as indicated by the Concerned Tennessee Baptists rally held at First Church, Concord, Oct. 6.

In my opinion, the CTB is no less than an arm of the movement which now controls the Southern Baptist Convention and are determined to control all state conventions.

Wake up, rise up, and speak up loyal Tennessee Baptists and don't allow this to happen.

*Howard Clift
Covington 38019*

More figures

Shortly after Michael Smith's election as president of the TBC Executive Board, I wrote an essay demonstrating that a small number of persons and churches which are openly aligned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have disproportionately been selected for key leadership positions in the Tennessee Baptist

Convention. Rev. Jerry Mantooth's thoughtful response, published in the *Baptist and Reflector*, disingenuously disputed the accuracy of my research and alleged I disseminated "false information."

The figures I cite in my essay are accurate. When Howard Olive, at that time a paid employee of CBF, was pastor of the church now served by Rev. Mantooth, the church significantly reduced its Cooperative Program giving. The following graphic, drawn from the 1992-96 editions of the TBC Journal, reveals the reduction: 1992 — \$30,620; 1993 — \$27,570; 1994 — \$2,039; 1995 — \$2,722; and 1996 — \$3,070. Out of \$559,000 in receipts, the \$3,070 equals a mere 0.55 percent.

As Tennessee and Southern Baptists we have viewed CP gifts as a valid measure of a church's fidelity and loyalty to our cooperative efforts to reach the world for Christ. It is significant when any church forwards only minimal gifts to the TBC through the Cooperative Program.

Six of the nine churches mentioned in my essay which are either openly aligned with CBF or have pastors who have openly aligned themselves with CBF contributed less than 2 percent of annual undesignated receipts to the CP over the past several years. When a church exercises its right to give minimally to the CP, it seems to me it surrenders its right to large numbers of leadership roles in the TBC.

These nine churches now have 33 persons filling key leadership roles in the TBC — 6.7 percent of 496 elected positions. How much more appropriate if churches which give 8, 10, 12, 15 percent or more, to Cooperative Program ministries enjoyed this level of leadership.

As an aside, I was delighted with this year's Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards reports. It looks like they have done a good job of broadening our leadership.

*Roger S. Oldham, pastor
First Church
Martin 38327*

Thanksgiving letters invited

In the Nov. 25 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we will publish letters relating only to thanksgiving and gratitude. Thanksgiving Day is Nov. 26 and we encourage readers to write about an event that makes Thanksgiving meaningful for you. The letters must not exceed 150 words, and must be received in our office by Nov. 14.

Also, we will not publish letters concerning the upcoming TBC annual meeting after the Nov. 5 issue. — Editor



The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

From your missionary

Every effective leader seeks ways to impact people. We are in a constant search for the latest material or program which will accomplish this objective.



SHARP

Recently Jim Ferguson, director of the Volunteers in Missions Department at the International Mission Board, presented the following at the Baptist Center about the impact of volunteer missions trips:

× A total of 93.31 percent said their commitment to world missions was positively impacted.

× A total of 15.25 percent said their commitment was radically changed.

A 1994 study of persons considering missionary career service revealed the following:

✓ A total of 37 percent of pre-baby boomers and 78 percent of baby boomers had participated in a trip.

✓ Volunteer missions trips were an important influence for 24 percent of pre-boomers and 73 percent of boomers.

✓ Participation was a dominant influence for up to 43 percent toward their pursuit of missionary service.

In other areas:

✓ A total of 98 percent said their commitment to world missions was positively impacted.

✓ Time spent in prayer increased an average of 135 percent in long-time categories.

✓ Average time spent in prayer doubled.

✓ Time spent in prayer for specific categories increased an average of 239 percent.

✓ Sacrificial giving increased 340 percent.

✓ A total of 66 percent gave more money after their experience.

✓ Participation in missions activities increased.

✓ Learning about missions increased.

✓ Volunteer missions ranked as one of the most important events in their lives.

Why not be a part of a proven and effective life changing event such as Partnership/Volunteer Missions?

God Bless,

Levy

Polish Baptists request help for flood victims

By Marcia Knox
The Macedonian Call

The TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group is collecting new winter jackets and toboggans for children in the flood ravaged areas of Poland, and will lead three other Disaster Relief projects in Wroclaw, Poland, according to Terry Sharp of the TBC.

Sharp worked with Mickey Caison, North American Mission Board Disaster Relief director; Doug Shaw, International Mission Board missionary to Poland; and the Wroclaw Flood Committee, made up of leaders of local Baptist churches, last month.

"We discovered that Poland was already in Phase I and II of Disaster Relief recovery," Sharp said. "The Wroclaw Flood Committee indicated that they were past the clean-up and feeding stages."

One need defined by the Wroclaw Flood Committee in consultation with Shaw was warm clothing for children.

To meet that need, the MAI group will try to collect 500 children's coats of which 300 will go to Wroclaw and 200 others will go to Klodzko, said Sharp.

Jackets and toboggans should range in sizes to fit children from 9-15 years old. The jackets and toboggans need to be new and made of washable fabrics.

Three collection sites will be available. The first collection site is the TBC Baptist Center, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. During the TBC annual meeting to be held Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church, Jackson, coats will be

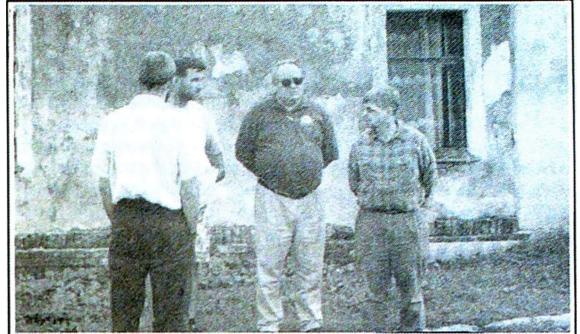
collected at a designated area. Finally, during the Woman's Missionary Union Missions Extravaganza to be held Nov. 10 at First Church, Jackson, garments will be collected at the Partnership/Volunteer Missions display. The extravaganza will be from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The last day jackets and toboggans will be received at the Baptist Center is Friday, Nov. 14. The items will arrive in Poland either before Dec. 1, when the cold weather begins there, or by Dec. 6, the traditional Christmas gift-giving day. They will be distributed from churches. Donations of \$3 per jacket are requested to assist with shipping costs. Donations are tax deductible.

In the area of Disaster Relief, the following projects were requested.

Volunteers are needed to repair concrete floors and resurface walls in the basement of Tarnow Baptist Church which was flooded.

Four crisis recovery counselors are needed Jan. 31 to Feb. 15 to work at a children's camp for victims of the summer flooding. The campers will come from the worst flood affected areas of Wroclaw and Klodzko and have experienced losses of



SURVEYING the damage from floods at a house in Wroclaw, Poland, are, from left, the owner of the house; a translator, Mickey Caison, NAMB; and Doug Shaw, IMB missionary.

housings and all belongings.

Many of the children are currently living in overcrowded apartments that belong to friends or relatives, living in houses that were damaged, or are homeless. The camp, which is provided by the IMB, is for children ages 11-15.

The objective of the camp is to help the children develop coping skills to deal with crises and to work through the grief associated with their losses.

The Polish Baptists also need Disaster Mitigation consultants. This project is currently being reviewed. Plans are now to send TBC MAI Group leader and State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden and Caison to help the Wroclaw Flood Committee develop legislation, policies, and procedures to mitigate future disasters. ■

Mississippi River Ministry draws Greenbrier church

For The Macedonian Call

by Rives.

Tennessee's First Church, Greenbrier, recently returned from its fifth Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) missions effort in Beulah Association.

The Greenbrier church did construction work July 28 - Aug. 1 on a new worship and education center for Greater Hope Mission and conducted a Backyard Bible Club (BYBC) in near-

Beulah Association is one area where the MRM has been active since 1993. The MRM is an ongoing project targeting communities along the Mississippi River, one of the poorest areas in the United States.

Greater Hope Mission is sponsored by Sunswept Church in Union City. Sunswept Church's pastor, James Kinsey, coordinates MRM projects for

Beulah Association. The mission is led by pastor Robert Ndonga, a native of Kenya.

The volunteers built a platform for the choir and pulpit area of the worship center, and sanded and applied dry wall filler on walls. Construction workers were John Baggett, Bob Crain, Ron Davis, Doug Ricks, Ryan Rousch, Mark Johnson, Lois and Luell Smith, minister of education; Ricky Krisle, missions coordinator and team leader; and Fred Baldwin, pastor; all of the Greenbrier church; and Ndonga and his son Peter Ndonga.

A total of 29 children attended the Backyard Bible Club which averaged 20 children in attendance each day. "We are planting

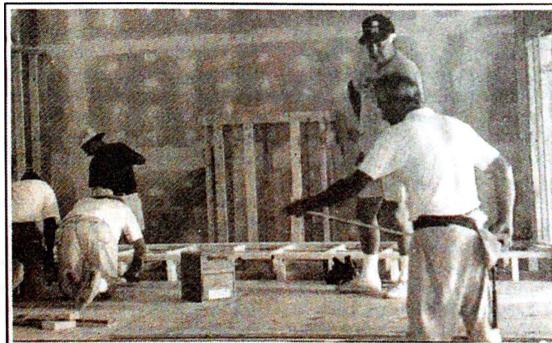
seeds for the local churches to harvest," said Greenbrier BYBC leader Rhonda Mayo.

Those who taught BYBC included Jenny Mayo; Lori Rousch; Brandon Norton, minister of youth at Sunswept Church; Carolyn Aldridge, member of Cross Roads Church, Springfield; and youth from Sunswept. Cooks were Ruth Ricks and Helen Baggett from the Greenbrier church.

"A big part of mission trip participation is getting to make new friends with those we help and getting to know those on our team much better," said Luell Smith.

First Church, Greenbrier, plans to send another team this fall to Greater Hope Church where they will install a baptistry and do finishing work.

"It is a blessing to be part of constructing a building where God's people will meet and lives will forever be changed by Christ," Krisle said. ■



WORKING on the church facility are, from left, Peter Ndonga, Robert Ndonga, Doug Ricks, Bob Crain, John Baggett, and Ron Davis.

**Partnership
Prayer Requests**
October

- 22 —Pray for the Michigan convention's regional budget meetings that are being held this month.
- 23 —Pray for the Promise Keepers Canada Men's Conference to be held Oct. 25 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Ask God to bring reconciliation to marriages.
- 24 —Pray for missionary children like Ryan Kyzar and Danielle Patricio who are in the states in college away from missionary parents in Costa Rica.
- 25 —Pray for the Michigan convention's Cooperative Missions Committee as they seek a ministry leader.
- 26 —Pray for the Michigan convention's president Ray Shelton.
- 27 —Pray for the Arabic Christian radio program in Canada which has been on the air for four months.
- 28 —Pray for Costa Rican pastors and wives of Baptist churches as they grasp God's vision for the country.

Country Gospel music team finds Canadian audience

By Marcia Knox
The Macedonian Call

A country Gospel music team recently served Community Church of Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The team performed in the largest tourist event of the summer there, according to Community Church pastor Wallace Jordan. "It's a festival which grew out of horse racing," Jordan said, referring to the Gold Cup and Saucer Parade and related events.

Because Community Church is a new Southern Baptist congregation and the only church of the denomination on the is-

land, the members grasped the occasion to spread their message. One thing they did was enter a float in the parade.

The float had the theme: "Partnership Missions Reaching Out to the World." The church specifically requested a team of country Gospel artists from Tennessee to provide the music.

"It was a good float not only aesthetically, but it also had good music," reported Jordan. "The float made an impact on the community, and it had a ministry in it.

"There is a kind of common spirit that runs through Tennessee and the people of the

Maritimes," Jordan added. "It's a good cultural and partnership relationship.

"The people of Tennessee and of the island are people of the land, and they have strong family and community values in common. The partnership with Tennessee has been a blessing to us because of the common spirit and its sense of cultivating community."

Jordan said the festival project would introduce people in the community to the Christian faith. "We were tremendously blessed by the project not only from the crowds who turned out for the church concerts, but also from those who came early just to see where the church was located."

The seven-member music team was organized through the National Fellowship of Baptist Performing Artists, coordinated by Becky Collins. Collins is a member of First Church, Dickson.

W. C. Taylor Jr. of Mississippi, who is president of the organization and serves as the

record producer for Collins, put together the team and served as team leader. Collins is known for her recordings in Australia and Europe.

Included on the team were Jim and Towana Wilkerson of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; Jimmy R. and Lois Williams of San Antonio, Texas; and Annelle Taylor of Grenada, Mississippi.

The parade drew about 60,000 along the parade route, and it was televised live across Canada by the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC).

After the parade, the team performed a concert at Confederation Park to a crowd of thousands. The same day, the first of three concerts was held at Community Church. During the final concert, the church was filled to standing room only.

The results were partly due to promotion by the Prince Edward Island radio station and a feature on the local CBC station's news program.

"We sensed between the artists and the church a koinonia fellowship," Jordan said.

"All the artists felt that God had used them in a mighty way," said Annelle Taylor. ■



POSING in front of the float are, from left, Jim Wilkerson, W. C. Taylor, Becky Collins, and Jimmy R. Williams.

Union City team of 87 ministers in Ontario, Canada

By Melvin B. Poe
For The Macedonian Call

Calvary Church, Union City, sent 87 Tennessee volunteers to Canada this summer to do construction and church start work in two Ontario cities, Hamilton and Niagara Falls.

When I told Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions State Missionary, that about 80 people from Calvary Church, Union City, were interested in making a partnership missions trip, he looked amazed.

Soon I was contacting Jim Bullis, pastor of the Ridgecrest

Church in Hamilton, Ontario, the only Southern Baptist Church in Hamilton.

Bullis, who had started 11 churches, felt God wanted a twelfth church started in Niagara Falls. Bullis invited our church to accept a dual assignment, one in Hamilton and the other in Niagara Falls.

I made a preparatory visit to Hamilton and Niagara Falls in April. When I arrived I caught the vision that Bullis had for the area, but I realized it would be a major undertaking.

The church had purchased an old post office building and needed help in renovating it.

The repair work on the building was overwhelming.

However, the area was open to evangelism. Upon visiting Niagara Falls, I saw another city open to Southern Baptist work.

It wasn't long before I knew that God was leading us to accept the two assignments. It was exciting and we could see God's hand in it.

Soon we were in Canada. Our home while there was the Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ontario, a beautiful oasis some 30 minutes from the inner city of Hamilton.

Each day we led one VBS, four BYBCs, six survey teams, revival services, and did construction on the church building.

The construction crew was able to enclose an old loading deck and convert it into a nursery. They added a handicapped ramp, painted and dry walled, built walls, repaired a fire escape, and fireproofed the basement area. They also cleaned and prepared rooms that would be used for Sunday School.

The singles of Calvary Church took on the BYBCs. Each day they walked to a nearby park and conducted four clubs. The park became an outreach center for chil-

dren and youth.

Their efforts paid off with many children and youth learning about and attending the revival meetings at the church. Many of them responded to the Gospel during those meetings.

The youth accepted the challenge of door-to-door surveying and ministering in the park at Niagara Falls. Very positive contacts were made in the area. The "Singing Hands" group performed in the park each afternoon.

At the close of the week, we could see God had done more than we could have ever requested or thought about doing. Many Canadians were introduced to the Gospel in the parks, on the streets, and in their homes. A total of 44 souls were won to Christ.

Every team member went the second mile in their area of ministry. It was a sacrifice of selflessness that made the mission trip a success. What began as a thought has now turned into a memory. What began as a vision has now become a reality.

I learned on the trip to never try to limit God. A statement by Dr. R.G. Lee has become a reality in my life. Lee said, "Attempt something so great for God that it is going to fail unless He intervenes." ■



GROUPED between the buses which transported them to Canada is the 87-member partnership missions team of Calvary Church, Union City.

**Partnership plans
with Brazilians
to be presented**

For The Macedonian Call

Representatives from the Carioca Baptist Convention in Brazil will be attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

The representatives will discuss tentative partnership projects with interested volunteers. Messengers are scheduled to vote on adoption of the partnership with the Carioca Baptist Convention, which encompasses Rio de Janeiro.

Tentative projects for the three-year partnership are being scheduled. One of the first major projects may be Simultaneous Revivals in Brazil Sept. 27 - Oct. 6, 1998.

Twenty teams of two people (preacher and layperson) are needed to lead revival services in churches in Jacarepagua. Nightly services will be held, along with visitation, personal witnessing, speaking in schools, and special musical presentations. Cost will be about \$1,900 per person.

Contact the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team for information on the revivals at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021. ■

Manchester team continues sister church relationship

For The Macedonian Call

Unfolding the huge revival tent and manually raising it on the newly cleared church property in Higgins Lake, Mich., was the first order of business this summer for two sister churches — one from Michigan and one from Tennessee.

This was the second visit by First Church, Manchester, to its sister church, Two Lakes Church, continuing its three-year sister church relationship.

The Manchester team, composed of 18 youth and eight adults, held a Backyard Bible Club and revival services.

Jeff Clark, former pastor of Hillcrest Church, Manchester, served as guest evangelist for the revival. Members of the Creative Ministry Team, the Youth Choir, and others from First Church, Manchester, provided

dramatic presentations, special music, and testimonies. Tennesseans also operated the sound system during the revival and led congregational singing.

The Lord blessed the efforts of both churches through the decisions made during the revival. Two youth from Manchester accepted the call to missions service.

"We went to serve the Lord, but God did a mighty work on our church," said Joe Mike Hodge, minister of music of the Manchester church. "From adults to youth, personal relationships between the two groups were strengthened."

Two results of sister church relationships are the opportunities for encouragement and affirmation, said Barbara Simmons, WMU director.

She noted that "God has blessed Two Lakes with a beautiful piece of property, and they

are seeking a pastor to lead them in their endeavor to build a new church. They possess the vision to worship, pray, build, grow, and minister to the community with the Lord's answers."

The goal of the Tennessee church is "to encourage Two Lakes Church in this vision," Simmons said. "First Church has committed to pray for Two Lakes and to work with them to accomplish this vision.

"First Church, Manchester, is truly blessed by this privileged opportunity to serve the Lord with our Michigan sister church," she concluded.

Other Tennessee Sister Churches are needed for congregations in Michigan. If interested in the sister church program, call the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090. ■



PAUSING during the trip are Tennessee team members, from left, first row, Rachel Pepple; Stacey Hopkins; Jeanna Hodge; Heather Hamilton; Karon Blaise; Marissa Moore; Jessica Heim; Erin Bumbalough; Julie Fisher; Emily Bumbalough; Melissa Labe; Dee Drake, minister of education; back row, Chris Batte; Joe Mike Hodge, minister of music; Jessica Howell; Jon Helms; Joshua Hodge; Zachary Cox; B.J. Rapko; Ron Blaise; Billy Bernitt; Justin Waggoner; Charles Higgins; and Jennifer Pepple.

Thanks from Poland

Tennessee's three-year partnership with Poland will end Dec. 31. The following letter is a farewell and thank you from the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Poland:

Dear Partnership Volunteer,

The three-year Tennessee/Poland Partnership Missions draws to a close at the end of this year. I want to write each of you who participated in a mission project and thank you.

I want to express deep appreciation for your commitment, sacrifice, and ministry in the many and varied ways that you served and ministered during the partnership. Each of you contributed in your unique way to the propagation of the Gospel in our beloved Poland. Not only was your work effective and profitable to the Baptist churches and institutions, but you were a great encouragement to us as you worked along side of us in your projects. In addition, we feel that we have established lasting friendships with you, our brothers and sisters in Christ in Tennessee.

Since you came and served in Poland, you know of our vision and our calling to see the people of Poland come to Christ. You know of our struggles in a land where Baptists are such a small minority. You are aware of our resources and our great needs to accomplish Christ's mandate to carry out the Great Commission here and around the world. Many of you pledged to pray for us in our work, and some of you told us that you wanted to continue to be fellow laborers in Poland. We ask that you continue to pray for us if the Lord lays it on your heart to participate in the furtherance of the Gospel in Poland.

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ in Poland, I would like to say thank you for your investment in God's work here. We love you and wish God's richest blessing on you. I wish to close with the words of the Apostle Paul as he wrote to his beloved brothers and sisters in Philippi. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers of all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-6).

We would like to hear from you. It will be a great encouragement to us.

In Christian love,

Ryszard Gutkowski
General Secretary, Polish Baptist Union

Belmont basketball players serve in Costa Rica

By Betty Wiseman, associate professor, Belmont University
For The Macedonian Call

This was Belmont University's first effort with the Tennessee/Costa Rica Partnership. The project did not involve basketball this time, but it called for construction/evangelism.

A total of nine Belmont students and a secretary in the School of Religion, Vernona Elliott, a member of Cooper-town Community Church, Springfield, joined me to make up the Belmont team. We worked with First Church, Heredia, a city outside San Jose.

The project was a bigger task than any one of the team had ever expected. It became evident that God had opened a "big door" of opportunity for 10 days. The sanctuary, a three-story building, needed painting inside and out, including scraping, repairing, sanding, and trim work. This was the day job.

We were privileged to lead both Sunday worship services, Wednesday evening worship, participate in a Thursday night prayer meeting, lead a Saturday youth night, and an all-day youth retreat on the following Saturday.

On our first day of painting, Belmont student Heather Logan put down her paint brush long enough to share Christ with a young woman passing by on the street. It was evident to us immediately that God had orchestrated this meeting because Suyen Tom could speak English. She shared with Heather that she had been looking for something in her life, but she didn't know what it was.

As Heather talked to Suyen, we prayed. After she received Christ,

we introduced Suyen to Pastor Leo Chavarria, who counseled her.

Suyen remained with us the rest of the day and helped us paint the church. And she returned several times during the rest of the week. She attended the youth and young adult activities.

Other team members got the chance to witness in restaurants, airports, planes, and at the Baptist camp where we stayed.

One day we worked at an elementary school. We painted, cleaned, planted trees, and dug a ditch. We also interacted with the children, handing out tracts.

The church had been trying to find

an open door to ministry at the school for a long time. As a result of our work, Chavarria and church members were invited back. We learned a valuable lesson from that experience. God can take the most menial tasks and bring glory unto Himself.

We found that open doors are never too wide or narrow when God has done the opening. We grew to love the people of Costa Rica. Similarities, not differences, tugged at our hearts as God opened up another part of his beautiful world to us.

Language barriers were broken down as

we shared from our hearts God's love and our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I told the team as we left how proud I was of their efforts for Christ.

The students were Andy Britton, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory; Brad Hamil, Fairfield Church, Centerville; Heather Logan, First Church, Bolivar; John Messer, First Church, Ashland City; B.K. Parsley, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory; Joey Rhyne, First Church, Hendersonville; Sarah Rushing, Shiloh Church, Kingston; Terri Shuman, Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro; and David Weatherspoon, Highland Park Church, Columbia. ■



BELMONT TEAM members included, from left, first row, B.K. Parsley, Sarah Rushing, and Heather Logan; second row, Andy Britton, Betty Wiseman, John Messer, Vernona Elliott, and Terri Shuman; third row, Brad Hamil, David Weatherspoon, and Joey Rhyne.

Missions Skills Schools set

Two Missions Skills Schools, sponsored by the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, will be held in April at Tennessee Baptist camps. The first school will be held April 16-18 at Camp Linden, Linden; and the second will be April 23-25 at Camp Carson, Newport.

Areas to be covered are Crew Chief Training, Construction Skills — Block Laying to General Construction; Prayer Walks; Teaching Conversational English in an Overseas Project; Personal Evangelism/Witnessing; Puppetry, Clowning and Mime; and Conducting Block Parties.

To register, call the MAI Group office at 1-800-558-2090. ■

WANTED

1998 World Changers Crew Chiefs

If interested, call Curtis Fowler
at (423) 671-4733.

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Costa Rica Projects

Sports Evangelism

Project #: PM71998814
Dates: January or April
Location: Guapiles
Description: Tennis Pro/Team Evangelism
A team of 8 is needed, either pro or team, to teach tennis and do lifestyle witnessing.

Creative Ministry/Evangelism

Project #: PM71998811
Dates: Jan. 15-24
Location: Cartago
Description: Creative Ministry/Evangelism
A team of 20 is needed to do creative ministry as well as street evangelism during the annual National Sports Games.

Children's and Youth Ministry

Project #: PM71998808
Dates: Feb. 7-16
Location: Heredia
Description: Youth Revival
A team of 4 is needed to do youth revival with special sermons/ worship times and activities.

Project #: PM71998812
Dates: Feb. 28 - March 2
Location: San Jose
Description: Neighborhood Youth Evangelism
A team of 15 is needed to work with youth from the inner-city using music, mime, drama. Bring bilingual preacher.

Project #: PM71998813
Dates: July 18-26
Location: San Jose
Description: Neighborhood Youth Evangelism
A team of 15 is needed to work with youth from the inner-city using music, mime, drama. Bring bilingual preacher.

Spiritual Renewal

Project #: PM71998810
Dates: Feb. 28 - March 9
Location: Heredia
Description: Spiritual Renewal
A team of 4 is needed to do a spiritual renewal revival with emphasis on witnessing and missions.

Stewardship

Project #: PM71998818
Dates: Aug. 1-10
Location: San Jose
Description: Stewardship Emphasis
A team of 4 is needed to lead a week-long stewardship campaign.

Michigan Projects

Evangelism

Project #: M-1
Dates: Open
Location: Roseville
Description: Children's Evangelism
Bethel Church, Roseville, needs a team to do BYBC and outreach to children.

Community Service

Project #: UP-1
Dates: June
Location: Gwinn
Description: Community Service
A team of 25-50 is needed to do clean up, painting, and present youth concert/drama.



Project #: N-1
Dates: June 1 - Aug. 15
Location: Roscommon
Description: Lifeguard
A team of 1-2 is needed to do waterfront supervision for summer camps and general maintenance activities.

Construction

Project #: N-3
Dates: Spring/June
Location: Higgins Lake
Description: Construction
A team is needed to finish building for Two Lakes Church including drywall, painting, and framing.

Summer Missionary

Project #: W-1
Dates: June 1 - Aug. 7
Location: Holland
Description: Summer Missionary
A team of 2 is needed to work with churches to reach communities for Christ.

Project #: N-2
Dates: June 1 - Aug. 7
Location: Roscommon
Description: Summer Missionary
A team of 2 is needed to work with churches to reach communities for Christ.

Project #: GD-1
Dates: June 1 - Aug. 7
Location: Detroit
Description: Summer Missionary
A team of 8 is needed to work in Baptist Center in the inner city with children, senior citizens, and the homeless.

VBS/BYBC

Project #: G-1
Dates: June
Location: Linden
Description: BYBC
A team is needed to do BYBC and Block Party with outdoor concert.

Project #: SC-1
Dates: Summer 1998
Location: Kalamazoo
Description: BYBC/VBS, Construction
A team is needed to do BYBC/VBS and work on church sanctuary.

Project #: N-4
Dates: July
Location: Cadillac
Description: VBS/Drama/Music
A youth team is needed for a resort area to do VBS/drama/music with teenagers.

Project #: W-2
Dates: July 18-25
Location: Wyoming
Description: VBS
A team of 15 is needed to do VBS and canvas community.

Project #: O-1
Dates: July 18-25
Location: Madison Heights
Description: VBS Survey
A team of 12-14 is needed to do VBS along with survey and witnessing.

Canada Projects

Evangelism

Project #: 97NOR021
Dates: June 29 - July 4
Location: Saskatchewan
Description:
Evangelism/Camps/Music/Drama
A team of 10-15 is needed to help with an associational based family camp.

Project #: 97NOR017
Dates: July 18-26
Location: Prince Albert
Description: Evangelism/Construction
A team is needed to provide entertainment at Prince Albert Exhibition and light construction at a church.



Project #: CA-20
Dates: Aug. 3-11
Location: Halifax
Description: Evangelism
A team is needed to minister in Halifax in parks, malls, etc.

Project #: 97NOR016
Dates: Sept. 19-27
Location: Prince Albert
Description: Evangelism/Music
A team of 10-12 is needed to hold revival services with music and drama.

Project #: 97MIDO25
Dates: July/August
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: VBS/Camps/Music
A total of 6-8 is needed to do family, youth, and children's camps, and VBS. Teams may do one or all four programs. Each camp will be for 5 days.

Project #: CA-18
Dates: July 13-24
Location: Northwest Edmonton
Description: VBS/Community Survey
A team of 4 is needed to do VBS and survey in housing projects.

Project #: CA-19
Dates: Aug. 2-11
Location: Halifax
Description: BYBC/Prayer Walk
A team is needed to lead BYBC, prayer walks, and opinion polls.

Project #: 11997440
Dates: Open
Location: Warsaw
Description: Renovation
Baptist Union building needs steel grill work replaced.

Project #: P-2
Dates: Oct. 31, 1997 - Jan. 1, 1998
Location: Tarnow
Description: Construction/Plaster
A volunteer is needed for 2 weeks to do concrete and plaster work at Tarnow Church. This church was damaged by recent flooding.

Project #: P-1
Dates: Nov. 11, 1997
Location: Tennessee Distribution
Collection for Wrocław and Kłodzko
Description: Winter Coats
A total of 500 winter jackets and stocking caps are needed for children who were flood victims.

Project #: PM11997400
Dates: Jan. 30 - Feb. 16
Location: Wrocław
Description: Crisis Recovery Counselor
A team of 4 crisis counselors is needed to work in a 2-week camp for children who were victims of recent flooding. Children, ages 11-15, have experienced various levels of loss.

Project #: CA-20
Dates: Aug. 3-11
Location: Halifax
Description: Evangelism
A team is needed to minister in Halifax in parks, malls, etc.

Project #: 97NOR016
Dates: Sept. 19-27
Location: Prince Albert
Description: Evangelism/Music
A team of 10-12 is needed to hold revival services with music and drama.

Project #: 97MIDO25
Dates: July/August
Location: Grande Prairie, Alberta
Description: VBS/Camps/Music
A total of 6-8 is needed to do family, youth, and children's camps, and VBS. Teams may do one or all four programs. Each camp will be for 5 days.

Project #: CA-18
Dates: July 13-24
Location: Northwest Edmonton
Description: VBS/Community Survey
A team of 4 is needed to do VBS and survey in housing projects.

Project #: CA-19
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Brazil Projects

These projects are considered tentative projects due to vote to be taken at the TBC Annual Meeting to be held Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

Evangelism

Project #: PM41998909
Dates: Jan. 30 - Feb. 8
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Construction/Evangelism
A team of 12 is needed to do construction and refurbishing work at the Centers for Social Work. They also will do outreach work.

Project #: PM41998901
Dates: Feb. 18 - March 2
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Carnival Evangelism
At least 2 teams of 10-20 people are needed to do outreach during Carnival using clowning, miming, and puppetry skills. After Carnival, teams will direct mime and clowning workshop.

Project #: PM41998905
Dates: March 13-21
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Drama/Music/Evangelism
A student team of 20 is needed to perform in schools, churches, and plazas.

Project #: PM41998908
Dates: May 29 - June 7
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Construction/Evangelism
A team of 12 is needed to do construction and refurbishing work at the Centers for Social Work. They will also do evangelistic work.

Project #: PM41998907
Dates: June 5-14
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Construction/Evangelism
A team of 12 is needed to do construction and refurbishing work at the Centers for Social Work. They will also do evangelistic work.

Project #: PM41998906
Dates: July 31 - Aug. 9
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Sports/Evangelism
A college or university basketball team of 20 is needed to play teams from Rio clubs and to hold basketball clinics.

Project #: B-2
Dates: Sept. 27 - Oct. 6
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Evangelism
A total of 20 teams of 2 (preacher and layperson-music) is needed for simultaneous revivals in churches in Jacarepagua. Services will be held along with visitation, witnessing, speaking in schools, and special music presentations.

Summer Missionary

Project #: PM41998902
Dates: June 1 - Aug. 8
Location: Rio de Janeiro
Description: Evangelism/Social Work
A total of 6 summer missionaries is needed to work in homes provided by the Carioca Convention Social Work Board to teach skills and do outreach.

Tennessee Projects

Construction

Project #: T-4
Dates: November

Location: Springville
Description: Construction
A church in Springville needs a team to help build building. Work involves asphalt, electrical masonry, painting, plumbing, drywall, roofing, etc.
Contact: Rev. Kenneth Basham, (901) 644-0318

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

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

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

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

Camp

Project #: T-6
Dates: May/September
Location: Benton
Description: Camp
Camp Agape in Benton needs volunteers to serve as kitchen help, camp nurse, general maintenance, and craft workers. Teams of 3 adults per week are needed.
Contact: Andy Jordon, (423) 338-4153

Project #: T-7
Dates: May/September (weekends only)
Location: Benton
Description: Camp
Camp Agape in Benton needs teams of 4-8 each week to do river hospitality and campground ministry. Creative arts/sports and BYBC workers can work 2 weeks or entire summer. Around 30 people are needed each weekend along with supervisors.
Contact: Andy Jordon, (423) 338-4153

Project #: T-15
Dates: June 7 - Aug. 2
Location: Gatlinburg
Description: Camp
A team of 16-50 is needed for Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries day camp in mornings and family programs in evening. A total of 18 large groups is required with 2 groups per week for 9 weeks.
Contact: Bill Black, (423) 436-4076

Project #: T-14
Dates: June 14 - Aug. 1
Location: Townsend
Description: Camp
A team of 5-15 is needed for Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries day camp in mornings, youth activities in afternoon, and family program in evenings. A total of 1 group is required per week for seven weeks.
Contact: Bill Black, (423) 436-4076

Project #: T-11
Dates: Aug. 2-8
Location: Elizabethton
Description: Camp
A team of 15-20 is needed to staff local children's camp. Team will lead games, sports, devotionals, teach, and work with Big A Club workers.
Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Health Care

Project #: 103
Dates: Open
Location: Memphis
Description: Health Care
Brinkley Heights Alliance needs team of 5-10 health care professionals or students to conduct screenings for 1 week.
Contact: Judy Jackson, (901) 372-2373

BYBC/VBS

Project #: T-8
Dates: June 22-27
Location: Elizabethton
Description: BYBC/Community Improvement
A team of 10-20 is needed to provide BYBC, VBS, or Big A Club at Hale Community Ministries building for children ages 5-12 from public housing.
Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: T-10
Dates: July 19-25
Location: Elizabethton
Description: BYBC/Community Improvement
A team of 10-20 is needed to provide BYBC, VBS, or Big A Club at Hale Community Ministries building for children ages 5-12 from public housing.
Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: 108
Dates: Open
Location: Jackson
Description: VBS
Ministry teams are needed to hold 1-week VBSs or BYBCs in association.
Contact: Carol Vaughan, (901) 668-5690

Project #: 109
Dates: Open
Location: Memphis
Description: VBS
Monument of Love Church needs teams of 5-10 youth to do VBS, activities, arts, and crafts for 2 weeks.
Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

Project #: 111
Dates: Open
Location: Memphis
Description: BYBC
New Song Church needs teams of 10 or more youth to do BYBCs in public housing community.
Contact: Peggy Barkley, (901) 521-6868

Miscellaneous

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

Project #: 115
Dates: September - April
Location: Memphis
Description: Tutorial Ministry
Brinkley Heights Alliance needs individuals (youth-high school/adults) to tutor grade school children on Thursdays for 2 hours.
Contact: Sam Wilson, (901) 458-0617

Chapel Hill church celebrates 125th anniversary with pilgrimage

For Baptist and Reflector

CHAPEL HILL — Smyrna Church here celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 28.

As part of its observance, the members and visitors traveled about three miles to visit the church's former site which is now being used by an African-American congregation. The building was opened by the current congregation to allow the celebrants to hold an

afternoon music service there. The former church building was used from 1872-1968.

About 400 gathered for the morning worship service, during which they heard Ellis Mealer, chairman of the anniversary committee, share highlights of the church's history.

In 1873 the members paid its first pastor an annual salary of \$150, he noted.

Mealer concluded by speaking of the future — the Sunday following the anniversary observance, the church began holding two Sunday morning

worship services.

Honored during the celebration was Sadie Adgent, for the longest number of years of membership, 63 years. Adgent was a member of the anniversary committee and was compiler of the church's history.

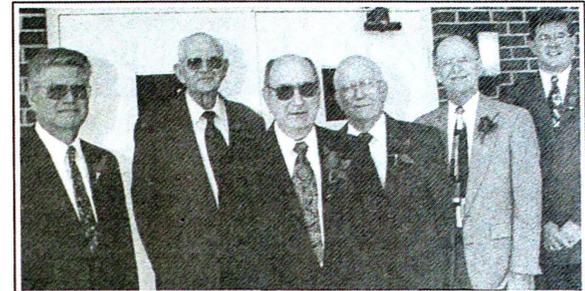
Recognized for the shortest length of membership was Livingston Tomlin.

James P. Craigmyle, pastor from 1963-64 and former foreign missionary, told the crowd, "God doesn't bless us except to be a blessing." Craigmyle is a pastor in Williamstown, Ky.

The congregation also watched a time capsule be assembled with memorabilia from the occasion. *B&R*



MEMBERS of the anniversary committee pause in front of the church's former building during the activities. They include, from left, Sadie Adgent, Ellis Mealer Jr., Diane Curtis, Norman Henson, and Becky Bivens.



SPECIAL GUESTS included, from left, James P. Craigmyle, former pastor from Williamstown, Ky.; Robert Mizell of Hernando, Miss., retired director of missions, New Duck River Association; James Shumate, former pastor from Pine Hill, Ala.; Robert Sanders, former pastor from Knoxville; Harold Smith, director of missions, New Duck River Association; and Tim McGehee, pastor.

Director of Missions

Needed for new association in mid-delta of Mississippi. Resumes are being accepted until Dec. 31, 1997. People skills and self-starting a must. This association will consist of 40 churches and missions. Please respond to: Chairman, DOM Search Committee, 2172 Hiway 446, Skene, MS 38730.

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SEEKS DOM: Resumes are being received until Nov. 1 for director of missions for Watauga Association of Baptists. The association serves 57 churches in Carter and Johnson counties. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, 3871 Highway 19E, Elizabethton, Tenn., 37643-8925.

POSITION: North Knoxville Church seeks full-time Youth/Music and Activities Director. Salary negotiable. Send resume to church office, attn. Personnel Committee, 217 W. Oldham Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917.

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- Previous volunteer or paid children's ministerial experience preferred
- Resumes must be received no later than Nov. 3. Mail to: Children's Minister Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, 300 N. Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37615

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churches

■ **West End Church, Columbia**, will hold revival Nov. 2-5. Bob Norman of Franklin, retired pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin, will speak and Frank Marshall will lead the music.

■ **Elkton Church, Elkton**, held a tent revival Oct. 8-14, which resulted in spiritual renewal and 11 people making professions of faith. Johnnie Hall of Nashville, retired from Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, spoke.

■ A "Basic Seminar" led by Bill Gothard of the Institute in Basic Life Principles, Oak Brook, Ill., will be hosted by **Highland Church, Pulaski**, Nov. 17-22. For more information, contact David Cullison, pastor, at (615) 363-5468.

■ **First Church, Livingston**, will hold revival Oct. 26-30. Jerry King, former employee of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, will speak and Rush Harrison will lead the music.

■ **Fellowship Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Oct. 26-30. Ron Stewart, pas-

tor, Grace Church, Karns, will speak.

the schools

■ **The Belmont University Auxiliary fall luncheon/book and craft fair** will be Nov. 6 in the school's Neely Dining Room. Richard Speight, author and writer-in-residence, will speak. The book and craft fair will be 10-11 a.m. and 1-7 p.m. on Nov. 6 and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Oct. 7. Proceeds go toward student scholarships at Belmont. For more information, call (615) 292-5091.

associations

■ **Knox County Association** will hold a Senior Adult Thanksgiving Celebration Oct. 30 at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. For more information, call (423) 693-9097.

leaders

■ **Guaranda Drive Church, Johnson City**, has called **Brett A. Maragni** as pastor, effective Oct. 26. Formerly he was pastor of First Church, Wick-



ACTEENS recognized at Boiling Springs Church, Cookeville, were, from left, Meghan Brock, Rebecca Davison, Clora Horn, Amanda Horn, and Hollie Parrett. The five Acteens achieved the Queen level in the Acteen advancement program. The Oct. 5 recognition was the first honoring Acteens at the church.

liffe, Ky. Maragni is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, has called **Roger Hagan** as minister of education and **Todd Maino** as minister of youth.

■ **Marc Drake** has been called as pastor of Calvary Church, Wilmington, N.C., effective Oct. 12. Drake served as a pastor in Tennessee for 16 years. He led Ridgecrest Church, Memphis, Everett Hills Church, Maryville; First Church, Gallatin; and Berean

Church, Gallatin.

■ **Bill Cannady**, a retired minister of music, has returned to Nashville and is interested in serving in interim, supply, and part-time positions. Cannady was minister of music at Crieveewood Church, Nashville, from 1977-80, before serving churches in California and Georgia for a total of 38 years. He can be reached at (615) 781-8467.

■ **North Knoxville Church, Knoxville**, has called **David Walker** as interim pastor.

■ **Thorn Grove Church, Strawberry Plains**, has called



Tim Tatum as pastor. Previously he was associate pastor, Belmont Heights Church, Knoxville.

death

■ **Billy Gene (Bill) Turner**, 65, retired pastor of Wheelerton Church, Dellrose, died Oct. 8. Turner, who had preached for 37 years, owned the Turner Roofing Company in Pulaski and founded The Gospelen Quartet of Pulaski. He also was pastor of Minnow Branch Church, Pulaski, and Mt. Lebanon Church, Lewisburg.

people

■ **West Union Church, Dresden**, recently recognized **Edith Garner** for 10 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Paris church sponsors motorcross event

For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — A motorcross ministry has developed out of Birds Creek Church here in response to the Tennessee State Arenacross Championship Series Races for motorcycles and four-wheelers held at the Henry County Fairgrounds in Paris. The competition has been held during September and October.

Formed with several other groups including a local Christian motorcycle group, the ministry has been distributing Bibles and other material to those attending the races.

On the final night of the races, the ministry will hold a Youth Night at the Races Oct. 25 and a rally at the church Oct. 26.

Following the competition, Steve Wise will speak to youth. Wise, a former national Mo-

torcross champion and founder of Christ Ministries of McAllen, Texas, will give his testimony. It will be held from 5-11 p.m.

Youth can attend free of charge with advance tickets available from Suzuki of Paris at (901) 642-0511.

Also an Oct. 26 rally for motorcyclists, four-wheeler operators, and youth led by Wise will be held from 1-5 p.m. The rally will feature speakers giving their testimonies, music, and food.

Chris Grissom, a member of Birds Creek Church and owner of Suzuki of Paris, said, "bring your youth and show them that Christ is real and active in our lives, including our hobbies and past times."

For more information, call Chris Grissom at (901) 642-0511 or 642-3078. *B&R*

Oak Ridge church serves in S.C.

For Baptist and Reflector

OAK RIDGE — Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, sent a youth group to help a church in South Carolina last summer, and it was their first missions trip.

John Davis, Calvary's youth minister, enlisted Larry Rinderer and Charlotte Benson to assist, along with 13 youth who volunteered for the missions effort with Lakeview Church, Greenwood, S.C.

The team helped with Vacation Bible School each evening, after having a time of recreation, craft work, and devo-

tional time in the mornings.

They provided recreation, testimonies, devotions, skits, music, and community visitation.

The Calvary team also helped Lakeview Church with "odd jobs" around the church, such as moving rocks, mowing and trimming, and sorting cans for recycling.

The team stayed at a children's home near the church. The church provided one meal each day during the week of work.

The team already has decided they are ready for a missions trip next summer. ■

Morristown area churches hold Halloween-season event



For Baptist and Reflector

MORRISTOWN — Fourteen churches in the Morristown area are sponsoring the second annual Great Autumn Gig Night or GAG Nite, as it has become known, Oct. 31.

About 1,000 children attended last year and three children were saved in response to the event, reported Helen King, a member of First Church, Morristown, and one

of the originators of the event. The free festival is an alternative to normal Halloween activities.

Held at Lincoln Heights Middle School, activities include games, rides, music, skits, clowns, food, and prizes, reported Peggy Brewer another leader of First Church.

Preschoolers through children in the fifth grade are encouraged to come with parents and wear non-scary costumes.

The festival idea was developed by King, Brewer, and Heather Beier, another member of the Morristown church.

The women got permission from the school's board to hold the event.

Ministry efforts include tracts about the churches and Halloween which are given to each child in gift bags. Other ministry activities include dramatic skits and one-on-one witnessing.

Baptist churches supporting the festival in addition to First Church, Morristown, are all located in Morristown and include Alpha Church, Bethel Church on Bethel Road, Buffalo Trail Church, Grace Church, and Montvue Church. *B&R*



CALVARY CHURCH youth missions team included, from left, back row, Larry Rinderer, Charlotte Benson, Gary Carmichael, Chris Bumbalough, Frank Moore, Julie Krug, John Davis, and Jodi Gouge; front row, Tallie Bumbalough, Nathan Benson, Brooklyn Roberts, Kirk Gouge, Matt Tedford, Beth Russell, Helen Alexander, and Missy O'Brien.

Be sharers

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — II Corinthians 9:6-15

In chapters eight and nine Paul uses the example of the generosity of the churches of Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) to enforce his appeal to the believers at Corinth. Paul's goal was to take an offering to the believers in Judea. Why did Paul want to take such an offering? It could have been a compassionate response to those who were in need, or, he hoped it would help unite the Jewish and Gentile believers. Whatever the reason, it is worthy to note when Paul arrived in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17ff), Luke records no mention of the offering. Paul had labored throughout Asia Minor taking an offering for the brothers and sisters in Judea, but when Paul arrived in Jerusalem the brethren were upset about his preaching.

There are no disinterested people when it comes to money. Every pastor has a healthy interest in the giving of his congregation. The stubs in our checkbook will say a lot about the things, people, and causes we are interested in. Here Paul gives some good reasons for giving.

Your giving will bless others. Paul tells the believers at Corinth "You have done a good job of promising to give. I have used you as an example to the churches of Macedonia. I'm depending on you to keep your promises." Gifts will encourage others.

Your giving will bless you. Paul sets forth some concepts of giving that will become evident as we give. These concepts must be experienced if they are to be enjoyed: (1) The promise of a return. You reap what you sow. Down on the farm the size of the harvest is always proportional to the amount of seed that is sown. There are always some uncertain items in farming, but all things being equal, there is a promise of a good return. This concept also applies to the work of God's kingdom. You get back what you put in.

(2) The importance of motive. The farmer is not interested in motives. In Christian giving the motive is crucial. Paul talks about those who give grudgingly or reluctantly, and those who give of necessity or under compulsion. God can use gifts given this way, but Paul says God loves a cheerful giver. The word translated "cheerful" gives us our English word "hilarious." The dictionary defines "hilarious" as someone who is marked by boisterous merriment. What a marvelous word to describe a giver to God's kingdom.

(3) The certainty of an immediate result. The believers in Corinth were sowing seed (resources). God will bless that gift with a rich harvest. It takes time for a harvest to come on the farm, but in God's kingdom the results are both immediate and long term.

There is reward for generous giving. There is an overflow of blessing. Generous Christian giving will bring about a great harvest of "Thanksgiving to God." To put it simply, generosity is a testimony to the power of God. The power of God is able to save. The power of the Gospel is also able to provide and sustain. We say we believe God in Christ can save us from our sins. Can we not also say that we believe God will bless those who give generously?

There is a final word of praise. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable, indescribable, inexpressible gift. God's gift is his son, the Lord Jesus, who generously gave himself for us. Volumes have been written trying to describe Jesus. He has never been adequately described. God's gift is beyond words to describe. Generous giving is an opportunity to get in on what God is doing and can do. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

Prayer is answered

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Daniel 9:3-6, 18-23

The fall of Babylon triggered in Daniel's mind a prophecy from Jeremiah. The prophecy dealt with 70 years of desolation upon Jerusalem. At the end of the 70 years, Babylon would be punished and Jerusalem would be restored. Since the judgment against Babylon had already taken place, Daniel appealed to God to fulfill the rest of his promise. His prayer has instructions for us as we live as God's covenant people in need of renewal.

Daniel's attitudes — v. 3

Daniel's first attitude was to look to God. This literally reads, "I gave my face." In other words, he would look to God in prayer until God answered him.

Another attitude of Daniel's was to seek the Lord in "prayer and supplications." The word "prayer" can mean praise and the word "supplications" was used of petitions appealing for God's grace and help.

Family Bible Lesson

A third attitude was Daniel's fasting which symbolized his deep concern to the Lord. Also, fasting helped Daniel to concentrate on his prayers.

Finally, verse three reveals to us Daniel's humility as he put on sackcloth and ashes. One theologian said, "To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

Daniel's acknowledgements — vv. 4-6

Confession is acknowledgement. The positive side of his confession was exalting and adoring God. Verse four stands as Daniel's acknowledgement of God's greatness,

love, and faithfulness. Too often we narrow our concept of confession to the confession of sin. A greater usage of confession is acknowledging the Lord's personal attributes.

The negative side of Daniel's confession was the acknowledgement of his sins and the sins of the people of God. Verse five contains a list of particular sins of which they were guilty, while verse six indicates God's attempt to turn the people back to himself. However, they sinned even more by not listening to God's spokesmen.

Daniel's aim — vv. 18-19

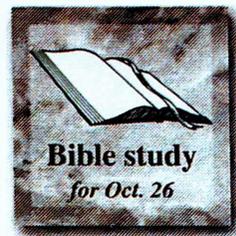
In these verses, Daniel has two aims. First, he appealed to God to answer his prayer, not based on the merits of his people, but based on God's compassion or great mercies.

Second, Daniel appealed to God to answer his prayer for God's own sake, for the glory of God's name. Both of these aims should be ours each time we seek God in prayer.

God's answer — vv. 20-23

It is interesting that Daniel received an answer from God through Gabriel while he was still praying. However, note that verse 23 tells us that God had commanded the answer to be sent at "the beginning of your supplications." God would grant the understanding for which Daniel prayed.

A father watched his young son struggling with a certain matter. After a time, he asked the boy, "Are you using all your strength?" The boy responded, "Yes, sir, of course I am." The father gently said, "No, you're not; you haven't asked me to help." The next time we pray, let us keep in mind Daniel's attitudes, what he acknowledged, and his aim. His prayer certainly pleased God. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



Treating others unselfishly

By Michael Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 13:5-18

Abraham and Lot had been sojourning together for a while, and along the way they had acquired more wealth and more resources. A clash of needs, driven by a limited amount of room, had arisen. The Abraham Corporation and the Lot Corporation existed in close proximity, and the employees were fighting at the joint company picnic. The conflict over vital things like who gets the water and the grass had the potential to get worse. Abraham proposed an amicable separation. Both men made choices in this separation. It will be fruitful to contrast their choices.

Lot: Choosing selfishly. Abraham let Lot choose the area which he desired. Lot chose selfishly. In choosing selfishly, Lot was driven by faulty motivations.

First, Lot was motivated by the misguided quest for paradise. When Lot saw the Jordan River valley, he saw that it "was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord" (v. 10). To Lot, the land looked like Eden. Perhaps Lot had forgotten that Eden had also been a place where misguided ambition had led to sin and judgment. Perhaps Lot had forgotten that Adam and Eve had been expelled from the garden and the entrance to it had been blocked. Christians know that true paradise will come only

Explore the Bible Lesson

when we are in the presence of God in heaven. Earthly "paradise," insofar as there can be such a reality, is found in sound divine-human and human-human relationships.

Second, Lot was motivated by the quest for gain. The Jordan valley also seemed to Lot "like the land of Egypt." Abraham and Lot had just spent time in Egypt, and they had seen that the Nile River area was very fertile. Moreover, Abraham had gotten rich in Egypt, an acquisition of wealth in which Lot shared. Did he consider the fact that one of the reasons they had prospered in Egypt was that Abraham had not told the truth about his relationship with Sarah? When the quest for gain leads to the compromising of principles, problems follow.

In choosing selfishly, Lot was not mindful of the consequences. Lot "moved his tent as far as Sodom." Future chapters tell us the tragic consequences of Lot's choice. He was not only unmindful of the effect his choice would have on Abraham, but also of the effect it would have on his own family.

Abraham: Choosing unselfishly. Abraham offers an excellent model of how a Christian should relate to another in a time of conflict. First, he

operated from a stance of submission rather than power. Abraham had the power in this scenario because he was the head of the family. He chose not to exercise that power, but rather to allow his subordinate to make the choice.

Second, Abraham focused on the larger picture. God had promised Abraham the land but now Lot had chosen the seemingly better part of it. Following Lot's separation from Abraham, the Lord reaffirmed the promise to Abraham. He was able to see the long-term promises and blessings of God are not compromised by the short-term losses that are sometimes experienced by the people of God.

Third, Abraham continued to follow God's leadership. Like Lot, Abraham moved his tent, but unlike Lot, he moved his tent in obedience to God. His movement was an act of faith in response to the promises of God, and his movement culminated in the worship of God.

Fourth, Abraham continued to be concerned for Lot, despite Lot's having wronged him. Christians are called to love our enemies and to pray for those who mistreat us. Abraham models such unselfishness in his rescue of Lot in chapter 14 and also when he asks the Lord to spare Sodom if only a few righteous ones are found there. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.



Crusade sees 1,300 decisions for Jesus Christ

Baptist Press

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — When the Greater Horry County Rick Gage Crusade ended recently, more than 1,300 people had made decisions for Christ, including 700 first-time professions of faith.

"The purpose of this crusade was to bring everyone in Horry County together ... to cross all denominational, racial, political, and geographical lines," said Wayne Brown, general chairman for the crusade and pastor of First Church, Myrtle Beach.

Planning for the interdenominational event began more than a year ago and it evidently paid off as more than 19,000 people packed Coastal Carolina's Wheelwright Stadium for the four-day event. ■

SWBTS avoids faculty trial

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary apparently has avoided a faculty trial by coming to terms with a professor

removed from his classroom for criticizing seminary administrators.

Jeff Pool, 45, an assistant professor of systematic theology, will not return to the classroom, but he will receive salary and benefits through the current academic year, which ends next July 31.

Pool charged the seminary with "academic censorship."

On the advice of the seminary's attorney, Tommy Lea, dean of the seminary's School of Theology, limited his response to a prepared statement.

The statement noted personnel matters "be handled confidentially. The administration has acted in the best interests of the seminary and Dr. Pool in accordance with the seminary's policies and procedures."

The statement praised Pool as a "capable scholar," but noted "the parties agree that Dr. Pool should exercise his teaching ministry in another institutional setting." ■

SBCV holds first annual meeting

Baptist Press

ROANOKE, Va. — In the first annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, 157 churches were approved for affiliation with the newest Southern Baptist-related state convention.

The meeting was attended by 462 voting messengers.

A total of 108 churches were received for "unique" affiliation which means they have no relationship with the older Baptist General Association of Virginia. Among those churches

theory at the Institute of Christian Studies in Toronto.

While various groups and individuals have stepped to the foreground in this global struggle, Marshall notes "the overall record of the church is abysmal."

"Despite a plethora of TV programs, radio stations, and magazines, despite the presence of the tens of thousands of workers overseas involved in missions, education, and relief and development, despite networks of contacts worldwide and a vast array of internetworked agencies, the situation of Christians is passed by silently," he writes. Marshall insists the churches' ignorance of the issue has been fed by the silence on the part of secular institutions.

"If we turn to secular news outlets, to academics, to policy analysts, to international relations scholars, to political activists in search of news about the persecution of Christians,

we encounter a deafening silence," he writes.

A secular myopia trivializes the role of religion in the world, Marshall suggests.

A movement is growing to heed the cries of the martyrs, sparked by a call to prayer for persecuted Christians last year from the World Evangelical Fellowship, and continuing this year.

The 1997 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is a resounding call to "shatter the silence," said Steve Haas, the coordinator of the global effort. This year's season of understanding, prayer, and action began Sept. 28 and culminates in a day of prayer to be marked Nov. 16 in 115 countries and more than 50,000 churches.

Southern Baptists are reaching across denominational lines to link arms with other believers in raising a unified voice for the fate of the persecuted Christians around the world.

SBC missionaries brace for El Nino effect

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Severe disruptions to normal weather patterns of countries around the Pacific Ocean threaten to add to the millions who are facing famine conditions this year.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is preparing contingency plans for the expected effects of El Nino, the Pacific warming of water off the western coast of South America which causes dramatic shifts in weather patterns.

"If this thing is anything like the predictions, in many areas there will be additional needs for hunger relief," reported Bill Cashion, human needs consultant with the IMB.

In Honduras, a drought has virtually eliminated any hope of a harvest for many farmers.

On the island of New Guinea, 250 persons are reported to have died due to starvation and cholera since mid-August, according to

news reports.

Also, thick clouds of smoke from brush fires make breathing difficult in New Guinea and other Pacific nations.

While forecasts as to El Nino's consequences vary, most forecasters concur that the moderate El Nino conditions will persist through next summer. Some predictors expect this El Nino to be considerably worse than those in past years. From famine to flooding, this upheaval in global weather patterns promises to thrust many of the world's poor into increasingly desperate need.

Said Cashion, "The effects already being felt from El Nino coupled with the terrible famine in North Korea could easily result in a need for at least \$2 million to \$3 million in additional hunger funds for Southern Baptists to respond to these catastrophes."

Hunger ministries sponsored by Southern Baptists are funded through special gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. ■

was Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, where Jerry Falwell is pastor. Forty-nine churches were granted "dual" affiliation which means they still have a relationship with the BGA.

Messengers approved a \$1.66 million budget for the coming year with 50 percent forwarded to SBC Cooperative Program causes. ■

Cyclists pedal, witness to PK rally

Baptist Press

PONTE VEDRA, Fla. — Eight men recorded "1,400 miles of prayer and peddling" in cycling to the nation's capital for the Oct. 4 Promise Keepers rally.

"Team PK" began their

nine-day journey to Washington Sept. 25, covering about 150 miles a day by bicycle. The eight men from the Tampa Bay area, five of them Baptists, shared the Gospel with cyclists, campers, truck drivers, and store clerks along the way at restaurants and stop lights. As a result, six people made professions of faith in Christ and 5,000 Gospel tracts were distributed.

The team wore Promise Keepers jerseys and helmets made especially for the event. Corporate sponsors provided equipment and supplies, while churches provided prayer support.

Members of First Church, Seminole, donated funds to Florida's Maguire State Mission Offering for every mile the riders traveled, raising more than \$1,500. ■

BWA's Denton Lotz welcomes study

Associated Baptist Press

McLEAN, Va. — Baptist World Alliance head Denton Lotz said Oct. 9 he plans to cooperate with a special committee named to study the Southern Baptist Convention's relationship to the organization of world-wide Baptists.

Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, said he learned of the study committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September while traveling in Croatia.

"We always welcome every opportunity to discuss and share with our member bodies the great things the Lord is doing through our Baptist people worldwide," Lotz said. ■

Day of prayer focuses on persecuted believers

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The plague of Christian persecution affects more than 200 million people, with an additional 400 million believers facing discrimination and legal impediments, writes Paul Marshall in his 1997 book, *Their Blood Cries Out*.

Despite the intensity of suffering in 60 countries, with many believers paying the ultimate price for their faith — persecution to the point of death — Christians in America have not heard the cry of their persecuted brethren around the world, according to Marshall; the thought of physical sacrifice for the faith is foreign to most in the church in America.

"The vast body of Christians in the United States, along with their major organizations, have indeed abdicated their responsibility to deal with the persecution of Christians," writes Marshall, senior fellow in political