

REFLECTOR

Volume 163 / Number 49

Statewide Edition

December 10, 1997

this week's news

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Fifth Sunday slows CP gifts in November

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Traditionally Cooperative Program gifts are down in months with five Sundays. November '97, the first month of the Tennessee Baptist Convention budget year, was no exception.

November receipts totaled \$2,074,396, compared to \$2,509,264 last November.

Early reports indicate December CP gifts are off to a good beginning.

"Tennessee Baptists are reminded that CP gifts enable us to maintain our evangelistic, missions, educational, and benevolent ministries for the cause of Christ," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. ■

Ancient Bethlehem meets modern technology

By Steve Butler
For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — It's a long way from the streets of ancient Bethlehem to today's world wide web.

But Bethlehem Marketplace has made the transition.

Southeast Church's 16th annual staging of its walk-through drama 1-6 p.m. Dec. 13-14 can be previewed at <http://www.sebaptist.org>.

Included at the web site are numerous pictures, a general description of the marketplace, answers to frequently asked questions, and detailed directions to the church.

Southeast Minister of Education/Administration Tommy Woodard said those who have never visited the marketplace now can get a good idea of what awaits them, while old friends can renew acquaintances through cyberspace.

In recent years Bethlehem Marketplace has averaged around 7,500 visitors from sev-

en states over its two afternoons on the second weekend of December. Last year it was profiled in *Southern Living* magazine.

The event depicts how the village of Bethlehem might have appeared the morning after the birth of Jesus. Its atmosphere and surroundings are those of 2,000 years ago.

It features characters in historically-accurate costumes such as Roman soldiers, prisoners, tentmakers, weavers, carpenters, merchants in shops, census-takers, and more. Food samples such as bread and cheese made on site are offered.

Live camels and other animals lend more authenticity, and 20th-century things do not appear.

The drama is held in the church family life center. There is no admission, no donations accepted, and nothing actually is for sale. Tour time averages around one hour.

Southeast is located at 708 Minerva Drive in Murfreesboro. For more information or directions, call (615) 896-0940. ■

Parents have strong influence on teens: Gallup Poll



By Marv Knox
For Associated Baptist Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — Parents have more influence on their teenagers than they might think, according to a new Gallup Poll.

"Teenagers are looking for their parents to help in decisions that might affect their future and to friends for issues of the moment," Gallup's Princeton Religion Research Center reported in its *Emerging Trends* newsletter.

The center's Gallup Youth Survey asked American teens to report the amount of influence they attribute to parents and peers in the decisions they make.

"The issue is not cut-and-dried," researchers reported. "Many decisions are made with considerable input from both parents and friends."

Parents exert the most influence regarding long-term decisions, while friends win the day in the short term, they said.

Gallup researchers noted parents "most heavily influence" decisions that affect the teen's future and what kind of person he or she is likely to be. For example, the highest degree of parental influence, 77 percent, shapes whether or not teens should go to college, the survey found. That compares to just a 5 percent margin of influence for friends.

Seventy percent of teens said their parents provide the greatest influence regarding whether or not they should attend re-

ligious services. Only 9 percent said their friends primarily help shape that decision.

Parents are also more influential than friends in ensuring teens do their homework (66 percent), on whether or not to drink (50 percent), and whether or not to have sex (48 percent).

Both groups have similar influence in helping teens determine whether or not to smoke, with parents strongest for 47 percent of teens and peers strongest for 26 percent.

The strongest peer influence comes, according to the survey, on whether teens should cut classes from school, who to date, the way they wear their hair, and when choosing their clothes.

The survey also showed parental influence decreases in the later teen years. ■

New trustees oriented to Tennessee Baptist life



For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Approximately 54 new trustees of Tennessee Baptist Convention institutions and the Executive Board attended an orientation session Dec. 5 at the Baptist Center here.

Bill Wilson of the TBC Executive Board staff told the members "part of what you're called on here today is to enlarge your understanding of Baptist life."

The new trustees heard presentations related to law, working in Baptist institutions, the role of trustees in Baptist polity, and trustees in Baptist life.

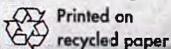
Speakers included Randle Davis, TBC attorney; Kenny Cooper, president, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes; Herbert Gabhart, chancellor, Belmont University; and Tom Madden, campaign chairman of the TBC Schools Campaign. ■

TBC EXECUTIVE BOARD staffer Bill Wilson, center, visits with two new members of the Executive Board during trustee orientation — Alan Lockerman, left, Cleveland, and Wayne Foropoulos, Jackson.

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Students draw on faith after shootings

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

WEST PADUCAH, Ky. — Rural Heath High School found itself in the nation's spotlight Dec. 1 when a 14-year-old boy opened fire on 30 to 40 students who had just finished praying before the start of classes. Three students were killed and five others injured.

"The whole school is now turning to God. It's not just a little circle anymore," said Brittney Thomas, who was in the prayer group when Michael Carneal allegedly opened fire.

Among events in the aftermath of the shootings:

- ▶ As the school reopened Dec. 3, Heath High senior Ben Strong, a pastor's son described as a hero for persuading Carneal to drop his gun, led another prayer meeting before class in the school lobby — the scene of the Dec. 1 shootings. An estimated 200 of the

school's 600 students attended.

"We just had a time of silence for everyone to reflect and pray," Strong told Associated Press. "I told them God's the only thing we can turn to in a moment like this."

- ▶ Shooting victims and their parents told others of their forgiveness toward the accused assailant.

- ▶ Some students have become Christians or rededicated their lives to God.

- ▶ Parents of the three slain girls agreed to televise the joint funeral, hoping it would lead some viewers to become Christians.

Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Church, Paducah, was interviewed on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" broadcast Dec. 2 about Paducah's shock and sorrow.

Asked how he and others are helping Paducah's teens "make sense" of such a tragedy, McCallon recounted, "I think what we try to encour-

age them about is an understanding that we live in a world that is a very ugly world at times. ... And the very reason these young people are coming together was because they are, at many times, in situations that need encouragement from each other."

McCallon added the tragedy underscores "how precious we really are and how precious life is to each other."

Bill Bond, the school principal and First Church member, told reports concerning the school's reopening, "I still believe in public education and we can't let one mixed-up person destroy our society. ..."

The head of a Franklin-based organization which nurtures Christian clubs on school campuses agreed.

"We cannot run away, but we must run to them. Christians have always done their best in difficult situations. This one should be no different," said Benny Proffitt. ■

SBC Cooperative Program gifts down in November

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts in November dropped more than \$2 million from the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

CP receipts in November were \$11,869,780, a 14.81 percent drop from the \$13,934,056 given last year.

For the first two months of the SBC fiscal year, CP receipts totaled \$25,045,808, compared to the same period a year ago of \$26,249,173, a decline of \$1,203,365, or 4.58 percent. After two months receipts are \$348,295 more than what is needed for the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

Designated gifts were up more than 26 percent in November and after two months are up 21.6 percent. ■

IMB clarifies missions gifts

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — The International Mission Board has issued a statement to clarify where Christmas offering funds are to go this year. The statement reads:

"Some Southern Baptist churches are confused about where their Christmas offering funds should go this year. Because the 1997 International Mission study focused on hunger relief, some have asked if monies being collected now should go to hunger funds rather than to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions.

"The answer is no. The IMB depends on money collected during the Christmas season to fund and undergird its entire missions program. ...

"Churches should designate missions offerings collected during the Christmas season for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions." ■

W.W.J.D. bracelets — witness tool or fashion trend?

By Dana Williamson
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — What would Jesus do? Would he wear a bracelet to remind him to do the right thing?

Bracelets with the initials W.W.J.D. are sweeping the nation. To some wearers they are a fad or a trendy fashion statement. To others they are a witnessing tool and a testimony of Christian commitment.

Nine thousand of the wristbands were sold at last summer's Falls Creek assemblies in Oklahoma, said Falls Creek director Gary Fielding. What Would Jesus Do? bracelets are distributed to about 4,000 Christian bookstores across the country, according to Mike Freestone, a salesman with Lesco Corporation in Michigan, who designed the first bracelets. Cost of the cloth bands is usually below \$2.

In addition to the popular wristbands, W.W.J.D. products include mugs, T-shirts and sweatshirts, necklaces, key rings, Bible covers, pencils, fanny packs, backpacks, bumper stickers, and more.

"A lot of our kids have them and a lot of adults have gone to wearing them now," observed Doug Goetzinger, minister of youth at Cherokee Hills Church, Oklahoma City. "They are kind of an identifying mark, somewhat like the old cross necklaces."

Scott Davis, youth minister at First Church, Hobart, Okla., said one of his youth sponsors felt the Lord wanted her to get bracelets for each of the kids in the youth group.

"I would say about one-third of them are wearing the bracelets," Davis said. "I would love for the bracelets to be used for their purpose instead of just a fashion statement, but, if I were honest, I think it is more fashion than a true witness."

However, at Calvary Church, Tulsa, Okla., students are starting to witness to students who are wearing the bracelets "because they don't know if they are Christians or not," explained youth minister Scott Watkins.

"Some of the kids in the schools in our area are saying the W.W.J.D. stands for 'Why Waste Jack Daniels?' You never know what people are going to think the initials mean," he said.

Billy Graham hospitalized

Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Evangelist Billy Graham was hospitalized Dec. 3 at St. Luke's Hospital here for a respiratory infection and dehydration.

Graham, 79, was listed in fair condition Dec. 4 and a hospital spokesperson said he was improving.

Graham was diagnosed with pneumonitis, an inflammation in his right lung. Treatments with antibiotics and intravenous fluids brought the infection under control

within 24 hours, according to a statement from hospital officials, who added he would likely be in the hospital for several more days.

Graham was vacationing in the Caribbean when he became ill. A Mayo Clinic patient, he was taken to the Jacksonville hospital, the nearest Mayo Clinic-affiliated facility.

Despite suffering from Parkinson's Disease, Graham still leads the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. ■



GRAHAM

IMB trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties

For Baptist and Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — Six couples with Tennessee ties were among 57 people appointed missionaries by trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board Nov. 19 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

J. David and Sharon Bennett were appointed missionary associates to central and southern Asia where he will work as a financial administrator and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

They are members of Bellevue Church, Cordova. A native of Fayetteville, Bennett is the son of Marie Bennett of Murfreesboro. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

Mrs. Bennett is the daughter of Bobby and Louise Peek of Winchester. She is a graduate of Belmont and is a former social worker for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They have two children.

Michael and Janice Bennett were appointed as missionary associates to Venezuela. He will work in theological education by extension and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

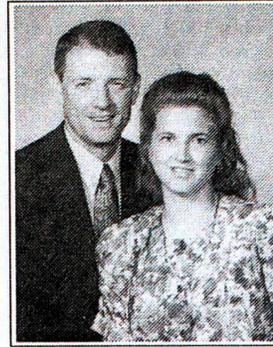
The couple are members of Hope Church, Nashville. He is a native of that city, but considers Joelton his hometown.



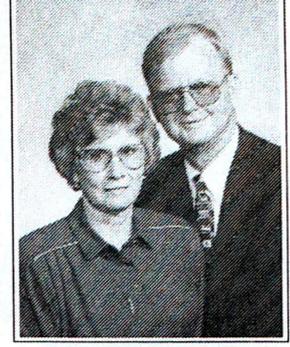
THE DAVID BENNETTS



THE MICHAEL BENNETTS



THE BYRDS



THE EMMONSES

Bennett is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Bennetts have two grown children.

Marc and Annie Byrd were appointed to serve in Poland where he will start and develop churches and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Since 1996 Byrd has been associate pastor of The Church in Midtown, a mission of Leewood Church, which he helped start. He is a native of Memphis and is the son of Eleanor Byrd of Eads. He considers Leewood his home church.

He is a graduate of Memphis State University and is to receive his master's degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, later this month. They

have three children.

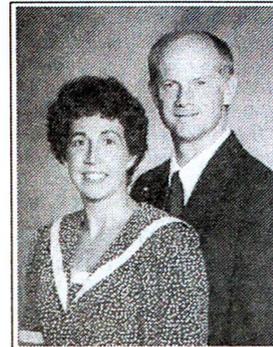
Marvin and Peggy Emmons were appointed to serve in Portugal where he will serve as pastor of International Baptist Church, Lisbon, and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

A native of Memphis, Emmons is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

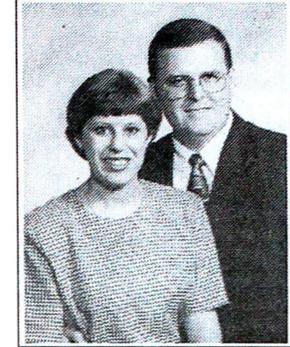
Paul and Elaine Lambach were appointed to serve in Brazil where he will teach at a seminary and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Lambach is a former chaplain at Baptist Memorial East Hospital, Memphis. Mrs. Lambach is daughter of Clyde and Lydia Samples of Morristown, where she was reared. She considers Fairview Church there her home church.

She is a graduate of the



THE LAMBACHS



THE TEAFATILLERS

University of Tennessee, Memphis. They have four children.

James and Dianne Teafatiller were appointed to serve in Tanzania where he will promote children's ministries and

she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Teafatiller has been minister of youth and education at Mount Carmel Church, Cleveland, since 1995. The couple has three children. ■

Parran's Chapel pastor Doug Baker serves on Bolivar city council

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

BOLIVAR — When voters of this Hardeman County city voted in the most recent city-wide election, a mayor

and five councilmen were on the ballot for re-election.

The mayor and three other incumbents won new terms — but two councilmen were unseated.

One of them was replaced by a Baptist pastor, a newcomer to political action — Doug Baker, pastor of Parran's Chapel Church, Bolivar for 19 years.

Early in the campaign, Baker made a promise that he referred to also after he was elected. "I won't let politics

guide my faith, but my faith will guide my politics."

Baker, a former member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board, won a council seat when he received the second highest number of votes for council.

"I believe the people of Bolivar wanted a strong Christian voice on the city council," Baker says. He said his position as a Christian will help others who make decisions affecting the city.

It wasn't Baker's idea to get involved to this extent. He was asked by busi-

nessmen and other citizens to consider being a candidate.

Prayer helped him realize that it would be a good idea. He pledged to "run a clean race," and the outcome was a vote of approval.

Baker, who also has served as second vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, never talked about politics "in any way," he says. "We never discussed my candidacy, and I didn't ask our church members for support." He admits that they supported him, however.

During the election campaign, Baker pledged to try to "bring a positive working relationship between city and county governments for the betterment of the community."

He also pledged to help the council "work with our positives, not the negatives."

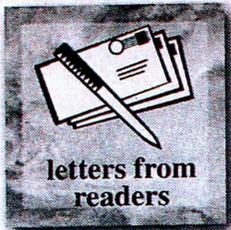
Baker is a graduate of Union University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He has served churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Missouri. He is currently the moderator for Hardeman County Association, and is a volunteer chaplain for Bolivar Community Hospital.

He and his wife Bettye have three children, Jeff, Amy, and Michael. ■



DOUG BAKER, left, pastor of Parran's Chapel Church, Bolivar, visits with church member William Biggers during the recent meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention held in Jackson. Baker was elected earlier this year to the Bolivar city council.



letters from readers

about letters

- > Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- > Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- > Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- > Send original copy. Form letters and 'open' letters will not be published.
- > Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- > If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- > Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.



Partnership Prayer Requests

December

- 10 — Pray for the Tennessee/Costa Rica partnership and that it will be a blessing to the people of Costa Rica.
- 11 — Pray for Marybelle Cruikshank of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, whose mother and grandmother both recently died.
- 12 — Pray for the moral atmosphere of Costa Rica. Ask God to use it to build strong marriages.
- 13 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's missions staff retreat to be held Dec. 15-17.
- 14 — Pray for members of Moores Chapel, Greenfield, in the Mississippi River Ministry area who want to build a new church.
- 15 — Pray for physical healing for Debbie Gifford, wife of Glen Gifford, pastor of New Life Chapel in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada.
- 16 — Pray for Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers who are making plans to do flood recovery in Poland. They will serve as crisis recovery counselors.

Thanks expressed

Thanks for the privilege and joy of serving as second vice president of the convention this past year. It was exciting to see what God is doing in the great Volunteer State and beyond through Tennessee Baptists.

It makes me extremely proud to be a Tennessee Baptist. I believe God is going to do something great among us in the coming months if we keep cooperating together in evangelism and missions.

Thanks to Dr. (James) Porch and the Brentwood staff for making this year an enjoyable experience for me. It was immensely rewarding to work with Dr. (Herbert) Higdon, Vern Powers, and Reed Dixon. There has been a creating of new friendships and the bonding of old friendships.

Lynn King, pastor
Maplewood Church
Paris 38242

She's encouraged

In reading the Nov. 12 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* I noticed the story entitled "DOM learns what it means to be a minority." I'm so thankful I read it because seeing how that small group of people faced the angry mob thrilled me greatly.

How thankful I am for a God who can still the storm.

I'm proud of that small group of people who must have quaked at first when faced with the mob, but knew who could take care of the situation and had presence of mind to call on him.

Thank you for printing this piece of good news and thank you for a constant flow of good news.

Katherine Price
Elizabethton 37643

Likes evangelists

One of the great blessings for our church every year is revivals. Since 1981, I have tried to encourage the churches I have pastored to have at least one Tennessee Baptist evangelist a year.

We recently had Henry Linginfelter and Carolyn Reed who did special music. The Lord again blessed in a tremendous way with nine souls saved, five additions by letter, and more than 120 decisions for Christ.

Let me encourage our churches and people to have Tennessee evangelists in your churches. We have always been blessed and we need all the blessings we can get in these last days. Our attendance was the best in revival in our church history.

Pastors, these evangelists

are no threat to any pastor and will work with pastors and the church to win souls, strengthen members, and help the church go forward for God's glory.

Try a Tennessee Baptist vocational evangelist and you will thank God for how they will be used by the Lord to bless your church.

John Rushing, pastor
Northside Church
Columbia 38401

As it should be

The night before the convention in Jackson included several meetings of note. The meeting of Tennessee Baptist religious educators (TBREA) gave me special joy. Music by Union University students delighted the soul. Then, Rusty Eason of First Church, Millington, lifted our hearts with his humor and excellent music. He knew how to minister to us!

The most nostalgic scene was seeing three men sitting together for perhaps the last time. Hamp Valentine, Davy Henderson, and David Sparrow shared moments of fellowship and reminiscing. Valentine has just resigned his church in Memphis to move to a church in Kentucky; Henderson has been called as pastor to begin a new church in Germantown; and Sparrow, a long-time nurturer and mentor of religious educators, has retired from Shelby Association and is longing for his Kentucky home.

As I saw these men sitting together, I thought, "That's how it is supposed to be. These men are truly brothers in Christ and brothers in the ministry. They have been through and are going through much and God is using them greatly and blessing their faithfulness."

Roger Hagan
Audubon Park Church
Memphis 38111

Fruitful testimony

In March 1997, during a revival at Beulah Church, Mohawk, Clint Holt, 15, was saved. Clint came as part of a ball team from the local school. On Sept. 12 at West Greene High School, during one of his classes, Clint told his classmates that he was glad he was a Christian.

At about 6 p.m. that same day, Clint was killed in an automobile accident. Steve Smith, pastor of Beulah, conducted his funeral on Sunday, Sept. 14, and extended an invitation. Clint's father, mother, and sister were saved.

The principal of West Greene invited Steve Smith to have a memorial service at the school on Sept. 17. Smith

shared a brief message, extended an invitation, and 111 boys and girls indicated they had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, a fifth of the student body. They signed a card with their names, addresses, and phone numbers.

Seven of our churches (Beulah, Bible's Chapel, Brown Springs, Concord, Fairview, Sunrise, and Warrensburg) divided up the 111 students for follow-up and many have followed their commitments and joined local churches and have been baptized and are being disciplined.

West Greene High School was made available to us for a Harvest Crusade a few weeks later and seven more youth were saved, with many more commitments made to be faithful in witnessing.

West Greene High School and the West Greene community are different now because of a 15-year-old's testimony that he was a Christian. Once again tragedy has been turned into victory.

James C. Williams Jr.
Director of Missions
Nolachucky Association
Morristown 37815

Likes officers

As a 21-year-old youth pastor who has grown up in TBC churches, I am thrilled with the elections of two men of God like Doug Sager and Hollie Miller. After years of frustration and shame, I can now feel good about being a Tennessee Baptist. The election of a conservative has been long overdue.

As a Christian going to a state university, I know the importance of not only knowing what you believe, but being willing to take a stand for those beliefs. We now have a president and a first vice president who are willing to do this very thing.

The problem with our state convention has not been radical liberals who deny the fundamentals of God's Word. The problem has been with "conservatives" who will not stand for what is right. It sickens me to hear men who have supposedly been called to preach say, "I am conservative, but not a fundamentalist." How can you call yourself a Christian, much less a conservative, and deny the

fundamentals of the virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death, and bodily resurrection of Christ?

I thank God that now we have two men leading our state convention that I can encourage my youth group to look up to. Maybe now we will not have to go the way of Virginia and Texas. However, I am prepared to do as II Corinthians 6:17 says and: "Come out from among them, and be separate. ..."

Nathan T. Wilkerson,
minister to students
Round Lick Church
Watertown 37184

Boost partnerships

I would like to voice a concern about what I consider an oversight at the recent annual convention which I and several others hope will not be repeated. I refer to the fact there was so little visibility for Partnership Missions and the securing of volunteers for partnership areas.

As a convention, we voted to enter a relationship with Rio. Beyond that I heard very little emphasis. Because of a previously scheduled meeting I was unable to attend the Wednesday evening session. I know that emphasis was given at that session. However, in the exhibit area I did not see a booth that allowed the Partnership Missions team to be visible for the three days.

I realize that the first area across the bridge was the Missions team area, but I feel Partnership Missions needed more emphasis.

I thought we had a good meeting and the host church really did a good job of providing a positive atmosphere for the meeting in spite of the weather and crowded parking. Beverly Smothers and her group did a wonderful job with the exhibits.

Judy and I also enjoyed the annual Juggers' Jubilee again. It really is a great way to meet new people and relieve the stress of long hours of sitting through meetings. Thank you for sponsoring this; it really is a great way to start the day.

E. Ray Luck
Director of Missions
Loudon County Association
Lenoir City 37771

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Peace gestures welcomed for both Koreas

When the new year begins, there is a possibility that something astounding will be taking place.

We are preparing to celebrate Christmas, the coming of Christ to earth, and the Season of Light for all people. Peace should abound across the earth. But even as we talk about and pray for peace, there are wars little and big, death, and heartache in many places.

News reports tell us that one of those "sore spots" may have some healing.

Peace talks and negotiations may soon be occurring on the Korean Peninsula!

From the early days of harsh and brutal invasion in 1950 — until now, Korea has been in the world spotlight. Major governments of the world are involved.

You see, the "war" that raged there so soon after the conclusion of the Second World War, has never ended. There has never been a peace treaty. South and North Korean troops — and American soldiers as well, still face each other across the cease-fire line. A harsh communist government still rules the north with an iron hand, unable to cope with great natural disasters such as floods and famine. Meanwhile, many people starve.

What a boon to world peace this would be — if both countries could have peace.

Staying on battle alert for 43 years has cost North and South Korea, and the United States an incalculable amount of mon-

ey. Think of all the funds diverted from worthy causes — to keep troops on full alert all those years.

If peace terms are fair and carried out, all the Korean "Conflict" veterans will be pleased. And the families of those killed in the war would feel more at peace.

The Christian influence will have a better opportunity to spread from South Korea to North Korea — which is one of the most difficult areas to reach in the entire world. By choice, North Korea continues to be isolated and belligerent. The hardened leaders will have some of their belligerence defused when world trade is opened, and they allow aid to go into famine and flood-ravaged areas.

Yes, what a boost for world peace it will be. But all sides, including the United Nations, must be strong, open, and completely frank during discussions. Weakness failed in previous bargaining, and it's too risky now.

Millions of Americans probably don't even know that the United States still has a powerful armed force in South Korea — to help prevent an invasion such as the one in 1950. Think of what that means.

For one thing it means remembering that 50,000 Americans died during that war, and almost as many still stand guard to prevent another one.

And it seems inappropriate to even think about war and conflict at this precious time of year — Christmas.

To help explain this, we can look at some words from Sunday's newspaper. In the December 7 op/ed section of the *Tennessean*, columnist Mona Charen addressed the need to remember the sacrifices of millions of Americans — and millions of others — to save the Free World from Hitler's crowd in World War II.

She was writing in recognition of the 56th anniversary of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and the beginning of American involvement in the war.

One compelling paragraph says it all: "Prosperity and peace are the greatest gifts to which a nation can aspire — but we have found it easier to secure these blessings than to be grateful for them."

We won't argue the point that the word "peace" should mean the peace that Christ gives. Perhaps we can admit that all peace comes from Christ, peace of mind and heart and soul — as well as peace of mere existence in a conflict-free society.

Charen closed with a tribute to those who served, without reference as to whether they served willingly: "We need it [a memorial], for the sake of historical memory, and to reconfirm our gratitude that those who faced the dangers of that time performed so magnificently."

A greater memorial to them, and a great gift to the Christ of Peace would be for every effort to be made now for long-lasting peace. Now we may have such an opportunity with Korea. — WFA



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Johnny to Santa Claus in department store: "How will you get inside my house on Christmas Eve night?"

Santa: "I'll come down the chimney."

Johnny: "We don't have a chimney, but here's a front door key."

Take this truth

The ability to adapt in an emergency is a great talent. Sometimes it isn't easy. But we can work at acquiring and developing those traits that aren't easy for us.

Memorize this Scripture

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:13

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to do my part in solving my problems and trust you to help me with the part I cannot do. Let me never forget that everything I do is because you give me motivation and the power. ■

Who said that?

Throughout the whole New Testament there runs the conviction that the time looked forward to by the prophets has in fact arrived in history with the advent of Jesus Christ...

The time of Jesus is *kairos* — a time of opportunity. To embrace the opportunity means salvation; to neglect it, disaster. There is no third course. — *John Marsh, Living Quotations for Christians, Sherwood Wirt and Kersten Beckstrom, Harper and Row, New York, N.Y., 1974*

Light — the unencumbered voice of the Savior

One word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



Jesus the Christ said, "I am the light of the world."

He also said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see my father who is in heaven."

Jesus talked with his first disciples about their being "the light of the world."

At creation, God the Creator said, "Let there be light" — and there was light.

Jesus said that when our burdens get too heavy to carry alone, he will make them *light* when we take them to him.

If all the accumulated wishes and hopes of children about Christmas could be brought to one place — would they make a difference?

If the great unnumbered prayers of Christians around the world could be combined into one voice, would anything good happen?

If all the longings for peace and light through the ages of mankind would be focused into one colossal beam — would there be light?

Well, for one thing, I think Christ means for all these power points to be focused on bringing Light to the world. I think he wants his Light to be unbot-tled, set free, sent out, spent, used up, focused on his great covenant with his people — he is the light of the world, and we are the light of the world.

We are reminded every Christmastide — as if we Christians needed to be reminded — when Christ began the church, he meant for the church to be lightbearers, to carry the light of God's love to the world.

Using words and descriptions promiscuously sometimes keeps us from realizing the true meaning of "light."

Seeing a light in the eyes of children at Christmas is certainly more than seeing a desire for material gifts.

Seeing the light of starshine is surely more than recognizing some piece of creation millions of miles away that can be seen here on our planet.

The light of the child's eye sees a Savior born as a child, coming to bring a gift, to receive a gift, to save the soul of

even a child. The light may not realize the full import of salvation, but the child's eyes may comprehend more clearly than an adult.

The star's light from afar, is a compelling message of creation, telling that the Creator also brings light to every soul who longs for it and seeks it.

So this is a special season. It's good to bring light to attention, to light candles, to display Christmas tree lights, to see the starlight, to see light in the eyes of those whose motives are truly anticipating real Christmas.

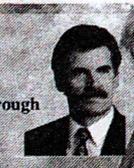
Christians have been called to experience Christmas by carrying the Light to a world that lives in sinful darkness.

From God's great beginning of all things, we still hear, "Let there be light!" B&R

Taking care of the facts when you have a car crash

families matter

by Ivy Scarborough counselor, attorney



Question: Travel increases during the holidays. What should someone do if they are involved in a car crash?

Obviously, it will only be possible to follow this checklist if you are not seriously hurt. My first suggestion then is for prior to a crash: Never trust other drivers — drive defensively.

(1) Notify law enforcement immediately. Some people skip this step thinking it is either unnecessary or best not to have law enforcement involved. However, if someone has been injured in a crash, it is a legal

duty to report the accident. And, in most states, if the damage done to one or both of the vehicles exceeds a minimal amount, the law requires that law enforcement be notified.

Reporting to police is a good practice in any event since it will make it possible to have an independent third party examine the conditions and conduct an investigation.

It is common for some injuries not to be discovered immediately. If an investigation is conducted, the basis has been laid for a lawsuit if injuries are found later.

(2) Render aid to anyone you can help, taking care not to move those who are seriously injured unless this is necessary. (It is wise to always carry a fire extinguisher in your car.)

(3) Get the names, addresses, and license numbers

of all witnesses as well as parties to the crash. If possible, get the names of law enforcement officers who are at the scene.

Getting names and addresses of witnesses can be of tremendous value if legal action is later necessary. It is common in the wake of automobile crashes for facts to be concealed, distorted, or fabricated.

(4) Exchange driver's license and insurance information with the other driver.

(5) Report the crash to your insurance company, preferably within 24-48 hours.

(6) Unless the crash is minor and no one is hurt, consult an experienced personal injury lawyer promptly. If you are at fault in the crash, your insurance company will provide legal counsel for you, at least in the event you are sued. ■

To reach Koreans and their families at Fort Campbell

Korean-American Church finds friends among builders

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Pastor Yong C. In is very thankful for all of the work of fellow Baptists to help First Korean-American Church here.

Tennesseans, with assistance from a few Baptists from other states, have helped the congregation build a new sanctuary and furnish it.

The congregation draws wives of servicemen based at Fort Campbell, the military base. The church's ministry is bilingual to reach all members of those families and, thus, keep the families together, explained In, who has served as pastor since 1994. But it also draws people from various ethnic groups, he added. Members are Asian, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, and American.

Since the recent dedication of its sanctuary, the congregation has been meeting in a new building located next to the two-story house it outgrew. Crowds had swelled in the house beyond its capacity of about 50. To try to provide for visitors, the congregation had offered viewing of the service which was broadcast in an adjacent room.

Enjoying completed sanctuary

Now the First Korean-American Church has a completed sanctuary to enjoy. The



INSTALLING book racks are Soo Ja In, left, a member of the Clarksville church, and Cathryne Howard of Oak Grove Church, Covington, a volunteer builder.

most recent group of builders added pews, a pulpit, and several other pieces of furniture for the sanctuary.

This group of 16 volunteers was led by M.B. Howard Nov. 16-20. Howard, of Oak Grove Church, Covington, is the Carpenter's Shop coordinator for the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga., and Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries. In addition to Tennesseans, volunteers from Second Ponce de Leon Church, Atlanta, Ga., funded, built, and installed the furniture.

Howard, who has led projects to provide church furniture to 21 needy congregations during the past six years, said he was impressed by the daily

practice of some of the men of the church to gather at 5:30 a.m. for prayer. After the prayer time, a member of the church prepared breakfast for the volunteers.

Other Tennessee volunteers who have worked on the sanctuary include members of Central Church, Johnson City; Gum Springs Church, Cunningham; Tri-County Church, White House; and a group from Chattanooga.

The help greatly reduced the church's debt for the new facility, reported In. Although the church draws about 90 people each Sunday, it is struggling financially.

However, In said he has "faith in God to provide everything we need in the future."

From just six members

In's faith has been tested at other times during his service to the congregation, he said. When he first visited the church, he looked for nearly an hour for the church site because it wasn't clearly marked.

When he found the church, it looked abandoned. Then he discovered the congregation, a mission of Nashville Hanvit Korean Church, only had six members.

Despite all of this discouraging information and the fact he was in a stable job — associate pastor of the 150-member First Korean-American Church, Arlington, Texas — he felt called to serve the



THIS HOUSE, which is part of the facilities of the church, serves as a workshop for builders who constructed pews and other church furniture for the congregation's new sanctuary.



CONSTRUCTING pews are Jimmy Dickey, left, of First Church, Selmer, and Yong In, pastor of the church. — Photos by Tim Bearden

Clarksville congregation.

In learned of the church's need for a pastor from a letter to international students of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he was a student. It was written by Terry Sharp of TBC Executive Board ministries. In knew no one else in Tennessee when he moved to accept leadership of the church.

God began leading him to this point in Korea, explained

In, when he learned English during his work for the U.S. Army.

Describing his current ministry, In said, "I didn't do anything. It was God and his people." B&R

Carpenter's Shop volunteers to help churches in Mexico

For Baptist and Reflector

COVINGTON — M.B. Howard, coordinator of the Carpenter's Shop, which provides church furniture to needy churches, reported on the upcoming projects of the shop and its volunteers.

Volunteers from Oak Grove Church, Covington, and Charleston Church, Stanton, are building furniture for a church in Mexico which they will deliver in February and workers from Chewalla Church, Chewalla, are building furniture for another congregation there which they will transport in April.

An additional project is being planned on site in Forest, Miss. Howard, who is a Mission Service Corps volunteer of the North American Mission Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, is a retired post office employee. He and his wife, Cathryne, work together on the projects, and are members of Oak Grove Church here. B&R



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Life and Work Lesson

God's people

By Ron Blankenship

Focal Passage — Matthew 5:14-16, 9:35-38, 28:18-20; Philippians 4:14-19

The contemporary group Point of Grace has a song in which they sing repeatedly, "Shine the light and pierce the darkness." God's missionary people are called to pierce the darkness in at least four ways.

Through shining the light. Jesus calls his disciples the "light of the world." We shine his light, not ours.

First, light dispels darkness. A small light is visible far away. Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote *Treasure Island*, was a sickly child. One night his nurse found him gazing through the frosty window. He watched an old lamplighter slowly work his way through the black night, lighting each street lamp along his route. "See, look there," Robert pointed, "there's a man poking holes in the darkness." That's what God's people do too.

Secondly, light attracts people in the darkness. Most of us carry our childhood fears of the dark into adulthood. It is a given that we would rather see to walk than to stumble in the night.

Thirdly, light saves lives. One of my favorite sights is the two lighthouses standing at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Many lives have been saved because these lighthouses shine their beacons to pierce the darkness and steer ships clear of the jagged rocks in the swirling waters.

Fourthly, light costs. A light bulb gives its life to accomplish its task. A candle burns itself down to provide light. The Christian is to lose his life for Christ's sake to find it.

Through praying. It is hard to imagine a farmer toiling for weeks planting, weeding, watering, and nurturing a garden only to ignore the bountiful harvest God gives. Or worse, what if the harvest would be offered someone who benefits from the farmer's hard labor, without doing any of the work? Jesus saw fields of lost souls, like miles of rolling wheat, ready to hear and accept the Gospel message, but workers were needed to work in the fields.

Without prayer the church is powerless in its mission efforts. Before harvesting the wise farmer makes sure he has the right machinery and enough workers. So it is with the spiritual harvest. Prayer is our best tool in winning the lost to Christ. But prayer alone for a harvest is not enough. Someone must enter the fields and through active witnessing reap the harvest for Christ. Pray that God will send missionaries, perhaps even you.

Through going. The Great Commission of Christ to his churches should be the umbrella mission which guides all of its objectives and action plans. Each church needs to develop a plan to reach its community and to disciple them based on the mandates of Matthew 28:18-20. These verses could be linked with Acts 2:41-47 to place under this umbrella mission six purposes of the church: worship and proclamation, outreach, missions and service, fellowship and caregiving, and administrative and leadership support.

Through the Holy Spirit we are empowered to accomplish Christ's mission. God is with us as our partner in ministry. He will provide the strength and the resources.

All the plans, the resources, and the command are useless unless we "Go." All Christians are missionaries commissioned to spread the good news wherever they are.

Through giving. Everyone likes a pat on the back and hearing a sincere "thank you." Because of churches like the one in Philippi, missionaries like Paul do not have to worry about financial support. It is sad that only the Philippians shared in Paul's ministry. Such a partnership brought a mutual spiritual blessing, as well as benefiting all the lives touched by Paul.

The Philippians even shared in Paul's troubles. This was more than "misery loves company." By sharing in Paul's afflictions, they also shared in his joys of winning the lost. — Blankenship is pastor, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.



BLANKENSHIP

Living in God's love

By Hal Poe

Focal Passage — 1 John 3

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8). Purity represents a change in human nature that comes from God. This purity results from being "born of God" (v. 9) which makes a person a child of God (vv. 1-2). Individuals purify themselves when they place their hope in Jesus, because Jesus comes into their life with his purity (v. 3).

Family Bible Lesson

One of the greatest prophecies of the Old Testament, repeated over and over by many prophets, concerns the promise of a new covenant. Unlike the old covenant, the new covenant would be written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

In the new covenant, God himself purifies those stained by sin (Malachi 3:1-3). Purity comes because God himself enters the believers. Where God is, sin is incompatible. Because of this incompatibility, our hearts are never at rest when we sin. When our hearts condemn us, though, we know we still belong to him, otherwise we would feel nothing (vv. 19-21).

John learned the meaning of the new birth from

Jesus. John recorded the explanation Jesus gave to Nicodemus about the new birth (John 3:1-21). John recorded that Jesus came because of God's love (John 3:16).

Paul emphasized the same point: "God demonstrated his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Love is always an action. We know what love is because of what Jesus did (1 John 3:16). Love is not so much what we say only, but what we do (v. 18). Loving one another involves how we act and what we do. If the love of God dwells in someone because God dwells in them, then it ought to show, "like father, like son," "a chip off the old block." Being a child of God means taking on the character of God.

Fellowship with the Father and the Son comes at the new birth when their Holy Spirit is given to the believer (vv. 21-24). This fellowship begins by obeying the primary command of God: "to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ" (v. 23) and this belief is confirmed by obeying the second command: "to love one another" (v. 23). — Poe is dean, Academic Resources and Information Services, Union University, Jackson.



POE

Beginning to become

By Rocky Churchwell

Focal Passage — Genesis 28:10-22
God reveals — vv. 10, 15

What kind of testimony do you have as a Christian? If you are like most Christians, you can point back to a time and place when God spoke to you about your need, and you responded by accepting the offer of redemption. That is how it worked for me. At the age of thirteen a friend shared the marvelous plan of salvation, the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins, and I accepted Jesus.

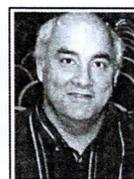
Simple? Not really. You see, I had to come to a place where I realized that I could not do it on my own. It was God who reached down, and through Jesus Christ, saved me. I didn't earn anything. God gave me everything.

Jacob certainly did not do anything to merit the blessing that God gave him. On his way to Haran to get away from the brother that he had cheated, Jacob settled down for the night. In a dream, God gave Jacob the same covenant promise that he had given Abraham and Isaac. Instead of condemning Jacob for what he had done, God told Jacob that he would be given the land he was sleeping on, and that this children would become a great nation.

Did Jacob deserve God's promise? No, but do any of us de-

Explore the Bible Lesson

serve the grace of God? In the dream, we listen as God tells Jacob, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." The promise of redemption for all nations is given to a man who began as a cheat and a liar.



CHURCHWELL

We respond — vv. 16-22

Jacob's life was changed by what God told him in his dream. Jacob didn't just listen to God and then move on, he responded. God speaks to each of us differently, but we can all be assured that when we are spoken to, there must be a response.

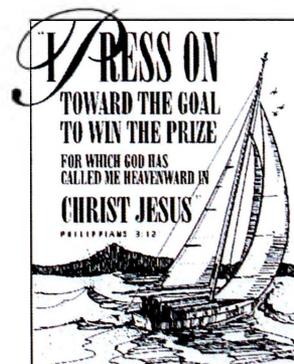
Upon waking from sleep, Jacob realized the significance of what God told him. He built a monument to God, and poured oil over it in dedication. Jacob had heard from the Lord, and now he would make a vow to follow God forever. In fact, Jacob even renamed the place he had encountered God. Known formerly as Luz (almond tree), Jacob would now call this place Bethel, which means "House of God." The pillar was a reminder to Jacob and his descen-

dants of the promise he made to God.

You and I need to remember our testimonies, not only so that we can share them with those who need to hear how Jesus can change their lives, but also as a reminder of the commitment that we made at the beginning of our Christian walk.

Jacob dedicated the pillar to God, but notice that he also promised to give God a tenth of everything. When God calls us to follow, we are also called to be faithful.

When you and I have a personal experience with God, and respond to our experience positively, it begins a process. This is the process of spiritual transformation which takes a lifetime to complete. — Churchwell is pastor, First Church, Jamestown.



state event

■ A Conversational English Workshop directed by **Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries** will be held Jan. 30-31 at First Church, Smyrna. The training is for anyone who would like to teach English as a Second Language. It will be led by Lee Ann McAninch, state ESL director and a member of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory. The registration deadline is Jan. 16. For more information, call Judy Hurst at the TBC at (615) 371-7916.

leaders

■ Erin Church, Erin, ordained **Michael Rodriguez** to the ministry Nov. 23. Although Rodriguez is partially paralyzed from a swimming accident, he teaches a youth Sunday School class in the church and leads youth group activities.

■ **Virgil Allison** has been called as interim pastor of Harmony Church, Adams.

■ **Sonny Wise**, music director, New Providence Church, Clarksville, has been

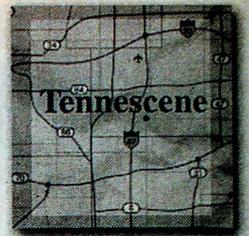
called as associate pastor.

■ **Jamie Bone** of Smyrna Church, Chapel Hill, was ordained to the ministry Nov. 30. He is pastor of Wartrace Church, Wartrace.

■ **Ernie Coleman**, pastor, Dupont Church, Seymour, has resigned. He is available for supply or other ministry and can be reached at (423) 417-2799.

■ **Morris Anderson**, pastor, First Church, Pigeon Forge, has resigned.

■ **Mark Jarrett**, of Oxford, Miss., has been called as minister of childhood education, First Church, Smyrna, effective Nov. 2. He served on a church staff in Oxford.



RECOGNIZING Cara Clay, right, at the fall meeting of New Salem Association are Ray McCall, left, director of missions, and Deona Lee Thomas, association Woman's Missionary Union director. Clay has been named a Tennessee Acteens Panelist for 1997-98. She is a member of Hickman Church, Hickman.



BREAKING GROUND for its first facility are members of Midland Heights Mission, Shelbyville, on Nov. 16. Holding the gold-painted shovel in the photo is Steve Murphree, pastor. The property was purchased through a joint effort of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, New Duck River Association, and First Church, Shelbyville. Presently the congregation meets in a building owned by a cemetery association. It is sponsored by Southside Church, Shelbyville.

churches

■ "Windows of Christmas," a drive-through and walk-through presentation of **Calvary Church, Lenoir City**, will be offered Dec. 14-16 from 7-9 p.m. The event includes people in scenes portraying the life of Christ. For more information, call the church at (423) 986-3567.

■ **Rutledge Falls Church, Tullahoma**, added a second worship service Dec. 7, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. The action has been taken because of many new members. In almost a year, 49 people have joined the church, including 27 who made initial commitments to God. Also, attendance on Sunday mornings has increased by 50 percent. In addition to adding the worship service, the congregation has called a youth coordinator, ordained additional deacons, and started a children's music ministry. For more information, call the church at (931) 455-8879.

■ The sanctuary choir and

orchestra of **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, will present "Images of Christmas" Dec. 13-14 at 4 p.m. Also, an Open House and Christmas Reception will be held after the concerts. For more information, call the church at (615) 373-8074.



LEADING the Nov. 9 groundbreaking ceremony of Maple Springs Church, Medon, for a multi-purpose building are, from left, Jewell Stephenson; Kate Byrum; David McCollough; Mechelle and Jordan McCommon; Mark McSwain, pastor; and Gary Williams, director of missions, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations. The building will be used for education, fellowship, and recreation. Plans are for it to be completed next year, when the church will observe its 150th anniversary.



ACTEENS AND GIRLS IN ACTION of First Church, Manchester, pause during a recent recognition service. The 20 young women had completed requirements in the achievement programs of the organizations. Completing the Queen level were Stacey Hopkins, Jeanna Hodge and Rachel Pepple; Queen with Scepter, Heather Hamilton and Emily Bumbalough; Queen Regent in Service, Jessica Heim and Erin Bumbalough, who also completed Studiaact. GAs recognized were Tricia Nation, Kimberley Tipton, Jessica Drake, Erika Duke, Amanda Simmons, Angelica Nation, Hollyn Anderson, Hope Thomas, Jennifer Hodge, Kristen Pepple, Leslie David, Krislyn Harrington, and Danielle Hall.

Tennessee students join 2,400 at 'CrossRoads '97' event

By Ircel Harrison
For Baptist and Relector

"Are We There Yet?" was the question presented to 2,400 college students from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee who gathered at the Classic Center in Athens, Ga., Oct. 31 - Nov. 1. Over 400 students from campuses and churches in Tennessee attended "CrossRoads '97."

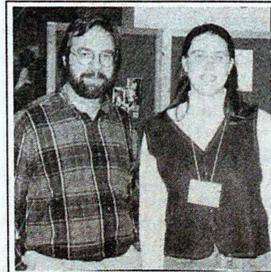
Tony Campolo, author and speaker, challenged students to move from an intellectual faith to an experiential faith, saying that "right belief and right living go hand in hand." He also presented the Kingdomworks Mission Year proj-

ect that places young adults in poor inner-city neighborhoods for a year to work with congregations.

Speaking on the topic, "Are We There Yet ... Not Hardly!" was former Dallas pastor Allen Walworth. He told students that "the joy of the journey is available right now" if we embrace the Christian life and witness with passion. Alica Kirkpatrick-Bremer, minister of Christian formation, First Church, Auburn, Ala., talked about being "on the way." Kirkpatrick-Bremer closed her message with an invitation to follow Jesus daily.

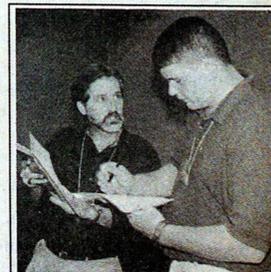
Tennessee Baptist Student Union president Jeff Gibson

from Tennessee Tech presided at the Saturday evening session. Jeannette Grace, state vice president from Austin



SPREADING news about Ocoee Outreach Ministries is Steve Popper and Susan Goodwin of Cleveland State Community College.

Peay State University assisted. Missions testimonies were given by Carey Hall, Carson-Newman College, and Heather



PREPARING for his part on the program is Jeff Gibson, right, state BSU president, with Rodney Wilson.

Logan, Belmont University. The ACTS worship team of Middle Tennessee State University BSU provided a drama presentation.

Seminars were offered on Saturday. Leaders from Tennessee included Coreen Jackson, former MTSU professor and current staff member of Temple Church, Nashville; Claude King, Mission Service Corps volunteer from Murfreesboro; and Robert Parham, executive director, Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville.

In a state meeting, students adopted the 1998 Collegiate Missions program that will call upon students to raise \$81,451 and fill 38 positions. ■