

REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

November 12, 1997

this week's news

- ▶ International Mission Board affirms missions approach in China. — Page 2
- ▶ NAMB names executive vice president, inaugurates Reccord. — Page 3
- ▶ Holston Baptists minister in Romania. — Page 4
- ▶ 94-year-old woman doesn't let age hinder her church work. — Page 7
- ▶ Growth soars at First Church, Smyrna. — Page 13
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist pastor serves as chairman of world's largest missionary-sending agency. — Page 15
- ▶ Anderson County youth ministers cooperate to reach teenagers in their area for Christ. — Page 16

For Youth Evangelism Conference

Committee responds to Opryland changes

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Major changes announced for Opryland theme park have caused Tennessee youth evangelism leaders to revamp their plans for the 1998 Youth Evangelism Conference, slated for March 6-7.

For the past two years, Opryland has been rented by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries for the youth attending the annual two-day event, called Youth Reach. The amusement park has been transformed to offer Saturday activities for the about 30,000 youth.

The TBC office was notified recently that Opryland wouldn't renew the contract which would have allowed a similar 1998 schedule in light of renovation of Opryland into Opry Mills, a shopping mall.

To respond, a committee of 15 youth

workers and other leaders from across the state met Oct. 30 and adopted a tentative plan, which they all agree is a good one if approval can be obtained from state and city officials.

Saturday activities may include a march from several locations in the city including Vanderbilt Gym, the site of the annual Friday rallies, to the state capitol. A prayer time may be conducted there for government leaders. Then the youth may move down to the nearby bicentennial mall to enjoy concerts in its amphitheater, prayer times, and lunch, reported Bruce Edwards of TBC Executive Board ministries and a leader of the committee. Youth will wear T-shirts, designating them as Youth Reach '98 marchers, he added.

Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Association, has been enlisted to help, said Edwards. Freedman has helped organize an interdenominational

march in Nashville for several years.

In addition, Paul Durham, pastor, Radnor Church, Nashville, who is chairman of metro government's Traffic and Parking Commission, and Bill Bates, TBC legislative consultant, have agreed to help make plans.

Ken Weathersby, TBC evangelism specialist, said Tennessee Baptists can help the process by waiting patiently as work continues and by being flexible, adding that whatever plans are made, they will be done with prayer. Friday plans will be similar to past years, including an evangelistic rally at Vanderbilt Gym and Personal Witnessing Conferences for small groups at area churches.

The committee will meet again Dec. 1 to make further plans. **B&R**



WEATHERSBY

SBC, BWA leaders hold 'candid' discussion in Nashville

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Members of a special study committee of Southern Baptist Convention leaders met with two Baptist World Alliance officials Oct. 29 in a "candid" discussion and agreed to meet early in 1998.

The study committee, requested by SBC President Tom Elliff in September was asked to examine "objectives, doctrinal positions, and operational procedures of BWA, a fellow-

ship of 191 Baptist unions and conventions comprising a membership of more than 42 million baptized believers and a community of more than 100 million Baptists worldwide.

Elliff told the SBC Executive Committee in September that "recently ... questions have arisen regarding perceived changes in the mission, focus, and doctrinal positions of the BWA" in asking the Executive Committee chairman, James Merritt, to appoint an ad hoc study committee.

The committee's purpose is to "assess the manner in which we (SBC) should support their (BWA) work in the coming years," Elliff said. The current SBC Program Allocation Budget calls for the SBC to give BWA \$417,838 for 1997-98, which is more than one-third of the BWA total budget.

The study committee met with BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil.

It was "a very informative" meeting, especially for Execu-

tive Committee members on the committee, said Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president. The discussion was "candid and established a good basis for further dialogue," he said.

Lotz told Baptist Press, "We had frank and honest discussions and were pleased with the cordial spirit in which the discussions took place. Dr. Fanini has invited the special committee to BWA headquarters for continuing the dialogue on issues of concern. ■"

TBC coverage set for next week

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For Baptists who could not attend the annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson — don't worry, you'll get the news.

The three journalists from the *Baptist and Reflector* will be on hand to cover the meeting.

News reports, with photos, will be carried in next week's edition.

"We have the concern of our readers — as well as the messengers," said *B&R* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen.

"Tennessee Baptists depend on us for professional news coverage, along with the hometown approach. We will provide the coverage that our readers want and need."

Along with Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor, and Connie Davis, assistant editor, will cover the convention and other meetings in Jackson.

The sessions began Tuesday morning and conclude Wednesday night, Nov. 12.

Extra copies of this week's issue have been made available to messengers. Messengers who do not currently subscribe are encouraged to become a part of the *B&R* family. Subscription information can be found on page 20. **B&R**



Union elects new officers

During the fall meeting of Union Association at First Church, Spencer, messengers elected the following officers. From left, Randy Garrell, pastor, Hill Road Church, moderator; Jamie Jared, association office secretary, clerk/treasurer; and Tony Wilson, pastor, Gum Springs Church, assistant moderator. Ray Maynard, right, is director of missions.

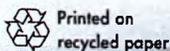
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Southern Baptists affirm multi-track approach in China

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND— The Southern Baptist International Mission Board has affirmed its commitment to a multi-channel approach to service and ministry in China in lieu of an exclusive approach as requested by the China Christian Council.

"Southern Baptists love the people of China, and the International Mission Board wants to facilitate Christians responding to requests for teachers, consultants, and other personnel through any open opportunity to do so," said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

Rankin expressed regret that China's officially recognized Protestant church council, known as the China Christian Council, is unhappy about its relationship with the board over the multi-track approach.

Han Wenzao, head of the China Christian Council,

which is affiliated with the World Council of Churches, charged that the International Mission Board is "secretly" sending "church workers from abroad ... to carry out missionary work in China" without consulting the council. He leveled the accusation in an open letter to "friends of the church in China," dated Nov. 3 and posted on the Internet home page of Amity News Service, the council's communication arm.

The mission board's China strategy and policy have been in place for a decade and haven't changed recently, said Don Kammerdiener, IMB executive vice president. Kammerdiener was the board's interim president between the terms of former President Keith Parks and Rankin. The current multi-track approach (of working with the official CCC as well as through other channels) was instituted under Parks' leadership.

"Through the years we

struggled with this (multi-track approach) with the China Christian Council," Parks told Robert Dilday of the Virginia Baptist *Religious Herald* newspaper. "I tried to make concessions (to the CCC), but we never were able to (work it out)."

Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations, said, "All personnel (in China) sponsored by the IMB are serving legally, with the full knowledge and approval of entities of the Chinese government.

"We feel it is appropriate to encourage and even sponsor Christians to fill positions open to Americans."

In recent years the IMB has worked through various channels with the China Christian Council, its Amity Foundation service agency, the official Chinese Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement and many other Chinese institutions. Eight career Southern Baptist workers currently serve in as-

signments channeled through the council or the Amity Foundation.

Since the early days of renewing foreign contacts with China in the 1980s, Southern Baptists have developed contacts and working relationships with a wide range of public Chinese institutions, including not only the official Christian bodies but secular universities, colleges, hospitals, businesses, and social service agencies as well as local and provincial government officials.

"We look forward to a continuing dialogue with the China Christian Council and officials of the Amity Foundation to clarify some of the misunderstanding and perceptions which have been communicated publicly," Rankin said.

"We have many years of involvement with the church in China and desire to see the Chinese Christian church grow and prosper to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." ■

Annuity Board trustees increase benefits

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to give a 10 percent permanent increase in January 1998 to most of the 28,000 retirees in pay status in December 1997, during their Nov. 3-4 meeting in Dallas.

Trustees also voted to increase Adopt An Annuitant supplementary benefits by 50 percent, to \$75 a month. People on the board's relief roll also will receive 10 percent increases in their checks at the end of January.

Treasurer William C. Lee reported on contributions and earnings through the third quarter, saying total assets reached \$6.41 billion, up 13.1 percent from \$5.67 billion at the beginning of the year.

Lee reported net income of \$785 million in the first nine months, compared to \$412 million for the same period in 1996. Participant contributions were \$211 million, an increase of 15.3 percent over the first nine months of 1996. Benefit payments and withdrawals reached \$239 million. The treasurer noted increased missions giving by Southern Baptists caused the Annuity Board to receive an unscheduled \$37,875 in September and October, representing program advance funds that exceeded the 1996-97 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget. All this money will go for relief.

The trustee administrative policy committee, chaired by Joseph A. Mack of South Carolina, recommended, and trustees adopted, a 1998 operating budget of \$44.3 million, an increase of slightly more than 4 percent over the 1997 spending plan. The Annuity Board receives no Cooperative Program funds for operations, but pays all expenses from charges against assets.

Trustee chairman Timothy E. Head of South Carolina thanked God and praised executive personnel for the success of investments that made possible the largest benefit increase since 1992.

O.S. Hawkins, having just completed his first month as Annuity Board president, said, "This

is what we are about — blessing the lives of the servants of God. Our investment success will always be channeled to the annuitants who have entrusted their funds to our plans. Every annuitant will have good places to spend the increased income."

Hawkins also said, "I am particularly pleased we have been able to increase relief and Adopt An Annuitant benefits. These are the people who need it the most. More than half the people on relief receive no regular annuity benefit because they were never enrolled in the Church Annuity Plan. The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program is the foundation of our relief ministry, and every cent we receive from the Cooperative Program goes to someone in desperate need. Our success with raising money through the endowment department lets us supplement these convention receipts and help more people."

The Adopt An Annuitant benefit, which has been \$50 a month since the program was started in 1981, will now provide \$75 a month to nearly 2,800 couples or individuals with low monthly benefits.

In another earnings-related matter, trustees approved extending a special billing credit to state conventions through the year 2001. The program, established Jan. 1, 1995, waives state convention billing costs for the Church Annuity Plan's protection section, a part of the plan that provides a survivor benefit and supplemental disability benefit to eligible participants.

There is no cost to the participant or church for the benefits that range from \$100,000 for participants age 35 and younger to \$10,000 in survivor benefits for participants age 71 and older. A supplemental disability benefit of \$400 per month is paid to eligible participants. Success in investments and the favorable mortality experience of participants has resulted in a surplus in the fund.

During the trustees' Monday evening dinner, they honored Paul W. Powell who served as president of the Annuity Board from March 1990 until his retirement in September. ■

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. 27 and we encourage readers to write about an event or person that makes Thanksgiving meaningful for you. The letters must not exceed 150 words, and must be received in our office by Nov. 17. ■ — Editor

Board avoids rate increase

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Comprehensive medical plan rates in the Personal Security Program offered by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, will enter 1998 without a rate increase. There has been only one rate increase for the plan since 1992.

Although there will be no general rate increase, people who move, add a dependent, or cross an age bracket may experience a monthly rate increase. The PSP is an individually underwritten, age-rate, and geographically specific plan that seeks to be price competitive with plans of similar benefits.

Managed care plans may vary in rate structures. ■

NAMB names executive vice president, cooperation guidelines

By Martin King
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — In their first meeting since formation last June, trustees of the North American Mission Board on Nov. 5 unanimously elected an executive vice president, adopted guidelines for cooperation with non-Baptist entities, approved 16 new missionaries, and adopted the agency's first full year budget.

Randy D. Singer, a trial lawyer and business consultant from Chesapeake, Va., was named executive vice president. He will assume much of the day-to-day operational responsibilities presently performed by NAMB President Bob Reccord after the first of the year.



SINGER

Trustees also approved "Guidelines for Interdenominational Cooperation" that affirm agreement on essential theological truths as a foundation for any cooperation with non-Southern Baptist groups.

Acknowledging NAMB's commitment to several key statements on biblical inerrancy and theology, the document states cooperation in evangelism and missions will be done "only with groups who are self-described as evangelical: that is they adhere to a conversionist theology that all people must be born again by faith in Christ alone in order to enter the Kingdom of God; and that they uphold the Bible alone as the source of God's truth, and that salvation is by faith alone due to God's grace alone having Christ alone as its object."

A motion to change the nature of the statement from guidelines to policy was reject-

Reccord inaugurated as first NAMB president

Baptist Press

MARIETTA, Ga. — In an action that North American Mission Board employees and trustees are finding typical for their new president, Bob Reccord stopped his inaugural service to have prayer for two staff members.

"Nothing we do this evening will be more important than praying for one another," Reccord told more than 700 persons gathered Nov. 4 at Roswell Street Church to celebrate his installation as first president of Southern Baptists' newest mission agency. He then led in prayer for one staff member whose wife had died recently and another whose wife was diagnosed with cancer.

During his remarks, Reccord asked those in attendance to do two things for him.

"Please pray for me. I am the most inadequate of anyone to be in the role and only God can help us do what needs to be done.

"Secondly, give me the grace to fail. Some decisions I make will be wrong, but if we are going to make a difference in North America for Jesus Christ, we must find out what doesn't work in order to implement what does work."

NAMB was organized last June under the SBC restructuring plan. It combined the former Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission. ■

ed by a large margin.

Also adopted was a \$111.6 million budget. Created five months ago NAMB has been operating on a partial year, transitional budget. The new budget anticipates 30 percent of agency revenues coming

from the SBC Cooperative Program, 38 percent from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, 9 percent from both church loans and product sales, 6 percent from prior year's revenue, and 8 percent from other sources.

In addition to approving the addition of 16 new missionaries, trustees also endorsed 19 new chaplains, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist chaplains serving across the country and around the world to 2,739. ■

Nashville Baptist offers suggestions

Teens and body piercing: What's a parent to do?



By Sarah Zimmerman
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Parents and youth ministers who would rather their teenagers not yield to the body piercing fad are best armed with one question: Why?

"My oldest son wanted an earring, and I said, 'Why?'" recalled Ken Freeman, San Antonio, Texas-based youth evangelist. "I said when you can give me a good reason, we'll talk about it."

Freeman, 45, has a cross shaved in the hair on the back of his head, which he does as a means of witness. His ministry includes speaking in public schools in cities where he is leading evangelistic rallies. While he isn't permitted to talk about Jesus Christ in the schools, students "invariably ask me, 'What's with the cross on the back of your head?' I invite them to come

tonight (to an evangelistic meeting) and hear the rest of my story and more about the cross."

Freeman reminded young people considering body piercing they will have to live with the message it sends. "My cross symbolizes what I live for," Freeman said. "What does an earring stand for?"

Tony Rankin, a former youth minister for 13 years, said the issue of body piercing is raised about once a week in his practice as a clinical therapist in Nashville.

Rankin, a member of First Church here, agreed with the importance of parents understanding why their child wants to pierce an eyebrow or their naval. "Ask, 'What is my son or daughter trying to prove?' and deal with some of those issues," he said.

Be prepared, however, for teenagers' rationale to be "everybody's doing it." Adults may never hear an explanation they find reasonable.

"I have good friends and I know great, godly young people who wear earrings, and I don't know why," Freeman said.

In addition to asking youth why they want to pierce their bodies, parents who are against it need to examine the rationale for their opposition, Freeman and Rankin said. Parents may think they will be embarrassed or humiliated if their children pierce various body parts, Rankin noted.

Body piercing is not always a statement of rebellion against parental authority, he said; some youth do it to shock others; some use it to express their uniqueness.

One thing parents and youth ministers should discuss with teenagers is the legitimate impact of first impressions, Rankin said. Help youth realize

others may judge them based on their jewelry, and that first impression cannot be recreated.

"Parents are still in control," he said. Parents who do not want their child to have a body part pierced can determine the consequences for that action and be prepared to follow through with the punishment if the child does it without parental permission, he said.

At the same time, "parents have got to decide what level of conflict they want to put up with," Rankin said. Determine what you want to accomplish with your child between now and the time he or she graduates from high school, he said, and decide whether an ultimatum on body piercing will help accomplish your goal.

Likewise, youth ministers need to carefully consider what they say about body piercing, Rankin advised. Realize a stand against body piercing may alienate some youth you are trying to reach, he said. ■



RANKIN



New DOM welcomed

Wilson County Association Director of Missions Michael Pearson attended his first annual meeting in October. Participating in the meeting, from left, front row, were Carl Price, LaGuarda Church, moderator; Arlie Pass, Shop Springs Church, treasurer; Pearson; Mike Shelby, Cedar Creek Church, clerk; Ken Trammel, Shop Springs Church, BSU director; back row, Peggy Trammel, Shop Springs Church, associational secretary; and Glenn Denton, Hillcrest Church, vice moderator.

Partnership Prayer Requests

November

- 11 — Pray for Faith Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, to become a house of prayer for all nations.
- 12 — Pray for a spiritual awakening in Costa Rica.
- 13 — Pray for the Michigan convention's staff retreat to be held Dec. 15-17.
- 14 — Pray for Brinkley Heights Church, Memphis, in the Mississippi River Ministry area. Its sanctuary has been declared structurally unsound.
- 15 — Praise God for the many blessings at Asian East Indian Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.
- 16 — Pray for Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who will do flood recovery in Poland.
- 17 — Pray for the 55 people who were saved during revivals held in September in Costa Rica. They were led by Tennesseans.
- 18 — Pray for Greater Hope Mission, Union City, a part of Mississippi River Ministry, which needs to finish their building.

Holston Baptists minister in Romania

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Seventeen volunteers from six Holston Association churches have returned from Romania after completing a church building in six working days.

When the team arrived in Isaccea, Romania, a foundation and walls of a new Baptist church in the village were already in place, according to Holston Association Director of Missions Tal Thompson.

The Holston team built trusses, put them in place, wired the building, installed ceiling, lights, and insulation, hung the doors and windows, painted, and put on the tile roof.

More than 300 local residents and Baptists from other cities attended the dedication service on the last Sunday the team was there, Thompson reported.

"It was great. There weren't too many dry eyes in the house," he said.



HOLSTON ASSOCIATION volunteers tile a roof on a church in Isaccea, Romania.

The volunteers worked in cooperation with International Mission Board personnel. Don and Joyce McCauley and John and Leta Haggard were missionary hosts.

The two men both had successful construction companies in the United States when the Lord called them to be "construction supervisors" in Romania, Thompson noted.

Their work with volunteer

groups to build a "chapel church" which will seat 100 or so people comfortably, he said.

The missionaries work with the Romanian Baptist Union to determine where churches will be constructed. There must be an existing congregation before building takes place, Thompson said.

While most of the team worked on the building, six or seven team members provided



PASTOR JIMMIE ROGERS, right, of Cherry Grove Church, and Jim Treadway of Clear Branch Church cut lumber for a new church in Romania.

Bible school for area children (usually about 40 each day).

Holston Association raised \$14,000 to cover the cost of building supplies, Thompson said. For that amount a complete church is built. The local congregation is responsible for installing a heating system and finishing the floor, Thompson added. ■



DOM learns what it means to be a minority

By Tal Thompson
For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — I was graphically reminded of what it was like to be in the minority during our recent mission trip to Romania. We were in Isaccea, just across from the Danube River from the Russian Ukraine in eastern Romania.

It was the first day on the work site of the new church we were to build. Some of our team were beginning work on the building while others of us were canvassing the neighborhood passing out candy and inviting area children to Bible school.

We observed a group of 35 to 40 people walking toward us. Two men wearing clerical garb led the way. My first thought was a group from the local Orthodox church was coming to welcome us to their town. I was wrong.

They did not come with arms opened wide. In fact, some looked angry. Soon the group had grown to 50 or 60. They were no longer a quiet party, but were rapidly taking on the characteristics of an angry mob, as they began shouting and calling us what we later learned were not-so-flattering names.

For the first time in my Christian life I was physically surrounded by a group that did not appreciate the work that I, along with other members of our team, were doing.

The first thing we did was to form a circle and pray. We then joined the Romanian pastor in dialogue with the two priests and their people. They had anger in their eyes, but as we shared with them through our interpreter, what had been a tense confrontation soon became reasonable conversation. We experienced a miracle from our Lord.

That episode led to a later meeting with the two priests and other town leaders where we were able to share the simple Gospel of Christ and where we were able to establish credibility for the little Baptist congregation that now has a beautiful new building in which to worship.

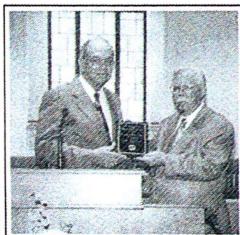
Instead of preparing for a fight, we prayed and allowed God to solve the problem. ■ — Thompson is director of missions, Holston Association.

Zion Hill celebrates 175th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

ENGLEWOOD — Zion Hill Church here recently celebrated its 175th anniversary.

Ansell T. Baker, retired pastor of First Church, Athens, brought the Sunday morning message. Zion Hill is the mother church of First Church, Athens.



ROY A. FOWLER, left, director of missions for McMinn-Meigs Association, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Zion Hill Pastor Jimmy L. McCarter.

Eileen Carver, church historian, shared about events from the church's past.

The church has not rested on its past accomplishments. Since 1992 the church has added a new sanctuary and Family Life Center and has seen 223 additions. This year the church had a record \$140,000-plus budget. ■

Nashville layman helps new CWJC project

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Nick Bushey got to know Diane Shepherd, director, Nashville Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC), last year when he volunteered his time and skills to set up a computer lab at Woodcock Baptist Center, Nashville. Shepherd was serving as a volunteer at the center at that time.

When Bushey, a member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, learned about CWJC from Shepherd, he agreed to help.

Bushey has worked with computer technology for about 15 years. He is employed by Agfa Corporation, an international business, as a repair technician for pre-press electronic equipment.

Computers also have been his hobby. He is known for serving as a computer consultant for friends in exchange for a meal.

In 1992 Woodmont members began to travel to the newly independent Republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union. Bushey became involved in a support role, helping volunteers find computers and managing e-mail links. Eventually, he traveled there himself, setting up a computer lab at a school near the Kazakh capital.

Creating the CWJC lab at Lockeland Church, Bushey realized, would require more personal commitment. CWJC



NICK BUSHEY has offered his talents, time, and money to help equip a computer lab for the Christian Women's Job Corps.

Nashville had "a vision in search of a budget," he described. Bushey decided to take \$1,000 of savings and spend a week of vacation to see what he could do.

With the scheduled startup of CWJC Nashville only weeks away, he haunted local computer resellers, scoured computer magazine ads, searched the Internet for bargains, and solicited donations. All to no avail.

"I went out every day looking for those computers, and every day I failed to find them. By the end of my vacation, I was out of time, out of options, and out of patience."

The five workstations which were needed simply weren't going to fit into a \$1,000 budget, he explained. More like \$5,000 was needed.

"On Saturday morning a week before the scheduled opening of the program, I said to God, 'I don't know what your plan is, but I sure hope you

have one.'" Then Bushey drove to Chattanooga to attend a football game with his father.

As he was preparing to return to Nashville, Bushey's father said to him, "You realize I owe you \$4,000." He explained that recently he had given that amount of money to Bushey's sister, and felt, to be even-handed, he should give his son the same amount.

"After the shock wore off," Bushey recalls, "I realized what that money was for. It was just what we needed, just when we needed it."

The lab is equipped with four 133 mhz Compaq Presarios and one 166 mhz IBM Aptiva, all running Windows 95, along with a color printer.

All the computers came with pre-installed productivity suite software, similar to what clients might find in a working office.

"Our goal is for these women to step out of the lab and into an office environment and be immediately useful," explained Bushey.

In addition, academic tutorial software has been purchased that will allow clients to learn new skills and prepare for GED tests.

"For the first time," remarked Bushey, "private individuals and groups like the CWJC have been invited to make a difference in the welfare process. The problems are many, but the opportunity is too great to miss." *B&R*

May grace be abundant, and generosity also

When Baptists gather for a meeting, you can't always forecast the outcome. But however the "outside" world perceives us, some good things will happen and some events will be worth remembering.

Sure, there will be some wrinkles in our fabric of life, wrinkles that only God's love, grace, and generosity can overcome.

As Tennessee Baptists assemble in Jackson this week for their 123rd annual session, we call upon that love, grace, and generosity.

Good reports abound. Facts and figures have never looked so excellent. Apparently Tennessee Baptists see the evidence of God at work, and are willing to "put their hands on the plow" in joining him.

As we focus on reaching Tennessee for Christ, touching the hearts of the thousands and thousands who don't know him, we have opportunity to lock in on his message and his plan for the world around us.

This week's convention can help messengers decide to act in Christ's name, and not to react because of the "wrinkles."

So there are several opportunities for positive action by convention messengers and Baptists at home even as this edition of the paper is being read.

(1) This week messengers will have opportunity to honor Christ by our attitudes and relationships. And the closer we are to him, the closer we will bond together

for his purposes.

(2) There are opportunities to elect, approve, pray, vote, affirm, speak well and hear well, and to participate in the convention process — and to support decisions made by convention action.

(3) Messengers have a great opportunity to prove wrong the forecasts of naysayers and the secular news media.

And perhaps the news media will learn that Tennessee Baptists are generous people every week of the year, doing good things as productive citizens. Perhaps they will understand that disagreements don't always mean war.

If we prove these things to them, maybe they will see Christian acts of care as being newsworthy.

(4) There will be many opportunities for Tennessee Baptists to improve relationships. No matter how good or bad, relationships are important — and in Jackson some bridges can be built.

(5) Those who aren't here as messengers have an obligation to pray for the reports, recommendations, singing, messages, and elections.

If all that's done in Jackson Nov. 11-12 is done in the name of Christ, and blessed with prayer, some victories will be won.

(6) There will be opportunity for reconciliation. Fractured friendships can be mended. Putting the will of God and the convention's welfare first is a giant leap toward healing wounds.

(7) You name it. The time is right, the season is ripe for major steps forward. We can approach the opportunities with glad surrender, or we can be carried forward kicking and screaming.

Probably none of us have ever witnessed the turn of a century — and none have helped usher in a third millennium.

We won't fuss about the significance of either event. They are merely dates on the calendar. The ways of the world will be the same on Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 — as they were on Jan. 1.

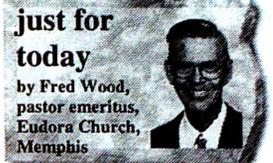
But we can be dynamos for Christ that will help set the world on fire with the flames of evangelism, missions, and ministry. We can prepare ourselves and our ministries to run, not walk, into the next century with power and authority.

Now this means we all have to sacrifice, and each knows what that personal sacrifice will be — don't fret about it, God will let you know.

Each Tennessee Baptist church, each individual, must decide whether ministries, missions, and evangelism are important enough to get our full attention.

As the world hurtles on in ignorance, there must be strong Christian people willing to take a stand for all that's right, and to stand firm against all that's wrong.

This calls for sacrifice of self — and total allegiance to Christ our Lord. We can help smooth the wrinkles. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*



Start with a smile

Man to little daughter of astronaut: "May I speak to your father please?"

Daughter: "I'm sorry, but he's not at home."

Man: "When will he be at home?"

Daughter: "In exactly 16 hours 42 minutes, and 27 seconds."

Take this truth

To be organized is wonderful. We need to plan wisely. A danger exists, however, when we get too "hemmed in" with details and programming. It resembles the Pharisees of the first century who were so bound in by formulas for living they had no place for spirit.

Memorize this Scripture

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

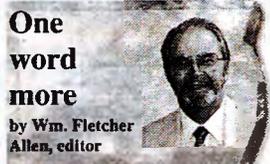
Pray this prayer

Lord, deliver me from the bondages that enslave me. Set me free from shackles of over-programming and help me realize that freedom does not mean absolute anarchy. Please give me self discipline. ■

Who said that?

When people are down on their knees weeding they think only of the weeds and never of the flowers. I like to grow flowers, not weeds. But if I'm to grow flowers, I must deal with the weeds. So I don't mind doing that. ... Every one is unique. — *Through the Valley of the Kwai, Ernest Gordon, 1975, Harper and Row, New York*

From 'star bright', to endless panoply of galaxies



The little boy, me, used to look at the stars in amazement and pick out one with

the universe.

Referring mankind's preparation for the new millennium, he said the year 2000 was "just an accident in the way we set time."

Whoa, Richard, I had that same thought. Though the Bible does refer to certain timing in the way God conducts his "business," nowhere do we find that he designated a delineation of days, months, years.

We do, however, have it on God's authority that earth, this temporary home of ours, will not last forever, and that he has a plan for the ending of it.

Nor will these bodies of ours, tents, as Paul called them, keep on living.

But, bless my soul, God has a plan for that portion of our lives also.

I tend to think that the Master architect who can hold those millions of stars and galaxies under control, in his hands, may smile at his children's efforts to place such emphasis on another century, another millennium.

I can almost see God frowning just a bit

also as he contemplates the hours and days we waste, fiddling around with our own desires and plans — while a great portion of his people are separated from him.

I confess I am intrigued by the overwhelming numbers of galaxies in the skies that completely surround the earth.

But then, as all Christians feel compelled to do, I turn my thoughts, prayers, and efforts to a lost, weary, and dying world this is within my reach.

You see, we will never be able to reach out into the skies and touch some being for Christ. But my responsibility, like yours, is to respond to God's never-out-of-date call to go to all the peoples of the world.

He has made it possible in our generation. We can span the globe in a matter of hours. We can probe the darkness that most of the world lives in. And we can penetrate that darkness with the Light of the World.

So, no more star-gazing and day-dreaming. Let's get on with it. How long can they wait? ☼☼☼

which to measure the others.

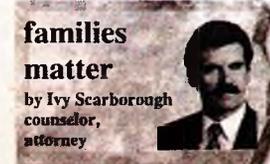
I soon learned such a tactic would not be even a blink in all their light combined.

The other night a television program presented ideas of an eternally expanding universe, and tossed in the idea that perhaps at some point the expansion could stop, reverse and eventually come to an end with a colossal thud — one gigantic ball of matter.

I don't think so. But then I have never studied astronomy, nor taken a peek at the heavens through a super telescope.

But reading from an interview with Richard Foster, I gained further insight — even though he did not discuss expansion of

Answering cry for security requires care — and concern



Question: "After my recent divorce I learned my 15-year-old daughter had become sexually active, and recently she has threatened suicide. Is this related to

known parents who stood over their children's caskeys after failing to recognize such a plea.

Get professional help immediately from a Christian counselor who is trained with adolescents. Avoid anyone without extensive therapeutic training.

Make certain their father is fully involved in everything related to your children. Do not exclude him in any respect because of resentment you feel toward him. Whether they can articulate it, your children's heartfelt desire is for their parents to be back together.

If they cannot have that, the next best thing in their eyes is to see you and their father cooperating on their behalf.

If you do not have joint custody, which you should have, then at least function as if you do.

Next, you and your ex-spouse should get professional counseling from a properly trained Christian therapist to help resolve issues between the two of you. If you do not do this, the problems for your children will almost certainly continue because they stem directly from the sickness of the relationship between you and your husband.

Follow the Bible first. Add wise counsel from a competent Christian therapist. And if these conflict with what your divorce decree says about child custody, visitation, etc., then throw it out and start over.

Put your children first regardless of your own feelings and you will never regret it.

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." — Matthew 18: 10-11. ■

our divorce?"

It's highly likely. Divorce wounds everyone near it, especially children. The legal system's approach nearly always makes the damage worse. Your daughter's behavior is a cry for the security she has lost, love she needs, and relief from pain she feels.

Do not take her threats of suicide lightly. I have

With help from Christian motorcycle group

Birds Creek Church holds motorcross ministry



By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

PARIS —

On four Saturday evenings in September and October about 1,000 people streamed through the gates at the Henry County Fairgrounds here to watch motorcyclists and four-wheeler operators compete. They were attending the Tennessee State Arenacross Championship Series Races.

When they entered the gates, they were greeted by someone. That person may have been dressed in street biker garb, as a yuppie, or in between. But the person did the same thing. He or she directed the incomer to sign a release form, and while the person was completing it, asked them if they would like a Bible, a coin with a spiritual message, and several other things.

After the most recent race, Chris Grissom, who led the ministry, helped clean the facility. Only one Bible and two coins were found as evidence that they had been rejected by the recipient.

After the four events in Paris, about 1,100 Bibles, 2,500 coins, and 2,500 tracts had been distributed, reported Grissom, a member of Birds Creek Church, near Paris.

Grissom, who owns the Suzuki retail store in Paris, also directed the competitions.

A former "off the road" motorcycle racer himself, Grissom has held competitions such as these for years as part of his business, but this was the first year he helped lead a ministry in conjunction with them.

Grissom was assisted by his church and Joe McClure, an employee and fellow member of Birds Creek Church. McClure is a bike enthusiast himself, although he is a "street rider" of motorcycles. And he is a new Christian who helped form a local chapter of Christian Motorcyclists Association.

Adopted by church

The motorcross ministry idea was adopted enthusiastically by Birds Creek Church members, according to its pastor, Steve Gallimore.

He explained that many members of the church had studied *Experiencing God*. So when God lead Grissom to develop the motorcross ministry, he said, the church realized that God was working and it was up to the members to follow "because that's the way he works. It's been a blessing," said Gallimore.

Mark Rudy, a member who served as a volunteer at the race event, said people seemed glad to receive the items distributed as part of the ministry and he guessed that a lot of

private conversations included God because of the effort.

Special speaker

To round out the ministry, Grissom invited Steve Wise of McAllen, Texas, to speak during the last competition in Paris and at a Sunday afternoon Motorcross Youth Rally. The Oct. 26 rally drew 175 from the area to the church's gym.

Wise is well-known to motorcross enthusiasts, explained Grissom. He may be the greatest motorcross racer of all time.

Wise won what could be called the most grueling competition of the sport, explained Grissom. He won the superbiker world championship in 1980 and 1981, which combined three types of racing — motorcross, flat track, and road racing.

When Wise retired from the sport at age 30, he had just become a Christian. He formed Christ Ministries and has spent the intervening years in a motorcross ministry across the country. Wise, a member of Calvary Church, McAllen, has ministered at the Daytona Raceway and Nascar events.

"It's amazing what God is doing in the motorcycle sport today," said Wise. "It's true really in all sports; you see Christian people represented everywhere and it's about

time," he said, noting Christians like Darrell Waltrip are a good example.

Wise told the crowd he rejected his fast-paced, luxurious lifestyle when he realized the intent of rock music was satanic.

Wise told them although he raced motorcycles, even to speeds of 200 mph and was "rocking out," his life was empty until he turned it over to God.

A new ministry

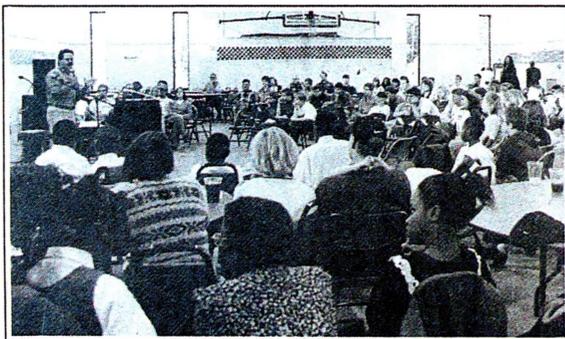
Grissom explained he had seen miracles during the ministry. He ordered the first

batch of Bibles before any gifts had been given. The bill was \$325 and the results of a love offering were \$325.

And the response of people has been amazing, he said. People have thanked him and other volunteers for their efforts. And people have been introduced to the Gospel in a different setting, he added. **B&R**



STREET BIKERS and members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association who helped with the motorcross ministry in Paris are, from left, Larry Taylor of Sturgis, Ky.; Marvin Long of Paris who is a member of Birds Creek Church; Jim Roberson of Morganfield, Ky., who is a member of First Church, Sturgis; Joe McClure of Paris, another member of Birds Creek Church.



YOUTH AND ADULTS listen to Steve Wise, a motorcycle racing champion of McAllen, Texas, speak in the church's gymnasium.



STEVE WISE signs an autograph for Joseph McClure, who attended the motorcross youth rally.



LOOKING AT the New Testaments which were distributed are, from left, Steve Gallimore, pastor, Birds Creek Church; Steve Wise; and Chris Grissom, who runs the competitions as a part of his business, and who leads the ministry. Grissom is a member of Birds Creek. — Photos by Connie Davis

Biker was 'broken by God;' now he says he rides 'with Christ'



For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — Joe McClure describes himself two

years ago as a street biker who was "no part of a man." His wife of 22 years and three children had reason to hate him, he said.

Then a friend started visiting him regularly and witnessing to him. McClure brushed off

his attempts but the friend persisted, asking McClure to visit Birds Creek Church with him.

McClure finally relented. He was surprised that he enjoyed the church activities. People welcomed him despite his biker wardrobe.

Then one Sunday his daughter walked to the front of the church to make a spiritual decision. And "God grabbed a hold of me and broke me completely," he said.

He's still a biker, McClure

said, admitting it can become a way of life. But he has realized that God has a plan for him and that he loves him unconditionally.

McClure decided he didn't have to give up biking or hide his hobby. "I'm to be the same whether I'm in church, business, or the home. To me that's what a real Christian is."

Motorcycle riding is a good sport, said McClure, who works at Suzuki of Paris. And the image of the sport as being

associated with crime isn't always true. He noted the Christian Motorcyclists Association has 59,000 members. McClure helped start the local chapter of CMA, which is Soldiers of the Cross.

In fact, he's found that his sport of biking has enabled him to relate to youth in several churches. He can speak from his experiences, which include the use of drugs and scrapes with the law, he explained.

McClure warns youth

against choosing what some people term fun when it really isn't. And he tells them how God can use their abilities, even aggression or the desire to be different.

As a result of the motorcross ministry, he's spoken at one church in Kentucky and been invited to speak at several others.

"You can look rough and ride bikes but love God," he said. "Now I ride with Christ."

B&R — Connie Davis

'Miss Roxie' just can't help loving everybody

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

ROCKWOOD — What is a 94-year-old lady doing at a Baptist association meeting?

Everybody in Rockwood and surrounding area knows that Roxie McClendon is always interested in, and faithful to, the ministries of her Baptist church and association.

In fact, this is her lifestyle. A member of Eureka Church near Rockwood, Big Emory Association, McClendon is well-known for her faithfulness to Baptist ministries.

She has other attributes that could claim the headlines, such as baking cookies and cakes, but her joy comes, she says, in serving the Lord through Baptist ministries.

When I caught up with her as a faithful messenger from Eureka at the Big Emory annual meeting at First Church, Rockwood, she was surrounded by friends and admirers.

But "Miss Roxie" shuns the accolades and tries to stay in the background. That's hard to do for someone who has helped others all her life — a long life at that.

The former Roxie Guettner moved to Rockwood in 1911 from Poplar Springs community near Kingston and married Charlie



SCOTT STOUT, member of Shiloh Church, thanks Roxie McClendon for the good food she brought for lunch after the morning session of the association meeting at First Church, Rockwood.

McClendon in 1922.

Before his death in 1987, they had celebrated their 65th anniversary.

A strong activist for family life, she tells young people they need to demonstrate — and tell their spouse that they love them. She adds that it might not be easy all the time!

She became a member of Eureka Church in 1920, that's 77 years ago. Not only is she still a member, but she is faithful to the choir and the Woman's Missionary Union — which she

helped initiate in the 1930s. She often serves as WMU president and is a Sunday School "regular."

"Until just a few years ago," McClendon says, "I was at the church for every meeting, every time the door opened."

McClendon has worked with children in Sunday School and missions programs for years, going back to Sunbeam Band. She also had a group in Training Union.

One of her favorite ministries was providing meals for pastors. "Nobody has fed preachers more

than I have," she says, "unless it's the preachers' wives."

McClendon is known throughout Roane County for her cooking ministry. Until recently she prepared extra food for meetings and home meals. Her late husband once joked that if they had all the money they had spent on baking supplies, they'd be rich.

She agrees, but says, "Neither of us ever regretted helping other people enjoy food."

She still writes a weekly column of Eureka community news for the *Rockwood Times*, something she started 21 years ago.

Typical of her generous heart, she and her husband raised triplet nephews for three years when Charlie's niece died in childbirth. "We couldn't afford it — with our two children — but we did what we could," she says.

She likes to be present at all the things Eureka does, but she doesn't stop there. She visits hospital patients frequently — but had to miss some visits when she was hospitalized last summer for a few days. Her daughter-in-law, Ruth Mc-



Clendon, drives her and helps in other ways.

"I really love Sunday School and preaching, and WMU work," Miss Roxie says, "and helping people." That's not surprising for this almost 95-year-old — her birthday is Jan. 30. *B&R*



MIKE WINTERS, Roxie McClendon's pastor at Eureka Church, says she is a faithful member in every way. "She cares about all of us," he says.

Thanks for your support!!!



Those whose lives have been blessed because you prayed and gave to state missions extend their deepest gratitude.



Golden State Missions Offering

1996 Goal: \$1,300,000
Given: \$1,203,496

1997 Goal: \$1,325,000

There is still time to send in your gift before the end of the year.

Tennessee Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; (615)373-2255

Ministries receiving funding from the state missions offering include:

- All Nations Camp
- Appalachian Outreach
- Developmentally Disabled Ministry
- Disaster Relief
- Language Missions
- Leadership Development
- Literacy Missions
- Minister's Aid Fund
- Ministry to Sight Impaired/Physically Challenged
- Mississippi River Ministry
- New Church Development
- Nurture of Tennessee Missionaries/Families
- Prison Ministries/Scripture Distribution
- Seminary Extension Assistance
- Special Friends Camp
- Student Scholarships
- Student Summer Missions

AND MORE...

Says Nashville pastor

More sermons needed to instruct converts

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — After more than a decade of emphasizing conversion, Frank Lewis believes pastors need to devote more sermons to instructing these converts.

A shift to discipleship represents the next big wave in the body of Christ, said the new senior pastor of First Church, Nashville. He



LEWIS

addressed an audience of pastors in a workshop on preaching that disciples at a "Church Health Summit" sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in mid-October at First Church here.

Formerly a preaching and worship consultant in the pastor-staff leadership department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Lewis said more Southern Baptists need to know the essentials of their faith.

"Are any of you apprehensive about what will happen next June when we head to Salt Lake?" he asked, referring to the site of next year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I think the Mormons are going to be well-prepared for us. A lot of people are going to come away saying, 'They're just like us' because we haven't done a good job of preparing

our people."

He indicated part of this task can be accomplished through discipling sermons. He said they show people how to grow, encourage an "Experiencing God" reality in their lives, offer a rich doctrinal foundation, and give a balanced view of spiritual disciplines.

Instead of thinking every message must lead to an evangelistic invitation, he said pastors should be equally concerned with explaining the Christian life.

"I'm all for an invitation, but I think we've gotten trapped in a Charles Finney mode," Lewis said, referring to the legendary 19th century evangelist.

Lewis also suggested pastors limit sermons to one central theme to increase their effectiveness and connect with today's culture.

Preachers are the only people who talk in three, alliterative points, but most audiences aren't trained to listen to sermons that way anymore, Lewis said.

Discipleship extends beyond preaching, he added, lamenting a spreading "CEO" mentality that a pastor doesn't need to get involved in such hands-on ministry as

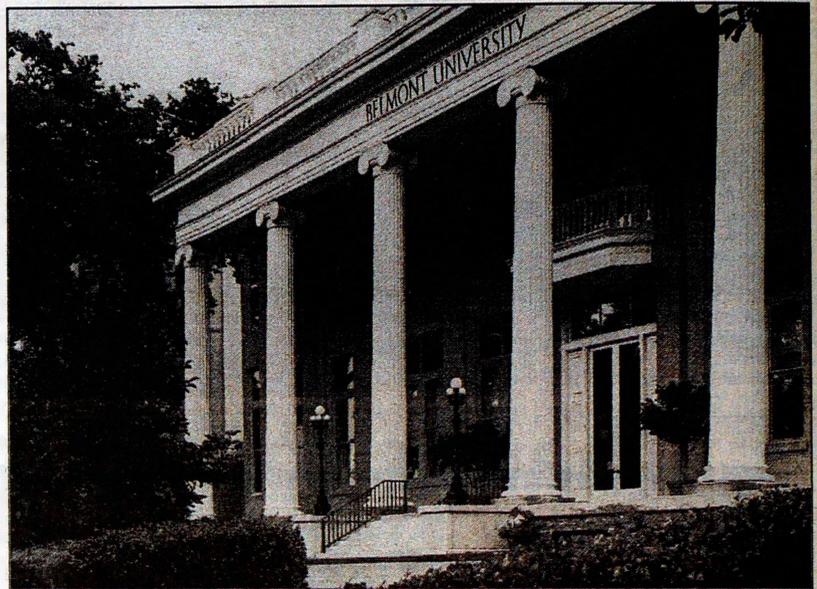
hospital visitation.

"There is a hunger people have," he said. "They want a relationship. I think you'll see your discipling increase if you'll make that commitment.

"We have more mega-churches today than ever. But somewhere (the senior pastor) still has a body he ministers to so he can model shepherding," Lewis concluded. ■



**THANK YOU
TENNESSEE BAPTISTS . . .**



Founded in 1951 with an initial enrollment of 136, Belmont University is now the second largest private university in Tennessee and is ranked in the First Tier of Southern Colleges and Universities by U. S. News and World Report.

Belmont is dedicated to providing students with an academically challenging education in a Christian community which presents Jesus as the Christ and as the model for personal behavior.

Baptist students have always made up the largest denominational percentage of our enrollment.

Your support through the Cooperative Program and the Scholarship Campaign for Tennessee Baptists makes it possible for hundreds of Baptist students to attend one of the finest Christian universities in the nation . . . Belmont University.

**FOR SUSTAINING ONE OF
AMERICA'S BEST
UNIVERSITIES**

While at the Convention visit the
Baptist Book Store

*located in the Fellowship Hall
for great bargains on books, Bibles,
music, gifts, and apparel.*



**The first 200 customers will receive a
free copy of Holiday Ideas!**

Be sure to look for these new books by Baptist Sunday School Board administrators: *Surviving and Thriving in the Ministry* by Dr. Don Mathis and *Thine is the Kingdom: The Reign of God in Today's World* by Dr. Gene Mims

Don't miss this book signing!

Dr. Jerry Tidwell, pastor of West Jackson Church, will be in the store Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, *Outreach Teams That Win*.



SEEDS

Matthew 13:8

A Newsletter For Church Leaders From Union University

A RESOLUTION "Union University and the Tennessee Baptist Convention"

Whereas, Union University is preparing to celebrate its 175th anniversary as an institution; and

Whereas, Union University has a strong and historic relationship with the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and,

Whereas, we are grateful that Tennessee Baptists have supported Union University over the years through sending students, financial stewardship, prayer and in many other ways; and

Whereas, we as a Board of Trustees wish to reaffirm our support of this happy relationship with Tennessee Baptists, and pledge to them our commitment to continue to build a great liberal arts university that is unapologetically Christian and church-related — dedicated to academic excellence, faithful to our Baptist heritage and evangelical convictions, and devoted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the veracity of Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, we believe Union University will bring honor to Tennessee Baptists as a Great Commandment University, faithful to its heritage and mission, with a focus on being an excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed university;

Therefore, we as a Board of Trustees wish to express our appreciation for and support of the University's continuing strong relationship with the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We further pledge to be faithful stewards of the trust Tennessee Baptists have placed in us as trustees of this great institution, and welcome the continuing support and involvement of Baptist churches and individuals as Union University prepares to enter the next century.

During the Sept. 12 board meeting, Union University trustees unanimously passed a resolution responding to an earlier resolution by the Tennessee Baptist Executive Committee that affirmed the work of the TBC's three institutions of higher education.

Union Trustees Reaffirm Mission

Union University's Board of Trustees, meeting in regular session Sept. 12, reaffirmed the university's commitment to its mission as a Christian higher education institution as well as the important relationship between Union and Tennessee Baptists.

The trustees unanimously passed two resolutions clearly articulating the university's devotion to being a Christ-centered institution.

In early fall the Executive Board of the TBC unanimously approved a resolution of affirmation of the convention's three colleges. The motion was presented by the board's educational committee, chaired by Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Millington.

The resolution affirmed "the administration, faculty and staff of Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University as being committed to a wholesome expression of the Christian faith, character and commitment."

Union University responded to the affirmation with a resolution expressing appreciation for and support of the strong relationship with the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (see text of resolution at left).

The trustee resolution reaffirms Union's commitment to be a great evangelical university and partner with Tennessee Baptists, explains President David S. Dockery.

As Dockery stated in his inaugural address in Fall 1996, "being a Great Commandment institution means more than the integration of faith and learning, it involves the integration of faith and living."

In a second resolution, Union trustees affirmed the goal that all faculty, staff and students be encouraged to share their faith in Christ with lost persons everywhere.

"We want professors, staff and students who are competent in their profession, caring in their relationships, but who also confess and, if necessary, contend for the truth of God that is foundational for life and living," he said.

The resolution encourages "trustees, administration, faculty and staff to share their faith by telling students how they may have an abundant life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

The resolution states: "The Lord Jesus Christ is the fountain-head of all wisdom and truth and that for an individual to be truly educated, it is indispensable in a Christian institution that a student should have every encouragement to know personally the One by whom all things were created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they by thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers."

Church Campaign Tops \$1.2 Million

Less than one year after the Tennessee Baptist Convention encouraged its three higher education institutions to begin a church-based endowment campaign, Union University has obtained just over \$1.2 million in gifts and pledges from Tennessee churches.

Paul Veazey, director of denominational support, explained that 70 percent of Union's students are Baptists and 50 percent are Tennessee Baptists. "This high percentage of Tennessee Baptists at Union is because of the generous giving of churches. They are making it possible for their young people to get a college education at a great Christian university."

The major goal of Union's campaign is to expand endowed scholarship funds. For churches

who establish or add to such funds, the university will provide matching funds to increase their value at a ratio of 2:1.

For example, if a church provides \$50,000 to endow a scholarship during the campaign, Union will add an additional \$25,000 to the fund.

"These scholarships help Union but they also help the individual churches and young people from those congregations. We are particularly grateful that they make it financially possible for more of our outstanding Baptist students to attend Union," President David S. Dockery said.

For information about the church endowment campaign, contact Veazey in the University's Development Office at 901-661-5050 or 1-800-338-6644.

Union Gives Students Global Opportunities

Union University is on mission. Each year hundreds of students, faculty and staff participate in mission trips, going wherever God is at work throughout the world. Opportunities to be a part of local, national and international missions increase daily as God is opening doors through ministry.

This year, Union will be promoting short term projects called GO (Global Outreach) Trips, where students have the opportunity to reach people in the United States and internationally at sites including Florida, Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Arizona, Texas, Honduras and Costa Rica. One group will also work at home in Jackson, Tenn., to share the gospel of Christ with those closest to home.

Leesburg, Fla. A GO Trip, scheduled for January 8-19, 1998 to Leesburg, Fla., will consist of 15 individuals who will have the opportunity to participate in ministries already established through the outreach of the Christian Care Center. Ministries include Saturday Sunday School and sidewalk programs that are estimated to reach between 200 and 400 children every week.

Evansville, Ind. Four teams will travel during Union's spring break, the week of April 4-10. A

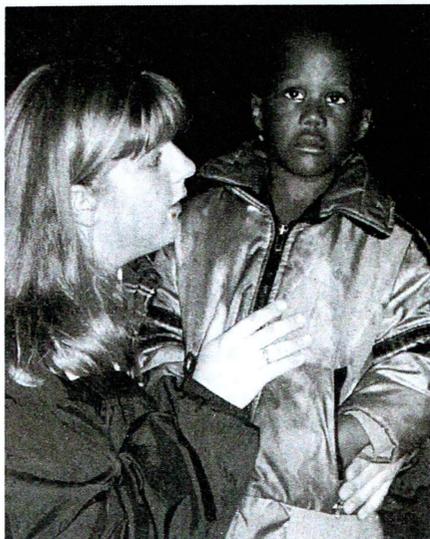
26-member team will tour Evansville, Ind. The group bears the opportunity to participate in evangelistic outreach through the ministries of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church and Cornerstone Baptist Church. Ministries throughout the week will include leading backyard bible clubs and evening revival services and engaging in light construction projects.

Toledo, Ohio. South Toledo Baptist Church is anticipating the arrival of a team of 25 to work with inner city children, lead in creative worship services, paint classrooms and share God's word with those who have never heard the Gospel. Team members will not only participate in Northwest Ohio, but also in Southern Canada.

Greenville, S.C. During spring break 1998, a 24-member team will continue the work begun by two Union summer missionaries last summer by ministering through several local

churches with children and youth.

Dallas, Texas. A 23-member team will be heading to Dallas, Texas to continue to plant more seeds and strengthen relationships first established last year. Tiffany Stehle, campus ministries secretary, will lead the team. "I am excited because we have received permission to go into a public school to work with the kids," Stehle said.

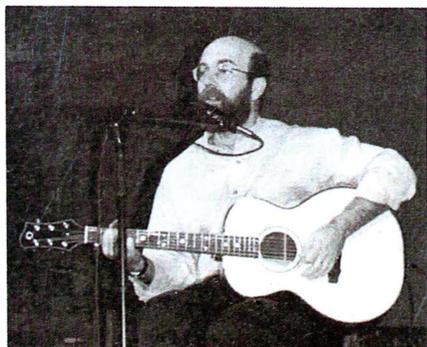


Union Brings TBC and SBC Leaders to Jackson

This year Union has welcomed many prominent individuals in Baptist life to lead the campus in weekly worship times.

Fall 1997 chapel speakers have included:

- Dr. Robert Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.;
- Dr. Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.;
- Rev. Gary Frost, Pastor Youngstown, Ohio and former Vice President, SBC



Michael Card

- Dr. Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee of the SBC, Nashville;
- Christian musician Michael Card;

- Dr. Dean Register, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Spring 1998

Among speakers already scheduled for Spring 1998 chapel services are:

- March 16, Mike Glenn, pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Nashville
- March 30, Dr. Ken Hemphill, president, Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas
- April 20-22, Spring Bible Conference with Dr. Jim White, pastor, Mecklenburg Community Church, Charlotte, N.C.; Dr. Walt Kaiser, president, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- April 24, Kevin Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville
- April 27, Dennis Swanberg, Minister of Encouragement and Christian comedian
- May 1, Dr. Gary Watkins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Collierville
- May 11, Dr. Richard Land, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, SBC



Ken Hemphill

GLOBAL OUTREACH GO TRIP

1997 - 1998

Union's mission outreach will not stop at the end of the school year. June 12-22, a 30-member team will travel to Whiteriver, Ariz. to minister to Apache Indians. July 1-31, a team of 6-10 students will embark on a journey to Houston, Texas, where students will minister through Bible School projects and Kids Klubs.

Each January for the past five years, Union University has sponsored a medical/dental mission trip to Honduras. This year's trip is Jan. 17-24. A team of students, faculty, alumni and medical professionals join with 20-25 Honduran translators, drivers, doctors and dentists to provide health care to remote villages in southern Honduras.

Another 30-member team is scheduled to go to San Jose, Costa Rica, to assist host missionaries Tony and Renee Rengifo in saturating the area with the gospel message. They will participate in street evangelism with the help of translators.

Union is also planning a mission outreach for the Jackson area. The missionaries will strive to develop personal relationships and share the gospel with those who live in the inner city. They will do this as a joint effort with the Madison-Chester Association. "Jackson is my Jerusalem. People next door need Christ, too," junior Andrea McDaniel said.

Students participating in GO trips strengthen their personal faith and belief, develop confidence in sharing their personal testimony and develop a team relationship for ministry. Union students anticipate many great things to come through mission involvement in the future.

News Seeds

Union Author Publishes Greek Text

Dr. George Guthrie, associate professor and chair of the Department of Christian Studies, co-authored with J. Scott Duvall Biblical Greek Exegesis which will be released in the spring. The book will be the focus of a panel discussion at the Southeast Regional Evangelical Theological Society Meeting in March.

Union Professor Writes Adult Sunday School Teaching Materials

Dr. Paul Jackson, assistant professor of Christian studies, wrote the "Family Bible Series" adult teacher's book for winter 1997-98 quarter. The series, published by Baptist Sunday School Board, included twelve lessons on 1 John, 1 & 2 Peter and Jude focused around the theme: "God's People in a Troubled World."

Children's Material by Union Author

Joanna Moore, administrative assistant to the vice president for campus ministries and church services, is a regular contributing writer for Sunday School material. She recently published an article on "How to Handle Children's Questions" in the June 1997 "Focus on Children's Ministry" insert for Sunday School teachers of older children.

Faithful faculty called vital to Christian higher education

By Keith Hinson

Christian colleges and universities should seek faculty who exhibit high standards of scholarship and spirituality, said speakers during a conference on the "Future of Christian Higher Education" at Union, October 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.

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 absent," Gushee declared. "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."

Faculty Selection is Key

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.

Living Life for Impact

"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 faculty members' lives on 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 the group of educators. "It behooves us to realize that our worldview is much more evident in our lives than our scholarship. ... Students are longing for professors who are transparently Christian in their scholarship and their lives."

Among the disciplines all Christians — including believing faculty — should practice are "prayer, meditation, solitude, fasting and other avenues which enable us to gain a perspective of God's reality," Presnell said.

Avoiding Culture Wars

Joel A. Carpenter, provost of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich., said scholars at Christian colleges should avoid involvement in "culture wars." "A 'culture war' atmosphere is not conducive to the task of the Christian scholar," Carpenter said. "It is a distraction. The life of the scholar demands perseverance and concentration."

"The noise of battle, out where ideas are used as weapons, can distract scholars from their work of being the critical weighers, cultivators and imparters of ideas."

He also warned of a corrupting impact of a scholar's involvement in culture wars upon academic colleagues.

"Scholars can become so ashamed of the excesses of their combative compatriots that they start sympathizing with ideas and perspectives of which they should be more critical," Carpenter observed.

"The fundamental task of the Christian professor is nothing other than to incarnate an authentically Christian way of life."

News Seeds

Winter Bible Study Leaders Available

Professors in Union's Department of Christian Studies will be available to lead West Tennessee Churches' Winter Bible Study. If you would like to schedule a teacher for the study of the Parables Unique to Luke's Gospel (the theme for this year's SBC-wide study), contact Dr. Michael Dudit, executive vice president, at (901) 661-5050 or 1-800-338-6644.

Spring 1998 Semester Begins

R.G. Lee Centers, Seminary Extension Centers and the Seminary Studies Program (M.Div.) Spring 1998 semester begins the week of February 2-6, 1998 at sites across West Tennessee. For more information, contact the Office of Campus Ministries and Church Services at 901-661-5160.

Union Musicians To Perform in Churches

Proclamation and Handbells, two of Union's musical ensembles, will perform at Tennessee Baptist Churches on the following dates:
 • Sunday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m., FBC, Jackson, Tenn.
 • Sunday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m., FBC, Martin, Tenn.
 • Monday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Dalewood BC, Nashville
 • Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m., Mt. Juliet Christian Academy, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

Hebrews Commentary Coming Spring 1998

Dr. George Guthrie's commentary on Hebrews in the NIV Application Commentary Series by Zondervan Publishers will be released in Spring 1998.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Each month Union faculty, staff and administrators represent the University at business, community and church-related events. Below is the church-related speaking engagements schedule through February 1998.

Dr. John Adams, Vice President for Campus Ministries and Church Services

Current Interim Pastor, Poplar Corner BC, Brownsville
 Nov. 18-20 SBC International Mission Board Meeting, New Orleans, La.
 Jan. 20-21 SBC International Mission Board Meeting, Mobile, Ala.

Rev. Todd Brady, Campus Minister

Nov. 16 Tate BC, Corinth, Miss.
 Nov. 23 Tate BC, Corinth, Miss.
 Nov. 30 FBC, Jackson
 Dec. 7 FBC, Jackson
 Dec. 28-30 Winter Youth Retreat, New Albany, Miss.
 Jan. 17-24 Honduras Medical/Mission Trip
 Feb. 5-8 FBC, Irving, Texas

Dr. David S. Dockery, President

Nov. 16 FBC, Obion; FBC, Milan
 23 FBC, Parsons
 30 FBC, Bemis
 Dec. 7 Calvary Baptist, Jackson Northbrook, Jackson
 14 FBC, Somerville
 Jan. 13-16 Lectures, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
 25 Maplewood BC, Paris
 Feb. 1-3 FBC, Millington
 5-6 Day-Higginbotham Lectures, Southwestern Baptist Seminary
 March 1 West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson
 8 Immanuel Baptist, Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Michael Dudit, Executive Vice President

Current Interim Pastor, FBC, McKenzie
 Feb. 24-26 National Conference on Preaching, FBC, Dallas, Texas

Dr. George Guthrie, Chair, Department of Christian Studies

Current Interim Co-Pastor, Northbrook Church, Jackson
 Feb. 20-22 East Tennessee Regional BSU Retreat

Dr. Paul Jackson, assistant professor of Christian Studies

Current Interim Co-Pastor, Northbrook Church, Jackson
 Jan. 4-7 Winter Bible Study, Madison BC, Jackson
 11, 14 Winter Bible Study, Ararat BC, Jackson
 25 Winter Bible Study, FBC, Medina

Rev. Kim North, Missionary-in-Residence

Nov. 19 FBC, Kenton
 23 Southside BC, Dyersburg
 25 FBC, Jackson
 30 FBC, Lexington; FBC, Trenton
 Dec. 3 Antioch BC, Humboldt
 7 Pleasant Hill BC, Jackson; FBC, Brighton
 8 Haywood Baptist Association "M" Night
 9 West Jackson BC, Jackson
 10 Calvary BC, Jackson
 14 Holly Grove BC, Brownsville
 28 Hickory Ridge BC, Memphis
 Jan. 15 Gibson Baptist Association
 25 Englewood BC, Jackson
 Feb. 1 Hillcrest BC, Jackson
 18 East Union BC, Jackson

Rev. Paul Veazey, Director of Denominational Support

Current Interim Pastor, South Fulton BC, South Fulton
 Nov. 24 Carroll-Benton Associational Pastors Conference, Huntington
 Dec. 1 Western District Pastors Conference, Paris

Dr. David P. Gushee, Director, Center for Christian Leadership

Current Interim Co-Pastor, Northbrook Church, Jackson
 Nov. 16 FBC, Jackson
 Dec. 31 "Renaissance Weekend," Hilton Head, S.C.
 Gushee will join selected national leaders for this New Year's event.

Dr. Ron Boud, Professor of Music

Current Interim Organist, Second Presbyterian, Memphis
 Jan. 30-31 Guest Clinician for Church Music Department, Georgia Baptist Convention
 Feb. 1 Organ Recital, Parkway BC, Duluth, Ga.

The Churches On This Page



Wendy Veazey, a freshman at Union and member of First Baptist Church, Paris, wants to be an entrepreneur and believes that Union is helping her learn what is takes to pursue a career in retail business management.

"I could have gone to another school if I had wanted, but I knew that I was going to be in the best Christian environment at Union," Wendy said. By providing a Christ-centered environment, Union is integrating faith and learning for every discipline — from Christian studies to business administration.

Thanks to the generosity of her home church and other churches through Tennessee who provide money for scholarships, Wendy's dream of becoming a successful business woman will become a reality.

For more information on how you or your church can make dreams come true, send in the coupon below or call the Office of Development at 1-800-338-6644 or 901-661-5050.

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Union University
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Jackson, TN 38305-3697



UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH GIVING REPORT

May 1, 1997 to August 31, 1997

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
BEECH RIVER			HAYWOOD		
Bear Creek	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	Holly Grove	0.00	350.00
Lexington, First	275.00	1,8492.95	Shaw's Chapel	150.00	0.00
Mt. Ararat	500.00	350.00	Woodland	0.00	500.00
Mt. Gilead	100.00	0.00	Zion	0.00	428.59
Sand Ridge	375.00	0.00		\$ 150.00	\$ 1,278.59
Sardis	313.55	0.00			
Union	250.00	0.00	MADISON-CHESTER		
	\$ 1,863.55	\$ 1,8842.95	Ararat	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,125.00
			Beech Bluff	0.00	1,016.11
BEULAH			Calvary	300.00	900.00
Blessed Hope	0.00	57.00	Englewood	0.00	5,208.32
Martin, First	1,200.00	250.00	East Union	1,030.03	0.00
Mt. Olive	25.00	0.00	Jackson, First	0.00	4,505.00
Ridgely, First	1,216.64	0.00	Madison	240.00	0.00
South Fulton	0.00	1,900.00	Malesus	300.00	320.00
Tiptonville, First	0.00	2,055.23	Meridian	500.00	0.00
Troy, First	0.00	100.00	North Jackson	0.00	1,185.50
Union City, First	975.00	0.00	Poplar Heights	660.00	0.00
Union City, Second	250.00	501.25	West Jackson	1,954.07	7,083.63
Woodland Mills, First	200.00	150.00		\$ 4,984.10	\$ 23,343.56
	\$ 3,866.64	\$ 5,013.48			
			SHELBY		
BIG HATCHIE			Ardmore	379.41	0.00
Covington, First	1,333.32	1,333.32	Audubon Park	400.00	265.00
Faith	208.30	0.00	Bartlett	0.00	416.65
Grace	120.00	0.00	Boulevard	0.00	112.00
Henning	262.97	0.00	Cherry Road	666.66	0.00
Pleasant Grove	952.08	0.00	Leawood	423.06	125.00
Ripley, First	334.00	673.38	Millington, First	525.00	675.00
	\$ 3,210.67	\$ 2,006.70	Raleigh	584.00	0.00
			Shelby Forest	0.00	250.00
CARROLL-BENTON			Trafalgar Village	77.69	0.00
Camden, First	0.00	432.00	Union Avenue	500.00	0.00
Howse	500.00	0.00		\$ 3,555.82	\$ 1,843.65
Huntingdon, First	0.00	3,409.41			
Prospect	0.00	100.00	SHILOH		
Trezevant, First	0.00	1,000.00	Adamsville, First	1,000.00	0.00
	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,941.41	Good Hope	250.00	0.00
			Gravel Hill	625.00	0.00
CROCKETT			Mt. Zion	40.00	0.00
Alamo, First	400.00	0.00	Selmer, First	0.00	2,333.32
Friendship	61.00	0.00		\$ 1,915.00	\$ 2,333.32
Johnson Grove	0.00	500.00			
Maury City, First	833.36	0.00	WEAKLEY		
	\$ 1,294.36	\$ 500.00	Central, Martin	400.00	75.00
			Dresden, First	0.00	332.00
DYER			Jolley Springs	100.00	0.00
Byersburg, First	0.00	2,083.35	Long Heights	0.00	150.00
Finley	480.00	0.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 557.00
Newbern, First	751.10	3,004.23			
West Side	0.00	130.00	WESTERN DISTRICT		
	\$ 1,231.10	\$ 5,217.58	Big Sandy	0.00	150.00
			Cottage Grove	0.00	150.00
GIBSON			Maplewood	0.00	1,790.95
Bethpage	50.00	0.00	Paris, First	680.00	1,653.32
Bradford, First	0.00	800.00	Puryear	400.00	0.00
Calvary, Humboldt	300.76	0.00		\$ 1,080.00	\$ 3,744.27
Dyer, First	0.00	200.00			
Fellowship	100.00	0.00	OTHER TN CHURCHES		
Humboldt, First	2,666.68	25.00	College Heights (Bledsoe)	0.00	744.00
Kenton, First	0.00	625.00	Clifton, First (Indian Creek)	0.00	273.40
Milan, First	750.00	750.00	Evangelical Community	0.00	24.10
Mount Pisgah	0.00	250.00	Linden, First (Alpha)	0.00	100.00
New Bethlehem	676.28	0.00	Waverly (Truett)	0.00	2,965.00
Northside	400.00	0.00		\$ 0.00	\$ 4,106.50
Oak Grove	134.03	0.00			
Poplar Grove	800.00	222.25	OTHER STATES		
Poplar Springs	100.00	0.00	Kimball (MO)	0.00	274.02
Trenton, First	0.00	1,415.47	Valley Grove (AL)	0.00	271.08
	\$ 5,977.75	\$ 4,287.72	Warren (GA)	0.00	1,600.00
				\$ 0.00	\$ 2,145.10
HARDEMAN					
Bolivar, First	400.00	0.00			
Cloverport	0.00	300.00		\$ 31,292.99	\$ 81,375.79
Ebenezer	0.00	100.00			
Hickory Valley	0.00	100.00			
Grand Junction, First	664.00	0.00	UNRESTRICTED TOTAL		\$ 31,292.99
Parrans Chapel	0.00	100.00	RESTRICTED TOTAL		\$ 81,375.79
Saulsbury	100.00	0.00	CHURCH GIVING TOTAL		\$ 112,668.78
Toone	0.00	613.96			
	\$ 1,164.00	\$ 1,213.96			

First Church, Smyrna, grows beyond expectations



By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

SMYRNA — This year alone First Church, Smyrna, has seen over 100 people baptized, a 30 percent increase in Sunday School participation, and an increase of hundreds more people involved in courses offered throughout the week. The 26-year-old church facility is crammed full and, thus, the schedule is flexible.

First Church has three Sunday morning worship services and three Sunday Schools and those are nearly filled. The 550-seat sanctuary is nearly full in each service. On a recent Sunday a total of 1,073 attended Sunday School.

The momentum toward this growth has been building for about four years, according to Eddie Mosley, minister of education.

That was when a young, new staff led by Ken Hubbard, pastor, began researching the community. Located in fast-growing Rutherford County, the staff was aware of the church's potential for growth.

They contacted the North American Mission Board and found the average adult in their community was a 31-year-old parent of two kids.

To draw that person, the staff introduced programs which were practical and were offered at flexible times, said Mosley.

The staff also began offering a more contemporary style of worship, led by Ron Alley, minister of worship. Currently the church's morning services are a blended style, including both contemporary and traditional styles. And the evening service is contemporary.

However, none of the staff credits any program or approach for the growth. "No program or marketing attempt can grow a church unless his people are seeking his will," said Mosley.

Factors in the growth, he added, are the united staff and a congregation which is trying to follow the example of the church in Jerusalem

chronicled in Acts.

Another factor, according to member Rodney Wilson of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, is the approach of Ken Hubbard. He readily gives up his pulpit, allowing others to speak, said Wilson. Currently, Pat Hood, associate pastor and minister to students, preaches during one of the four Sunday worship services.

Hubbard also gives his staff credit for their work and praises them often, said Wilson.

And the staff has led well, Wilson continued. For example, Hood has led a youth group which has grown from about 40 to 200 in four years. He has been able to keep it organized and, through small

groups, continue his emphasis on their accountability to others.

Mosley has had the huge job of planning the church's curriculum and finding leaders for it, and he has done it with enthusiasm, said Wilson.

Finally, the congregation is flexible and completely positive, said Wilson. Mosley agreed.

On Oct. 26, First Church broke ground for a new facility on a new 45-acre site bought 10 years ago. The sanctuary will seat 850 and 1,200 can study in small groups at once.

Hubbard said, "Now God has a congregation so excited and united about where he is leading, that we cannot wait for the next worship service." *B&R*



Classified

SEEKS PASTOR: The Pastor Search Committee of Colonial Church, a neighborhood church in southeast Memphis with approximately 400 in SS attendance, is accepting resumes. Mail to: Colonial Baptist Church, 1503 Colonial Road, Memphis, TN 38117.

WANTED: Part-time church financial secretary with computer/word processing skills. Send resume to Broadway Baptist Church, % Tim Bounds, 815 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917.

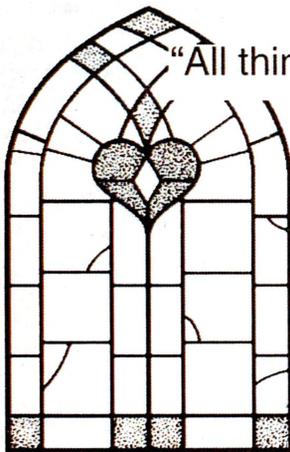
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Candice Phillips is a member of First Baptist Church of Kingsport. A Bonner Scholar, she has devoted more than 1,600 hours to helping others through community and church service. She plans to attend graduate school in Criminology to work with the FBI as a Criminologist or Special Agent.



"My father and mother are both C-N alumni, so I grew up hearing about Carson-Newman. As a freshman, I have been amazed at how many opportunities there are to grow as a total person in a Christian environment. I know that going to a Baptist college requires more of a financial sacrifice by my parents and many Tennessee Baptist churches who support the college. I can tell you from my experience that it is well worth the difference."

Jonathon Bundon is a church music major with a vocal emphasis. He is a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Knoxville where his father, Mike Bundon, is Minister of Music.

Candice and Jonathon are only two of the thousands who have benefited from scholarship endowments established by their churches.

Thank you for touching the future of Tennessee Baptists through your support.



THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST SCHOLARSHIP
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE

Soddy-Daisy pastor affirms direction of IMB

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

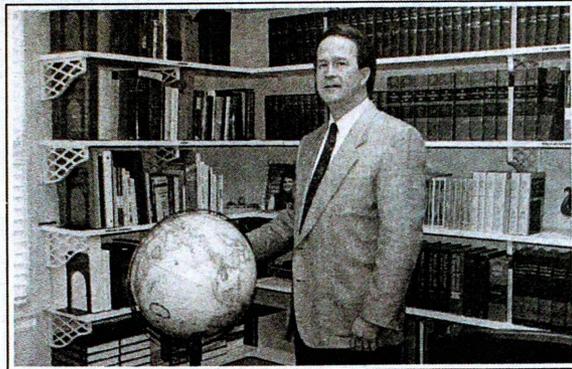
SODDY-DAISY — Tennessee Baptist pastor Bill Blanchard believes recent changes at the International Mission Board have the largest mission-sending agency in the history of the world primed to face the challenges of a new century.

And, Blanchard, pastor of First Church here since 1987, should know. He has had a "bird's eye" view as chairman of the IMB trustees for the last two years. He will conclude eight years as a trustee next June.

The IMB has 4,200 career missionaries in more than 130 different countries and has an annual budget of \$205 million.

Blanchard's role as chairman enabled him to work closely with IMB President Jerry Rankin and the senior executive team at the board which consists of Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president, and Avery Willis, vice president of overseas operations, during the recent reorganization.

While the IMB (formerly Foreign Mission Board) had



BILL BLANCHARD, pastor of First Church, Soddy-Daisy, has had a world view the past eight years as a trustee of the International Mission Board. He has been chairman for the past two years.

been effective the time had come "where we needed to be more vision driven than policy driven," said Blanchard, the son of American Baptist missionaries who had strong Southern Baptist ties.

The restructuring of the IMB into 14 regions will bring together regional leaders who will help cast a vision for planting churches, Blanchard affirmed.

He acknowledged the reorganization was met at first

with some resistance from missionaries, but after learning more about the revitalization they are now excited about it.

"The missionaries are coming out as winners because we're putting strategy and vision into their hands," Blanchard said.

Along with the internal reorganization came a name change proposed by the Southern Baptist Convention as part of a convention-wide restructuring which became official

last June.

The change of name from Foreign Mission Board to International Mission Board was not a problem for Blanchard, although he admits with a grin that he slips and uses the term FMB occasionally.

The world is smaller than it was 150-plus years ago when the Foreign Mission Board was established, Blanchard said.

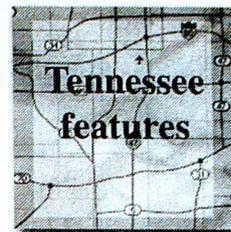
FMB was a good name back then but not so today, he said.

Blanchard noted the word "foreign" is somewhat offensive and misunderstood overseas.

He believes the new name (International Mission Board) is "an accurate cosmetic change."

Blanchard stressed that though the name changed, the mission has not. "Our mission is the same. Our vision is to be on mission with God to bring all the people groups of the world to a saving faith in Jesus Christ," he said.

Blanchard has enjoyed his work as a trustee though it has been time consuming. At the same time he is grateful for the support of his church and he has worked diligently to make sure his congregation has not suffered.



"My church has not been cheated," he said. He noted the church has exhibited numerical and uninterrupted financial growth over the past 10 years.

Blanchard admitted, however, that his family "has suffered." He looks forward to spending more time with them once his term is over.

Despite demands on his time Blanchard is grateful for his experience as a trustee.

"I have loved it. It has stretched me and brought me tremendous fulfillment."

He is somewhat in awe of his experiences. "I have rubbed shoulders with famous men of God from around the world and from megachurches across the convention. I have wondered how a man from a small Tennessee community could become chairman of the International Mission Board.

"It had to be the hand of God," he affirmed. ■

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- Memphis Campus - (7)
- Millington - Double B Boys Ranch (4)
- Northwest, TN - Family Preservation Office

Middle TN Region (11 Homes)

- Brentwood Campus - (10)
- Brentwood - TBCH State Office
- Clarksville - Home for Unwed Mothers

Southeast Region (5 Homes)

- Chattanooga Campus - (5)
- Lennon Cottage**

Northeast Region (4 Homes)

- Oakdale Home
- Oakdale Independent Living Apts.**
- Kingsport Home
- Johnson City Home
- Greeneville - Home for Unwed Mothers
- Elizabethton - Living Waters (for single mothers and their children)**

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A Benevolent Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

To reach teenagers for Christ

Anderson County youth ministers join together

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CLINTON — Anderson County youth ministers are working together to reach the teenagers in their communities for Christ.

Youth ministers of Baptist churches and other denominations in the area have formed United Vision Ministries.

"We have come together for a common goal," said Debbie Barnes, who along with her husband, Steve, is co-youth minister at Second Church, Clinton.

The youth leaders meet regularly to share ideas and to plan events for area teenagers, Barnes noted.

Among events that have proven popular are "fifth quarters" after local high school football games, hosted by different churches; daily "See You At The Pole" gatherings; and lunches for youth at local schools.

Barnes noted most of the activities are planned and led by the youth, with help from different congregations. The youth are inviting their friends to these activities, she said.

"It's so exciting to see what we've already seen God do through United Vision,"

Barnes said.

The group's major thrust for next year is "Vision '98," a weekend youth rally slated for May 8-9 at Anderson County High School's football stadium. The rally will be led by evangelist Rodney Gage.

"The rally is God-sized," Barnes said.

"It is something he has in the works and he has put it on the hearts of youth directors in Anderson County," she added.

Larry Potter, minister of youth at Black Oak Church, agreed. "All of us (area youth ministers) found we had the same vision. God chose this time," Potter affirmed.

He noted the goal for the Vision '98 youth rally is for 2,000 youth to attend. The number includes not only Anderson County youth, but those from Union, Campbell, and Roane counties as well, he said.

He said the youth ministers hope next year's youth rally will become an annual event for area teenagers.

Clinton Association messengers amended their 1997-98 budget in order to provide funding for the event. Area churches also are providing funds.

"It's exciting to see how God is working," Barnes said. ■



ANDERSON COUNTY youth ministers visited during Clinton Association's annual meeting. From left are Travis Walker, Cornerstone; Wayne Phillips, Main Street; Steve and Debbie Barnes, Second Church, Clinton; Larry Potter, Black Oak; and John Davis, Calvary, Oak Ridge.



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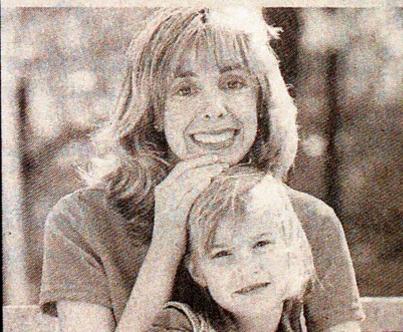
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White Bluff evangelist takes Gospel to rodeos

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — "You can turn anything into a ministry," says Jerry Reynolds.

He should know. A former pastor and director of "missions in Tennessee," Reynolds heads Jerry Reynolds Evangelistic Ministry based in White Bluff. He has combined his love for horses with an outreach ministry that is touching lives.

Reynolds is a registered chaplain with the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association and also is working as a chaplain for intercollegiate rodeos in the region.

He also coordinates the Tennessee Equestrian Ministry for the Baptist Men's Ministry Team of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Why have a ministry related to the horse or equestrian industry?

The answer is simple, according to Reynolds. There are 650,000 horses in the state and 90 percent of them are the "backyard variety," he said.

The people who own the horses are involved in trail rides, horse shows, horse sales, rodeos, and more, he observed.

"The horse industry is big in Tennessee, he said, noting that it offers "a massive place for outreach."

Many of the related events, such as rodeos and horse shows, occur on weekends. Participants, many of whom are Christian, are not able to go to their local churches, Reynolds said. "We bring church to them."

During the high school rodeos Reynolds conducts a Sunday morning service complete with

preaching and music.

The services are two-fold. They provide worship and fellowship for Christians away from home and they provide a Christian witness to "those on the fringe," Reynolds said.

"Many people will come to a rodeo church service who would not go to church," he said. The climate is right for sharing the Gospel, Reynolds said. People are searching. They have figured out that what the world has to offer is not working.

"When they turn and look I want to be there with Jesus Christ. ...

"Our ultimate goal is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Reynolds has been involved with rodeos for several years. His two sons are active participants. During these years he has built relationships. Many of the rodeo participants, who come from all over the state to events, consider Reynolds "their preacher."

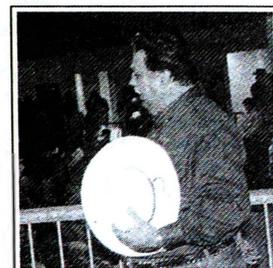
"It has taken a lot of years to build this trust," he said, noting he has gone all over the state visiting families in cases of illness and death.

Reynolds' rodeo ministry is funded through his evangelistic ministry with churches.

He encourages Tennessee Baptists who enjoy horses and are involved in related events to



JERRY REYNOLDS pauses with his son, Jamey, who currently is ranked first in the bull riding event in Tennessee High School Rodeo.



EVANGELIST Jerry Reynolds opens a recent high school rodeo in Cookeville with prayer.

learn more about the Tennessee Equestrian Ministry. He can be reached at (615) 797-5815. ■



WHEN HE'S not performing duties of a chaplain, Jerry Reynolds, lower left, helps out with the rodeos. This has enabled him to earn the trust and respect of many of the rodeo participants.

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■ **Stoney Creek Church, Elizabethton**, celebrated its 175th anniversary Oct. 26. Making special presentations were Bob Polk, director of missions, Watauga Association; Ralph Cole, Tennessee representative; and Rusty Crowe, state senator.

■ An area-wide youth revival will be held Nov. 21-22 by **Southeast Church**, and **New Life Laotian Church, Murfreesboro**, and **Harvest View Church, Kittrell**. The theme of the revival is "God-gottaholdonme." It will feature videos, bands, movies, testimonies, worship, music, and food and be held at Southeast Church. Pat Hood, youth min-

ister/associate pastor, First Church, Smyrna, will speak and Chad Hunter, praise leader, Stonebrook Church, Murfreesboro, will lead the music. Hunter also is a member of the music group, Month of Sundays. For more information, call Joe Vinson, youth minister, Southeast Church, at (615) 896-0940.

■ **Calvary Bible Church, Joelton**, is offering to give away 17 pews that are in good condition. For more information, call (615) 746-3508 after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays or leave a message.

leaders

■ **Terry Clapp** has been called as pastor of Holiday Heights Church, Henderson-



A GROUP OF MEN, the majority from First Church, Pegram, and First Church, Spring Hill, met with Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., prior to the recent Promise Keepers rally. Among the leaders of the group were Roy Brock, pastor, First Church, Pegram, and Steven Witt, associate pastor, First Church, Spring Hill. After meeting with the group Frist left to meet with Billy Graham in North Carolina and also Franklin Graham and a team of 500 doctors scheduled to leave on a medical missions trip.

ville, effective Nov. 5. Formerly he was pastor of Grace Church, Morristown, and prior to that, Woodbine Church, Nashville.

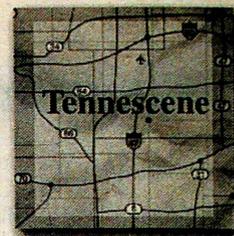
■ **Walnut Grove Church, Cordova**, has called **Robert W. Parham Jr.**, as minister of music and worship, effective Nov. 1. He formerly served on the staff of Bluff Park Church, Birmingham, Ala.

■ **First Church, Alamo**, has called **Gary Rivers** as pastor, effective Nov. 9. He formerly served as pastor of East Gadsden Church, Gadsden, Ala. He also has served churches in Mississippi and other churches in Alabama. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary, Memphis, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Trenton Street Church, Harriman**, has called **James McCluskey** as interim pastor. McCluskey is retired pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville. The church also has called **Jodie Moser** a student at Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, as interim minister of youth.

■ **First Church, Pulaski**, has called **George Douglas "Doug" Plumlee II** as pastor, effective Nov. 2. Plumlee has been pastor of First Church, Celina since 1990. He also has served as pastor, Elmburg Church, Pleasureville, Ky., and



associate pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Hixson. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville. Plumlee also is a doctor of ministry candidate at Southern seminary.

■ On Nov. 16 First Church, Dyersburg, will honor **Raymond A. Boston**, pastor, on his 20th anniversary of service. During the morning worship service Fred Kendall of Belmont University, Nashville, will speak. Also a reception for Boston and his family will be held at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (901) 285-4811.

New Work Pastors Fellowship to meet

The New Work Pastors Fellowship will meet during the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 11 at the Old Country Store Restaurant from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Larry McCrary at (423) 539-1677. ■



BREAKING GROUND for an educational facility for Ward's Grove Church, Milton, are, from left, Doug Sneed, Mike Hollaway, pastor; Johnny Jaco; and Roy Adams. The new two-story building will provide 5,500 square feet of space. The event was held Oct. 5.

Associations gather during fall

Dyer Association adopted new bylaws and guidelines for all of its committees. Churches were asked to continue to support the new congregation it is helping in Syracuse, Ind. Also

it was reported the association now fully owns the Baptist Student Union building at Dyersburg State Community College.

Cumberland Plateau Association honored Robert Hal-

latt for 10 years of service as Discipleship Training director. He has resigned to serve as pastor of a church in Michigan, to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership.



ELECTED TO SERVE Weakley County Association in the coming year were, from left, Jerry Seamans, Adams Chapel Church, treasurer; Gertie Sheffield, First Church, Dresden, clerk; Terry Griffin, pastor, Bible Union Church, moderator; and Larry Clark, pastor, New Salem Church, vice-moderator. Also shown is Richard Skidmore, right, director of missions.



NAMED TO LEAD Haywood Association during the next year were, from left, Mark Conway, pastor, Zion Church, vice moderator; Charles Pratt, director of missions; Linda Pratt, treasurer/clerk; Dewey Jones, Holly Grove Church, assistant treasurer; and Kenneth Culver, pastor, Calvary Church, moderator.

Bellevue Church receives TBC awards



TWO RECOGNITIONS were presented to Bellevue Church, Cordova, by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries recently. Above, James Porch, executive director, gives Adrian Rogers, pastor, a plaque recognizing the church for top Cooperative Program gifts from 1991-96, totaling \$2,904,925. Below, Larry Kirk recognizes the church for leading the state in baptisms for the same period, totaling 3,654.



Praying

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — John 17:9-19; James 5:13-16

When you hear the words "The Lord's Prayer," most people naturally think of the prayer which begins "Our Father, which art in heaven ..." This prayer should be entitled the Model Prayer. One of the prayers of Jesus is found in John 17. This is the longest and most complete prayer of Jesus in the New Testament. John 17 divides into three parts. In verses 1-5 Jesus prays for himself; verses 6-19 Jesus prays for the disciples who were with him; verses 20-26 Jesus prays for the unity of all those who would become his disciples in the future.

Jesus gives a personal example of praying for others. There are two major points of emphasis.

(A) There is power in God's name. In the Bible "name" refers to "character." Biblical names reveal something special about the character of the person. Jacob means schemer. Isaac means laughter. Jesus means Savior. By using the name Jesus is revealing the character of God to his disciples. Gradually, Jesus, by his words and deeds, reveals to his disciples the character of God. In John 16:12, Jesus said, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear."

In John 17:11-12, Jesus first describes the unity of believers. It is a unity already present. The meaning is that they may continually be one. Second, Jesus describes the security of the believer which rests in the very character of God and in the prayer life of Jesus. Jesus keeps all whom the Heavenly Father gives to him.

(B) Jesus emphasizes the strength of God's Word. (1) God's Word gives joy. It is to our failure that somehow we have conveyed to some people that Bible study is drudgery. Not so! Bible study is to be joyful. (2) God's Word assures us of his love. D.L. Moody wrote in the front of his Bible, "this book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book." (3) God's Word imparts power for holy living. We need the faithful, consistent study of God's Word to grow spiritually. Learning must lead to living, and living must lead to loving. (4) God's Word enables us to witness to the world about Jesus. As God's children, we are people under orders. Jesus prays for his disciples in John 17. His words are an encouragement to every believer. We must, we should, we ought to pray for others, especially other believers.

James teaches about the power of prayer. We are to pray when troubled. We are to sing praises when cheerful. The prayers of the suffering and the songs of the jubilant belong together. When you are sick, call the elders (most respected members of the congregation) and let them pray and anoint with oil. This anointing with oil is to be done in the name of the Lord. Notice it is the prayer of faith — not the elders or the oil — that will bring healing. There is great mystery here. All of us have prayed for someone who was sick to get well, and they got well. We have also prayed for someone who was sick to get well, and they did not. At this point we have to trust the wisdom and mercy of God who does all things well.

When I get sick I want to see a good doctor. But I also want Christian friends to pray for me. Truthfully, I want Christian friends to pray for me at all times — not just when I am sick. Verse 16b tells us that the prayers of a righteous person are effective — literally "has much force." Being prayed for and praying for others is one of the great blessings of the Christian life. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

A leader appears

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 2:4-8, 15-18

The first part of the book of Nehemiah is concerned with the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. God chose Nehemiah to be his leader in this project. Nehemiah was an example of a good leader and his story begins in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah was a trusted official of the king's court, and served the king as his cupbearer. Nehemiah learned from Hanani and some other men from Judah about the horrible conditions there, specifically the distress and reproach of the exiles because the walls and gates of Jerusalem were in ruins. Nehemiah was hurt by this news, and began praying, confessing sins, and calling upon the Lord for intervention. Nehemiah sensed God was calling him to return to Jerusalem and lead the people to rebuild the walls.

Family Bible Lesson

His concern. One day as Nehemiah was in his presence, the king questioned him about his sad countenance. The king sensed that Nehemiah wanted to make a request of him. In verse three, Nehemiah related to King Artaxerxes that his sadness had come because of the desolate conditions of Jerusalem. The king's response was to ask Nehemiah what he wanted. Nehemiah responded by offering a quick prayer to the Lord. God had helped him thus far and he certainly needed his help now. One person said, "Quick prayers are possible and valid if one had prayed sufficiently beforehand." Nehemiah knew that God was in control of this opportunistic situation.

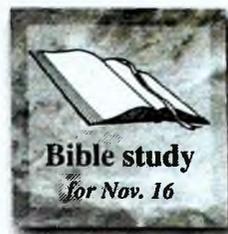
Although Nehemiah does not answer the king about the length of his journey, he does make two requests of the

king. First he asked that letters be sent to the governors west of the Euphrates River to allow him to pass through their provinces. Second, he asked for a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he would give Nehemiah the necessary timber to rebuild not only the wall, but the gates and a house. In the last part of verse eight, Nehemiah acknowledged that it was God who had moved the king to be favorable toward his requests.

His challenge. Nehemiah was a very methodical leader, who wanted to ascertain the situation at Jerusalem before he revealed his mission. In his planning, he inspected the damage to the wall and gates. He did this at night accompanied only by a few men. One of Nehemiah's qualities was his perseverance. Samuel Johnson said, "Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance."

At the appropriate time, Nehemiah called together various groups to share his concern and his plans. In verses 17 and 18, he wanted to motivate them to join him in the rebuilding project. First, he identified with them by sharing in their distress over this situation. Second, he related how grave the situation was by acknowledging again the ruin of the walls and gates. Third, Nehemiah indicated that it was time to take action. Fourth, he shared about God's grace by giving a personal testimony of how God had already worked in his favor through the king.

Their commitment. God used Nehemiah's challenge to stir up the people to commit themselves to rebuild. For the people, they had found a leader with whom they could identify and could follow. For Nehemiah, the favorable response of the people to his challenge was yet another indication of God's favor or grace, and the assurance of his sustaining presence. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



Tests of faith

By Michael Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 18:9-14, 22-26; 20:2, 11-13

Throughout our lives our faith will be challenged in significant ways. The focal passages reveal three kinds of challenge which people of faith may have to meet.

The first is the challenge to believe the amazing promises of God. Much time had passed since God first promised Abraham that he would have an heir. Earlier God had made it clear that Sarah was to be the mother of that heir. When Abraham heard that aspect of the promise, he "fell on his face and laughed." In the present text, the Lord reiterated the promise to Abraham with the additional word that the great event would occur the following spring. Sarah, who was listening at the door of the tent, reacted with laughter which indicated wonder and doubt. After all, she was 90 years old. In response the Lord spoke some of the most meaningful words in the Bible: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Sometimes we face the challenge of believing the amazing promises of God, too. God promised, for example, that whoever believes on the name of his Son Jesus will be saved. It is difficult for us to believe that God could forgive and save sinners like we are, but that is not too hard for God. Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of the world. It is diffi-

Explore the Bible Lesson

cult for us to believe that the Son of God would be our constant help and strength as we go about doing his will, but that is not too hard for him. It is difficult for us to believe one day our Lord will return and take his people home, but that is not too hard for him. It is difficult for us to believe suffering for our faith can bring about a positive outcome, but that is not too hard for God. We should remember nothing is beyond the power of our God.

Our passages also reveal the challenge to accept the responsibility of increased insight. I have heard people say, "Sometimes you are better off not knowing" or "What you don't know can't hurt you." As people of faith, though, we have increased insight into the ways of God, and with that insight comes increased responsibility. God was going to judge Sodom and Gomorrah for the wickedness of the people in those cities. Abraham's nephew Lot was living in Sodom. After the Lord's visit to Abraham and Sarah, he was about to send his two angels to the cities. After considering whether he should conceal from Abraham what he was going to do, the Lord said, "No, for I have chosen him, that he may charge his children and

his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice ..." Abraham's relationship with God gave him the hard challenge of knowing and having to deal with God's requirements and standards. He knew that God would judge those who rebelled against him. But Abraham boldly approached God to ask him to forgive because he also knew of the grace and mercy of God. Knowing the ways of God gives us the responsibility to intervene through intercessory prayer for the sake of others.

Finally, our passages reveal the challenge to overcome the failure that results from fear. In chapter 20, Abraham for the second time put Sarah at risk by allowing her to be taken into the harem of a foreign ruler. When Abimelech asked Abraham why he had allowed this to happen, Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, there is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife." Abraham failed in his responsibility to Sarah and to God because he was afraid, and also because he passed judgment on the people of Gerar. It is easy to fail in our discipleship because we are fearful and to try to protect ourselves instead of knowing that God will protect us. But like Abraham, we can be forgiven and continue on the path to knowing the fulfillment of God's promises. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.



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