

REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 2

Statewide Edition

January 14, 1998

this week's news

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TBC committees meet to begin nominating process

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention met in December to initiate the extended process of nominating persons from Tennessee Baptist churches to serve on convention boards and committees.

During the meeting the committee reviewed the convention-adopted guidelines for their work and surveyed the scope of their assigned task. In addition, the recommendations form to be sent to each TBC church and association was studied and changes were made to enable committee members to receive additional information on persons recom-

mended for their consideration. A sample of the form will be printed in the Jan. 21 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. These forms will be mailed to TBC churches and associations Jan. 19.

All recommendations should be mailed to the Committee on Boards and/or the Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box

724, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728.

Also, forms may be faxed to the committees at (615) 371-2093. The deadline for recommendations is March 2.

Members of all cooperating Tennessee Baptist churches are eligible to be recommended. Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to participate in the process. ■

During Youth Evangelism Conference

Tennessee youth to march to state capitol

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist youth will have a "once in a lifetime" opportunity during Youth Reach '98, the state Youth Evangelism Conference, says Ken Weathersby.

The Youth Evangelism Conference will be held on Friday, March 6, at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gym, said Weathersby, evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

On Saturday, March 7, youth from across the state

will gather at four locations and march one-half mile to the state capitol in Nashville for a prayer/praise rally which will conclude with a concert.

While the Friday format is basically the same as in past years with a speaker and program at Vanderbilt and personal-witnessing conferences at area churches, the Saturday event is new.

For the past two years Opryland has been utilized for the Saturday portion of the YEC. Gaylord Entertainment's recent decision to close the

Opryland theme park caused an "evangelism think tank" to be created last fall, Weathersby said.

Leaders from all spectrums came up with the idea of a prayer walk to the state capitol. They adopted the following statement:

"As Tennessee Baptist youth, we recognize that there are two and one-half million people in our state that do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Our purpose is to gather at — See Tennessee, page 2

State Evangelism Conference begins Monday, Jan. 19

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual State Evangelism Conference begins Monday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at Judson Church, Nashville.

The two-day meeting concludes after the evening session on Jan. 20.

People needing to contact someone attending the State Evangelism Conference should call this number: (615) 837-1111. Messages will be posted. ■

Some ideas for making new B&R friends

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Have you noticed your favorite periodical lately? What about your daily newspaper?

If you are a Tennessee Baptist transplanted from another state, you may still read that other state's Baptist paper.

We believe our readers are discerning readers, particular readers, sometimes even "picky" readers.

So confess — you have noticed those periodicals and papers that boast slick paper and four-colors with a colorful and perhaps "gaudy" design. Readers have noticed probably — and that's why designs change. Just like the faces of people, we notice the "faces" of what we read.

The *Baptist and Reflector* staff has long been aware of new designs. They are happening all around us. In the past five years we have made three major design changes — and we're going for more.

Here's how. Many readers and potential readers have participated in a statewide survey by Craig Communications, and some were in focus groups.

The results relating to the B&R are

astounding, but not unexpected, not new.

A cursory study of your input shows that you depend on the *Baptist and Reflector* as your major source of Tennessee Baptist news. It also reveals that you agree with the staff on the needs of the paper.

Among the things most mentioned by participants are those which we have not been able to do because of budget restraints.

But — we are working on your suggestions, requests, and ideas.

You asked about:

▶ Four color photos. We already had planned to use color photos for the Christmas issue, and hope you agree that they enhanced the paper. They are expensive!

▶ Shorter news stories. We are editing more closely for concise stories. Features often require more length, but we want to conserve there also.

▶ More Tennessee Baptist news. That's a tough one. Craig Communications' study revealed that we are among the leaders in covering our state, but we will work toward even more.

▶ More helps for family life. Bravo! That should and can be done — adding to the emphasis we already have.

▶ Broader regional news. This can be accomplished by the use of "stringers," volunteer (or assisted) reporters from state regions. It's not new to us, but it's really an idea whose time has come.

As we thoroughly study the findings from the survey and focus groups, we will develop new strategies for reaching new readers.

Developing a long-range plan for phased implementation comes first.

Your state paper staff is guided by a Board of Directors (Executive Committee of the Executive Board). It is that board's responsibility to devise the long-range plan, along with the *Baptist and Reflector* staff.

The bottom line? More subscribers means more income for the paper's budget. More income means quicker implementation of ideas which will improve the quality of the paper — such as color photos, better grade of newsprint, underwriting correspondents, publicizing the paper itself. We do not expect additional Cooperative Program funds.

It's encouraging to get so many positive suggestions and ideas from our readers. We are pleased that you want the best possible paper for Tennessee Baptists. To you who participated with Craig, thanks. — The Editor

MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

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about your newsjournal

- ▶ Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- ▶ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$8.00; clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25; church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Contact office and we will bill you.
- ▶ **To contribute a news item**, call, write, or e-mail Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor
- ▶ **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor
- ▶ **For billing and subscription data questions** — Betty Williams, book-keeper
- ▶ **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- ▶ **For information about local church edition** — the Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
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Tennessee youth to march to state capitol ...

— Continued from page 1

least 25,000 teenagers who will represent them in prayer as we march together to our state capitol. We will pray for our lost friends, teammates, family members, teachers, coaches, and government leaders, that they may all come to have a relationship with Jesus Christ."

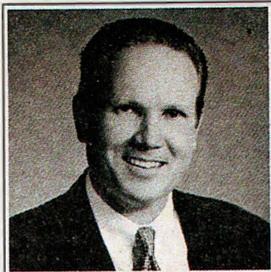
Weathersby noted that Tennessee governor Don Sundquist and University of Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning have been invited to speak during the rally. Manning has been asked to give a testimony. At press time Monday the evangelism office had not received a confirmation from either Sundquist or Manning.

The Saturday march begins at 9 a.m. with the rally commencing at 10 a.m. and concluding at noon at the state capitol.

Adults, other than the youth's sponsors, are asked to come and line the streets as the youth march to show their support, Weathersby said.

"This is a way for adults to show their support for the youth and to cheer them on during their prayer march," he said. Adults interested in participating should call J.D. Davis at Park Avenue Church, Nashville, at (615) 297-5336, Weathersby added.

Youth groups are encouraged to bring small banners with their church name or praise saying to carry during the march, Weathersby said.



GREEN

On Friday youth groups from West and Middle Tennessee will attend the session at Vanderbilt from 4:30-6 p.m. and personal witnessing conferences at local churches from 8:30-10 p.m.

East Tennessee and Nashville area youth will attend the personal witnessing conferences from 4:30-6 p.m. and the session at Vanderbilt from 8:30-10 p.m.

The Friday night speaker will be youth communicator Kelly Green of Brandon, Fla. He also will speak at the Saturday rally. Popular recording group 4HIM will perform. Jeff Slaughter will lead in praise and worship. The general theme of the conference is "the rocks cry out" based on Luke 19:40. The theme of the Saturday youth march is "No Rocks Crying Out (for me)" to say that the youth marching are taking a stand so that the rocks will not have to cry out for them, Weathersby said.

There is a \$15 registration fee for the conference, and pre-registration is a



4HIM

must, Weathersby emphasized. Registrants will receive a T-shirt and identification bracelet. The bracelet is the ticket into Vanderbilt and the personal witnessing conferences. The color of the bracelet also determines which of the four sites the person will march from on Saturday. The fee is the same whether youth attend only one day or both, he stressed. A limited number of partial scholarships are available on a need-based, first-come, first-served basis, Weathersby added. Inquiries about the partial scholarships should be made before Feb. 16.

The fee is higher than in years past, Weathersby acknowledged, but he stressed it includes a T-shirt, the Youth Reach '98 bracelet, admission to Vanderbilt and the personal witnessing conferences on Friday night, the march on Saturday, and admission to the rally and concert following the march to the capitol.

The first 25,000 youth to register are guaranteed the bracelets and T-shirts, so it is imperative to register early, Weathersby said.

Early-bird registration (postmarked on or before Feb. 16) is \$15; registration after that date is \$18.

Tickets for registration received after the Feb. 16 deadline will not be returned by mail, but will be available at a Will Call station at Vanderbilt on Friday, March 6, beginning at 3 p.m.

Weathersby asked Tennessee Baptist youth leaders and others to be patient and to pray for the staff and volunteers as they work out the logistics involved in the march and conference.

"We know this is a God-sized challenge. We would love for every church in the state to send their youth to this event," he said.

For more information about Youth Reach '98, including partial scholarships, call the state evangelism office at (615) 371-2058. ■

Magazine cites Ross, Hester

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Two Baptist Sunday School Board staffers, both members of Tennessee Baptist churches, were cited in the January issue of *Home Life* magazine as being among the 10 most influential Christians of 1997.

Richard Ross of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, and Jimmy Hester of First Church, Nashville, were cited in an article written by Ramona Richards.

Ross and Hester began the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence program in 1993 and it is still going strong.

Others cited in the article included Henry Blackaby of the North American Mission Board and evangelist Billy Graham. ■

ERLC leader assesses progress of pro-lifers

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — As the 25th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision nears, the nationwide pro-life movement to which the famous U.S. Supreme Court ruling gave birth has been doing some self-evaluation.

Pro-life Americans have a quarter of a century of devastation to look back on, 25 years of mixed results, at best, for their efforts. They have an uncertain future to look toward, one that some say requires a new strategy.

When Jan. 22 arrives, it will mark "one of the saddest and most tragic anniversaries in the history of the American nation," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

On that date in 1973, the high court issued an opinion in a case from Texas that wiped out

the abortion laws of all states. Combined with a companion case in Georgia, the decision had the practical effect of legalizing abortion through the ninth month for any reason offered by a mother. As a result, an estimated 37 million babies — three of every 10 children conceived — have died through abortion since Roe v. Wade, an average of about 1.5 million per year.

Land says the pro-lifers are "gaining ground" and there has been "substantial progress in the last 25 years in raising up a pro-life army."

"... Never before has a grassroots movement grown to such proportions without the sponsorship and support of any of society's elites. The pro-life movement is still growing, and it has yet to crest in America. We have succeeded in making abortion a frowned-upon procedure by most Americans, even if they are not prepared to make it illegal in most cases." ■

Ohio teenager gains TWL pledges via Internet

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Via the Internet, an Ohio teenager has been signing up youth for the Baptist Sunday School Board's popular "True Love Waits" campaign for more than a

year. Joshua Davis, a 17-year-old Marietta, Ohio, senior, has received on his personal web page more than 500 True Love Waits commitments — from Australia to Singapore and nearly every state across the country.

Sunday School Board officials, meanwhile, have developed a reporting system to tally teens' pledges to abstain from sex until marriage made in churches and other settings, utilizing faxes, e-mail, and U.S. mail. ■

Beulah churches nearly double baptisms in 1997

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — Beulah Association churches nearly doubled their number of baptisms in 1997, according to reports received in the evangelism office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

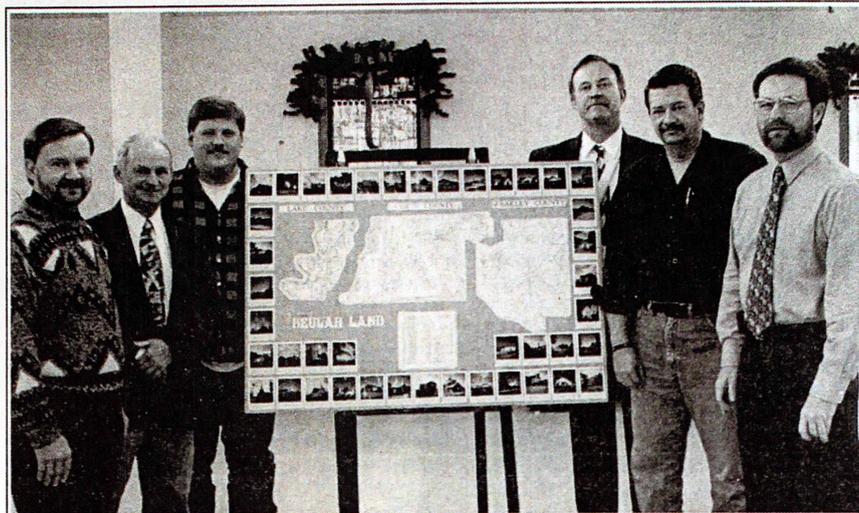
Beulah Association likely will lead the state in percentage increase in baptisms, said Ken Weathersby, evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Every association has not yet turned in their report for last year, he added.

Beulah churches reported 655 baptisms in 1997, compared to 364 the year before, according to Director of Missions Jerry Essary.

It was the largest reported amount ever for the association and only the third time the association has had more than 600 baptisms in one year, Essary said. All but four of the association's 42 churches reported baptisms and one-half of those reported increases over the previous year, Essary said.

The DOM noted seven to eight churches had 25 or more baptisms. One church, Johnson Grove, led by Pastor Mike Hazlewood, had 108 baptisms last year. Before the year began the church had a Sunday School attendance of about 30. They now have more than 100 in worship each Sunday, Essary said.

Unlike the previous two times the association broke the 600 number, there was no associational or convention-wide



MEETING AT BEULAH ASSOCIATION'S office recently to discuss the association's increase in baptisms in 1997 were, from left, Rick Burton, pastor, Woodland Mills Church; James Kinsey, pastor, Sunswept Church; Aaron Bargery, pastor, Lakeview Church; Jimmy Brown, pastor, Pleasant Hill Church, Rives; Tom Menees, minister of missions and maintenance, Sunswept Church; and Beulah Association Director of Missions Jerry Essary.

evangelism emphasis, Essary said.

The director of missions and several pastors in the association credited the increase to "focusing on the basics" of missions and evangelism. They also credited increased use of discipleship courses such as *Experiencing God*, *MasterLife*, and others.

"Our pastors have been stressing evangelism," Essary said. He noted Rick Burton, pastor of Woodland Mills Church and the associational evangelism director, taught an evangelism class during training events. Essary also ob-

served about one-third of the association's churches used vocational evangelists during the year.

In addition, the association has had a strong emphasis on being involved in missions, not just giving money, Essary said.

Last year more than 500 Beulah Baptists were involved in missions of some sort, either on the local, state, or national level.

Essary observed that some churches that had never been involved in missions participated in flood relief efforts last year. Obion and Dyer counties in West Tennessee were se-

verely flooded last March.

"God honors obedience. He has given us a harvest," Essary said.

That definitely was the case at Sunswept Church which had 64 baptisms in 1997, said Pastor James Kinsey.

Sunswept emphasized teaching, preaching, and practicing evangelism "the old-fashioned way," Kinsey said.

The church places a strong emphasis on missions and ministry, Kinsey said, estimating that 50 percent of his congregation was involved in hands-on missions work last year.



Pleasant Hill Church, Rives, a rural church, reported 67 baptisms last year. Pastor Jimmy Brown noted the church emphasized ministry and having a personal relationship with the Lord.

Aaron Bargery is in his first pastorate at Lakeview Church, Tiptonville. He noted when he began his congregation had the attitude of "let the pastor do all the work." He initiated a weekly visitation program and led his people to be involved and to invite others to come to church. Within a year Sunday School attendance had doubled and last year 27 people were baptized.

The bottom line, Essary observed, is "individual churches doing what God planted them to do in a unique way — just being what God wants them to be where they are.

"That's why we need different types of churches. We all reach different people."

Essary is proud of the pastors in his association. "By and large our pastors have a kingdom vision. They are excited when other pastors (in the association) baptize a lot of people."

Burton agreed. "This is one of the most unusual associations I have been in.

"The pastors get along and the churches cooperate. Nobody has their own agenda. We work together when the need arises. God honors that." ■

Chattanooga Baptists help heal women's post-abortion scars

By Dwayne Hastings
For Baptist Press

CHATTANOOGA — It's been 21 years since Linda had the abortion, yet she still hasn't gotten over it. But, she hastens to add, she has been forgiven and healed.

Yet, Linda is in the minority. Most post-abortive women are stuck in the grieving process — emotionally exiled by their family and church community's disinterest and refusal to admit their need for recovery.

"I will never be a woman who didn't have an abortion," said Linda Keener, director of AAA Women's Services, a crisis pregnancy center here. "I have a scar, but I can point to it and give God the glory that it doesn't hurt to touch it anymore."

The church has been crippled in denying the reality that abortion hurts not only babies, but also women, men, and families, said Keener, a member of Chattanooga's Woodland Park Church. "Maybe pastors feel if they speak the truth strongly they are putting these women under condemnation, but what they don't understand is that these

women who have had an abortion are already living under condemnation," she

said, noting one-third to one-half of the members in an average congregation have been touched somehow by abortion.

Many churches do a good job of talking about guilt, that Jesus forgives them, Keener said, but they don't know how to deal with the grief.

"We find so many men who don't want to deal with the issue," added Rita Sigler, post-abortion services director at the center and a member of Stewart Heights Church, Chattanooga.

"They want their wives to just get over it. They can't see if the abortion is in the past and if (their wives) have given it over to Jesus, why do they keep picking it back up again and again?"

There is a difference between guilt and grief. The post-abortive woman has asked for forgiveness of her sin, but the biggest hurdle is forgiving herself, said

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Jan. 18

Sigler, who had an abortion 24 years ago — almost a year to the day after the landmark

Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortions. "She has never been allowed to grieve. She doesn't know what to do with the grief. It's not something you can get over just

like that."

"Until we deal with the pain, we are never going to see the truth, because it hurts so much," Keener said. "There is a harvest of people out there who think they have committed the unforgivable sin."

Keener said most post-abortive women who say they are fine are really in denial. "I have never talked to anyone who did not have to deal with the reality of what that abortion really did to that child," she said. ■

NAMB ministry helps churches offer alternatives

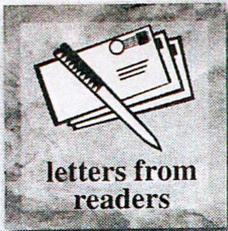
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Alternatives to Abortion Ministries assists churches, associations, and state conventions in ministering to women who are facing crisis pregnancies or have experienced abortion. The effort is a ministry of the North American Mission Board.

The NAMB office, established in 1987, undergirds the work of crisis pregnancy centers (CPC) by providing training and materials for workers and a nationwide database to help with re-

ferrals. Procedures vary from one CPC to another, but typically a woman comes to the center for the free pregnancy test that most CPCs offer. Along with the test, volunteers will talk with the woman about her options and about the services the center can offer or refer her to.

Tennessee Baptist churches interested in a CPC ministry can call (770) 410-6000 and ask for the "How to Establish a Crisis Pregnancy Center" manual and other Alternatives to Abortion materials. ■



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.

Thanks for tapes

With deep sorrow I am reporting the recent death of my husband, Sterling P. Welborn.

We had been receiving the paper on tape since he had been legally blind for 10 or more years.

I cannot express enough appreciation for having received it and what it meant to him. He was 94 and one-half years old and had been a reader of the *Baptist and Reflector* since childhood.

I sincerely hope this service can continue to help others who are visually handicapped.

My thanks go to Judson Church and all who help in sending out the tapes.

May God bless all concerned in this wonderful work.

Mrs. Sterling Welborn
Dyersburg 38024

We're pleased that this ministry of the *Baptist and Reflector* will continue. Others who desire the service should contact the paper. — Editor

Good stewards

I'm responding to the Dec. 3 article: "60 minutes failed to show offensive side of Disney."

I think it is wonderful that Southern Baptists (of which I am one) and others are boycotting The Disney Company. But we should not pat ourselves on the back. This boycott is a drop in the bucket to what Christians could do. Southern Baptists alone have the money to offer alternatives to Disney. The article mentioned James Dobson with "Focus on the Family," one of the best Christian organizations in the world. They offer videos, literature, audio tapes, and much more at affordable prices. We need to get together and buy a TV and radio station. Good programs with Christian values and morals could be made. The Bible offers many alternatives to Disney. If Christians do not stand up for what we believe, how can we expect non-Christians to respond to our witness?

Christians need to be informed about things going on in this country and around the world.

Southern Baptists are going to be held accountable when we stand before God for our spending. When we put our money in the plate at church this does not end our responsi-

bility to be good stewards.

Let's get our act together. We and others can impact this country and our world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let's not stick our heads in the sand and depend on others to do what we are supposed to be doing.

Boycott Disney? Most certainly, but let's not stop there.

Patsy Hewitt
Elmwood 38560

Reason together

I've never written a letter to the editor in my 65 years as a Baptist. But after attending the recent Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting and hearing the heated words over "control" of our colleges, I voice my views, too. When are we going to quit fighting over our individual differences and stop trying to make everyone act, think, and be alike?

On May 16, 1920, George W. Truett preached a famous sermon. He said, "To Baptists, the New Testament also clearly teaches that Christ's church is not only a spiritual body, but it is also a pure democracy, and its members being equal, a local congregation, and it can-

not subject itself to any outside control." That is still true today, and it applies to our colleges as well.

We are to lead — not force; to stimulate — not stifle; to expand our minds — not tighten them. Truett also said: "Our Christian schools are to train not only our religious leaders, but hosts of our leaders in the civil and business realm as well." We are in this world and we had better at least know what is going on around us. No, we are not to be of this world. But how can we rise above something that we know nothing about? Where is the freedom to think for ourselves that God gave us? Isaiah 1:18 says "'Come now, let us reason together' says the Lord," not, come now, let me tell you every little thing that you must believe.

If we try to "own" and "control" our colleges, making everyone act, think, and be alike, then we lost an important Baptist principle — individual freedom under God. God made each of us to be a unique person and expects us to use the individuality for his glory.

Lois E. Gibbs
Hendersonville 37075

Baptist Men's Day focuses on missions education, action

For *Baptist and Reflector*

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Getting men involved in learning about and participating in missions traditionally has been foundational to Southern Baptist efforts to fulfill the Great Commission. And the best way to increase that involvement, many churches are finding, is through a broad and dynamic array of opportunities.

Baptist Men's Day, the annual emphasis on missions education and involvement programs for men in the church, will be conducted in SBC churches on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Under the recent reorganization of the Southern Baptist Convention, the new North American Mission Board now has responsibility for equipping churches in pro-

moting missions education and involvement among men, a role formerly held by the Brotherhood Commission. The assignment of developing resources for men's ministries has been given to the Baptist Sunday School Board. "We are committed to creating missions education material for men in partnership with the Sunday School Board," said Tim Seanor, NAMB's director of missions education.

One new option now available to church-



es is "Missions in Motion," a video resource designed to make missions education come alive. The quarterly kit provides a video and companion curriculum guide providing material for one session each month focusing on a particular area of missions. The first issue of

"Missions in Motion" was mailed free to churches who order materials from the BSSB. For more information on this item, call (800) 233-1123. ■



Partnership Prayer Requests

January

14 — Pray for members of Moores Chapel, Greenfield, in the Mississippi River Ministry area, who want to build a new church.

15 — Pray for Dixie Southern Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, where Shan An serves as pastor, as they open home groups.

16 — Pray for Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who are making plans to do flood recovery in Poland.

17 — Pray for Costa Rican missionary kids as they grow and mature.

18 — Pray for the upcoming Mississippi River Ministries Convocation to be held April 3-4 at First Church, West Memphis, Ark.

19 — Pray for Royal Heights Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, which set a church goal of 10 percent of the national Canadian goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

20 — Pray for spiritual wisdom for leaders of San Pedro Church in Costa Rica.

Whether the game is basketball or life in general, don't give up

an occasional word

by Lonnie Wilkey
associate editor



I'm coaching my son's 8-9-year-old basketball team this year.

We only have one player with experience in our league. The majority of our players moved up from a league where they played on a "drop goal" or have never played before. For the most part my assistant coach and I have tried to just teach the fundamentals.

We have worked on some plays, which require the basics of making a good pass, catching

the ball, and taking a shot. We tried them in our first two games but without a lot of success.

Finally, in our third game I began to see results. We actually made some good passes, caught the ball, and took some good shots.

Unfortunately, the ball would roll around the rim and out, or bounce off.

On the other hand, it seemed the team we were playing only had to throw the ball in the general direction of their basket and it would go in.

At the start of the final quarter, I told my team I was proud of them despite the fact we were behind 10-2. I told them to keep doing what they were doing; that some of those shots we barely missed would eventually

go through the hoop.

With a minute to go in the game we were behind 10-4. Things looked bleak.

Then all of a sudden, those shots we had been firing up and missing the entire game, began to fall.

With about 10 seconds left in the game, we made a foul shot to draw within two points. The next shot missed but one of our players grabbed the rebound and scored the basket which tied the game as time expired. We went on to win the game in overtime.

The win was nice, but even more important was the fact that when it looked like we didn't have a chance, our players kept hustling and taking good shots. They didn't give up and the ball finally rolled our way.

Christians need to have that same type of mentality.

Things don't always go the way we want. We have problems and hardships the same as non-Christians. Prayers sometimes seem to go unanswered. The person with whom we spend countless hours witnessing, refuses to make a profession of faith. The list could go on. No matter what, we shouldn't give up.

One of my favorite verses is John 16:33 which tells us that in this world we will have adversity. Jesus, however, tells us to "fear not, I have overcome the world."

In other words, we may not always make the basket, but we need to keep shooting. With God on our side, we'll come out victorious — and we won't even need overtime. *B&R*

Keep your calendars handy, it's a busy time

January and February are busy months — not that the other ten aren't cluttered with important dates. But these two winter months give us a quick wake-up call after some time off.

Not only are there several special events staged by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, and the associations, almost every Sunday marks an observance of worthwhile emphasis.

At the Baptist Center which houses most of the Executive Board ministries, we have just completed At Home Week and the regular January session of the Executive Board.

Sunday, January 18, many Southern Baptist churches will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. On that same day in Tennessee some Baptist churches will be involved in one day revivals with Tennessee evangelists preaching.

The State Evangelism Conference is scheduled for January 19-20 at Judson Church, Nashville.

Let's have a closer look at the next few weeks in Tennessee Baptist life.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 18 — Christians concerned about abortion, physical and mental abuse, and unconcern about care for the elderly, should do more than celebrate or observe this day.

We must put into practice the message of Christ, with courage and persistence. (See page 3 for more information.) Crimes are being committed constantly all around the world — as babies, mothers and older children, and elderly people are abused. And don't think other age groups and gender are exempt from injustices.

Baptist Men's Day, Sunday, January 25 — A tradition in Southern Baptist churches for many years, Baptist Men's Day affirms the work of men in the churches and their faithfulness as husbands, fathers, and other role models.

We encourage churches to plan church-wide and community-wide involvement of men of all ages in plans and programs. Promise Keepers is a good example of how Baptists and other Christian men are exemplifying the Christlike lifestyle. Part-

nership Missions also is a hands-on experience for Baptist Men in Tennessee.

Baptist World Alliance Sunday, February 1 — Friendship opportunities for Tennessee Baptists can include Baptists not only in the United States, but on every continent.

The BWA is a global fellowship through which Baptists work together in evangelism, aid, and justice. There are 191 Baptist unions and conventions representing membership of 42 million baptized believers in a community of 100 million.

Also in February — February 1, Race Relations Sunday, and February 15, Baptist Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools Day are vital in Tennessee Baptist life, and we'll share more about them in the near future. Begin thinking of ways to feature all these ideas. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

Don't blink, or you may miss this one

Will January 1, 2000, be any different from December 31, 1999? Perhaps the major difference is the difficulty in writing the new number in day-to-day routines.

Will the new millennium really matter in the grand scheme of life? Probably not.

Some pundits say we already are in the next millennium. Others say it really will come two or three years after 2000.

There will be great celebrations, parades, speeches, and a variety of other

"welcomes" to the year 2000. Beware of the grand array of pyrotechnics!

There may be groups calmly waiting for the return of Christ on some mountain-top or in a holy place.

It is likely that the man-made calendar will merely call for another day. We will have the football games and parades. The main thing for Christians is that we totally commit ourselves to do the work that Christ has for us each day. ■



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Politician, sitting down after delivering a long speech in which he felt he had "messed up," in a muffled tone to another platform personality: "I had the opportunity to make an important speech, and I missed it."

Politician on platform: "You missed an even greater opportunity by not staying silent."

Take this truth

A large part of succeeding in a project is knowing when to quit. If you have nothing worthwhile to say, hurry up, say it, and quit before your audience finds out it's worthless. If it's good, don't take too long to say it.

Memorize this Scripture

To everything there is a season and a time ... a time to speak ... "Ecclesiastes 3:17

Pray this prayer

Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough. ■

Who said that?

Let us have our principles. Let us hold to them as tenaciously as we please... But let us not make them tests of orthodoxy, within the limits of essential Baptist principles, and drive others from us if they do not accept our views. — *Edgar E. Folk, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, Jan. 5, 1899; quoted in Contending for the Right to Know, William Junker, Providence House Publishers, Franklin, Tenn., 1996*

What have you forgotten at church lately?

One word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



Our church newsletters (yours and mine) can sometimes be amusing. Of course, we have to remember that it's our afterthoughts that make it so.

An announcement in a weekly newsletter said that someone had mistakenly picked up another person's raincoat. Confused about the umbrella — I can understand, but raincoats — hmmm.

The two coats were almost alike, similar in color, made by the same manufacturer — but not the same size.

So two people had coats that would repel the rain and keep out the cold wind, but still they wouldn't be happy. The coats did not fit! Even more amazing is the fact that one of the two evidently didn't realize the misfit. I guess they thought the diet really was working.

And things are left at the church house, many things.

Check the lost and found box. It would have at least 11 ladies' gloves (ten for the left hand, mixed colors, a baby's sock, seven handkerchiefs, 32 Bible markers (all made in Vacation Bible School), a thimble, three pens that won't write, an empty purse, a broken pencil, a man's smashed hat, a tube of Chapstick, 29 Bibles (one of which carries the loving inscription — To Jimmie from Mom and Dad, Christmas 1990), and a size AA battery.

But it gets more serious. In the classrooms you could find, more than likely, pupils' quarterlies for current and long ago lessons — some dog-eared, some unused; numerous special offering envelopes, and a few New Testaments that look brand new.

You might blunder onto a vase of dusty artificial flowers, perhaps an indication of artificial attitudes!

On a hanger in the hall are a couple of jackets that have been there so long the owners probably don't remember them and may have outgrown them by two sizes.

And there are three or four umbrellas that at least a dozen people would cherish on a rainy day — but they are afraid to borrow one.

What else is left at the church house, misplaced, lost,

or forgotten?

Christlike attitudes and smiling faces are sometimes checked at the door. We wear them when we meet together, but we may leave them there until our next trip to the church house.

We sometimes leave crosses at the church too. After all, there are easier ways to live. The cross is too heavy and it's not for me.

Enabling, uplifting, encouraging words may be left behind, along with opportunities.

The real measure of Christlike life is how we carry the Gospel daily. If we have left it at the church house to be used only on Sundays — we measure about an inch high. Most of the important things we leave belong in the heart, and they always need to be exercised. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

Question: whether to use a lawyer to prevent divorce

families matter

by Ivy Scarborough, counselor, attorney



Do I need a lawyer?

Answer: Your experience is becoming very common. First, discipline yourself to think realistically and not let what you want to believe dictate how you respond.

Your husband's explanation for leaving you doesn't make sense to me any more than it does to you. When

I hear such explanations I immediately suspect an affair with another person. People involved in adultery are deeply enmeshed in deceit.

Their deceit not only extends to their spouses and to others around them, but also characterizes their thinking generally. They lose touch with the truth. You must not. You must seek out the truth.

You can do that by seeing an experienced Christian marriage counselor quickly regardless of whether your husband will go. See how the counselor reacts to your account.

Follow the counselor's advice; it can aid you as you cope with your situation.

Second, consider hiring a private investigator. This is not the sordid, trust-destroying stratagem many would have you to believe.

The trust in your relationship is already devastated, and if your husband is having an affair, it is better for you to know.

Ironically, that knowledge might help in restoring your marriage. It was well after (theologians surmise perhaps one year) King David's adultery with Bathsheba that Nathan pointed his finger in David's face and forced him to confront the truth.

Only then did David come to grips with his sin.

Get advice from an experienced divorce lawyer, but do not allow yourself to be pushed into filing a divorce. Recognize that you have no control over your husband's choices, no matter how foolish they may be. Nor will God compel him to choose as he should.

Through it all, cling to the hem of the Master's garment as you never have before. ■

TBC conferences focus on 'disciple making in the 21st century'

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Nine "Disciple Making in the 21st Century Church" conferences will be held across the state, beginning Feb. 5.

The conferences, presented by the Church Growth Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, are for pastors, staff, Discipleship Training directors, and adult,

youth, children, and preschool leaders in Discipleship Training, who are interested in discipling believers in their church.

Times for each conference are 7-9 p.m.

Conferences and locations are: Feb. 5, Broadmoor Church, Memphis; Feb. 9, Cumberland Church, Knox-

ville; Feb. 10, Grace Church, Elizabethton; Feb. 12, Oakwood Church, Chattanooga; Feb. 17, Stevens Street Church, Cookeville; Feb. 19, Mt. Pleasant FBC, Columbia; March 2, Long Hollow Church,

Hendersonville; March 3, Poplar Heights Church, Jackson; and March 12, West Paris Church, Paris.

There is no registration fee

for the conferences.

For more information, contact Jerry L. Chapman, TBC Discipleship Coordinator at (615) 371-7932. ■

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Jan. 18-22

Times:
Sunday morning — 10:45 a.m.
Sunday evening — 6 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday evenings — 7 p.m.



KOON

Speakers

Sunday, Jan. 18
Evangelist George Koon
Lexington, S.C.

Monday, Jan. 19
Dr. Tom Elliff
SBC President; Pastor
First Southern Baptist Church,
Del City, Okla.

Music: Sevier Heights Church Choir

Tuesday, Jan. 20
Evangelist Jay Strack
Orlando, Fla.

Music: Student Choir, FBC, Concord

Wednesday, Jan. 21
Dr. Herb Reavis, Pastor
North Jacksonville Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Fla.

Music: FBC Alcoa Church Choir

Thursday, Jan. 22
Dr. Johnny Hunt, Pastor
FBC, Woodstock, Ga.

Music: FBC Woodstock Praise Team

For more information, contact:
FBC, Alcoa
819 Gilbert Street, Alcoa
(423) 982-2661
Richard V. Holden, Pastor



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(Prior to State Evangelism Conference)

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Tim and Amy Wuester of Gallatin — *Music Directors*

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Suicide

By Ron Blankenship

Focal Passage — *1 Samuel 31:1-6; Psalm 94:17-19, 139:15-16; Jeremiah 10:23; James 5:10-11*

Three years ago I surveyed my congregation to find the answers to the question, "If I had one thing to ask God, what would it be?" The responses were categorized into 12 questions. One of them was, "Can a person commit suicide and go to heaven?"

The problem of suicide. I have ministered to several families and persons who have been connected with suicide. The first funeral at my present pastorate was that of a close family member of one of my parishioners. Probably 300,000 persons a year commit suicide in the United States, but only about 40,000 of them are called suicides. So, the problem is far greater than most of us realize. We live in a violent world, providing the setting for suicidal tendencies.

Women are three times more likely to attempt suicide, but men are three times more likely to succeed. That is because men usually use more violent means of attempting to kill themselves by using such methods as shotguns instead of overdose of pills. My opinion is that this gap is slowly narrowing.

Over a million people attempt suicide annually in the US. We can only guess how many beyond this number have thought about it.

We often stereotype victims of suicide as elderly adults. However, it is the second leading cause of death among college and high school students.

The Bible relates six accounts of suicides: King Saul in *1 Samuel 3:1-6*; Samson in *Judges 16:28-31*; Abimelech in *Judges 9:54*; Ahithophel in *2 Samuel 17:23*; Zimri in *1 Kings 16:18*; and Judas in *Matthew 27:3-16*. These texts merely present what happened without offering any answer whether they were saved.

Causes of suicide. Some of the most prevalent reasons are a cry for attention, feeling unwanted and unloved, a feeling that life is futile or meaningless, the person may want to escape a dread disease. Other reasons could be to avoid disgrace, a nagging sense of guilt, wanting to punish himself or someone else, not wanting to be a burden to others, ambivalence, living on the edge, or martyrdom.

Myths or false assumptions. Some misconceptions about suicide include: that it is the unpardonable sin. The only unpardonable sin is to turn one's back on the Holy Spirit and reject God. Any other sin is forgivable.

Especially relatives or close friends often can't understand why the victim of suicide didn't warn them. But they more often do not give forewarning.

Some other myths about suicide are: all leave notes, it is restricted to the poor or the rich, if one talks about suicide he or she won't do it, suicide always condemns a person to eternal hell.

Signs of suicide. Signs include: a loss of relationship, loss of a job, move to a new community and especially with children, loss of spouse by death or divorce, ego needs shattered, prolonged acute depression, and sudden changes in behavior pattern, moods, communication patterns, sleeping or eating patterns. Watch for extreme reactions.

Ways to help. Learn to be sensitive to other people, learn to listen, direct them to professionals for help (i.e. Suicide Prevention and Education Center, Crisis and Information Center, medical doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist, pastoral counselor, or pastor), to help them with support and concern express love in tangible ways, and remember that we have resources from God upon which we can draw.

So, a person can commit suicide, yet still go to heaven. The key is one's relationship with God before the suicide. Good books are Bill Blackburn's *What You Should Know About Suicide* and John Hewett's *After Suicide*. — Blankenship is pastor, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.

Hope in suffering with Christ

By Hal Poe

Focal Passage — *1 Peter 3:8-21; 4:12-16*

Peter stood in a particularly helpful position to give advice to other Christians dealing with the fear of persecution. Throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus, Peter appeared as the loud mouth who always had something to say. He talked big. He carried a big stick, a sword in fact. He had a fiery reaction to danger and was ready to fight his way out of the predicament when the guards came to arrest Jesus. He apparently did not mind a good fight in which he could take a few of his enemies with him when he died, but he did fear falling into the hands of his enemies for torture and humiliation. The long night of the trial of Jesus, Peter refused to be associated with the name of Jesus. He feared what might happen to him. Peter understood the psychology of persecution. The fear of persecution can be more crippling than the persecution itself.

Family Bible Lesson

The antidote to fear is hope. We tend to speak of hope as little more than optimism or wishful thinking. Hope actually has nothing to do with optimism or viewing the world through rose colored glasses. Peter was not telling people not to worry because no one will get hurt. On the contrary he was telling them that Christians were going to die. He had seen it before. If the Lord of Glory could be nailed to a cross, then no one was safe. So, what is hope if bad things are going to happen? Hope is a sure and certain fact that has not happened yet. Faith is the evidence we have of that fact, just as our senses are evidence of the sure and certain facts that happen in the present all around us. Faith is the basis for knowing things that our physical senses cannot tell us. Faith is not an inferior form of knowledge. It is a superior form of knowledge.

The gift of life

By Rocky Churchwell

Focal Passage — *Genesis 1:28a; Deuteronomy 18:10a; Psalm 139:13, 15; Matthew 18:10, 14, 19:14, 15*

This week's lesson deals with a very volatile and touchy matter. The subject is abortion, and the gift of life. We hear the debates on television, in the community, in our churches, and even around the supper table. For many, the subject may be hard to deal with, but what about the Christian? How should we feel and act?

Life is a gift — Genesis 1:28a

God intended for life to be a blessing. Human beings were supposed to get married and have children. This was all a part of God's plan. But somewhere down the line the plan that God so gloriously set forth was ignored, and now we are reaping the whirlwind of a sick society.

Children have babies outside of marriage because society tells them it is okay to be promiscuous. Couples more concerned with convenience than life, simply do away

Explore the Bible Lesson

with unborn children.

We are to preserve the gift — Exodus 1:15-2:10; Deuteronomy 18:10a

God has never been for human sacrifice. When the midwives were told to kill all the Hebrew male babies, they feared God more than they did men and refused to do what they were being pressured to do. We need to be careful that we don't sacrifice the unborn for the gods of a society that care little for life.

We are to thank God for the gift — Psalm 139:13, 15

The poet of this Psalm praised God for having known him in his mother's womb. How can life be any less precious if God knows us before we are born? If this is truth, then how tragic it must be for God to see a life taken before the plan for that life can be fulfilled.

Furthermore, God always gives a reason in the present for hope in the future. God gave Noah a reason for hope that the world would never again be destroyed by water. He set his bow in the sky. God gave us a reason for hope in eternal life when he raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus could have gone straight to heaven, but we would have been left with no reason for hope. Faith in the resurrection provides a reason for hope.

Unfortunately, the Sunday School lesson text leaves out verse 22 which is the culmination and grand conclusion Peter gives as the reason for hope through times of persecution. Not only has Jesus been raised from the dead; he has been exalted to the right hand of God with all power in the physical universe and timeless eternity in submission to him. When Stephen was dying as the first martyr to die under persecution for faith in Christ, he also became the first witness to the exaltation for Christ allowed heaven to be opened and Stephen beheld his Lord.

In other words, Christ became more real to Stephen during the time of torture than the stones which were pelting his body. For 2,000 years, Christian martyrs have re-experienced this wonderful relationship with Christ in times of persecution. Christ uses the time of persecution to draw the believer ever closer to him.

American Christians at the close of the twentieth century know little of suffering for Christ. As Christianity enters a new period as a minority religion in a country we failed to evangelize, Christians will increasingly face subtle forms of unofficial cultural persecution. We no longer have special status in a country that does not understand the reason for our hope. Christ will be looking to see how we bear up under persecution. Will we take the sword of Peter or the cross of Christ? Will we be more concerned with our official status or with the conversion of our persecutors. — Poe is dean, Academic Resources and Information Services, Union University, Jackson.

We are to protect the gift — Matthew 18:10, 14

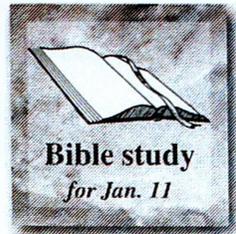
Jesus taught us that God loves children, and hurts when one of them is mistreated. We as Christians not only have a responsibility to the unborn, we also

have a responsibility to those who are born into this world helpless. It is not enough to say that you are against abortion if you are not personally willing to help those who after they are born, cannot take care of themselves.

We are to prize the gift — Matthew 19:14-15

Jesus showed us how to love children when he welcomed them and placed his hands on them in blessing. We are to welcome the children. We are to love them. We are to lead them to a loving God, who cares for them. In realizing this we find our answer in God's love.

While dealing with a subject like this we must always remember to act in love. Love for the child and the parents must push us to be actively involved in saving lives. — Churchwell is pastor, First Church, Jamestown.



leaders

■ After serving nine years as pastor of Ramah Church, Leoma, and 40 years as a minister, **Dell Sewell**, retired recently. He was sent out by Ramah Church to begin his ministry. Sewell served churches in Giles, Hardin, Perry, and Lawrence counties in Tennessee and in Alabama.

■ First Church, Union City, has called **Ken Story**, pastor emeritus, Germantown Church, Germantown, as interim pastor. Story, who lives in Pickwick Dam, served the Germantown church for 33 years.

■ Pleasant Hill Church, Jackson, has called **Jason Smith** of Calvary Hill Church, Ripley, as youth minister.

■ **Dwight and Ginny Dickson**, youth ministers, First Church, Jamestown, have resigned, effective Dec. 31.

■ **Homer Crain**, pastor, Tom's Creek Church, Linden, has resigned, effective Dec. 31.

■ **Tom Mayberry**, pastor, Edgewood Church, Centerville, has resigned, effective Dec. 31.

■ First Church, Sweetwater, has called **Anderson McCulley** as interim pastor.

■ **Raleigh Church**, Bartlett, has called **James Bell** as minister of music, effective Jan. 4. He was minister of music, Selma Church, Dothan, Ala. Also the church ordained **Rusty Wheelington**, minister of youth, to the ministry Jan. 11.

■ **Mattie Mullins**, a member of First Church, Erwin, and of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, has written a book, *Judy, A Life Remembered, A Tragedy Overcome: A Mother's Tribute*. The book is in memory of her daughter, Judy Mullins Freels, who was killed. For more information, contact Mullins at 904 Millercrest Drive, Johnson City, Tenn. 37604; (423) 926-7827.

■ **Shelby Avenue Church**, Nashville, has called **Richard "Dick" Adkinson** as interim pastor, effective Jan. 1.

■ **Dean Haun**, pastor, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, has served in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with his wife, Pam, Jan. 4-13 to support the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro Baptist Partnership.

■ **Jay Rush Harrison**, minister of music and youth, First Church, Livingston, has been called as associate pastor/worship leader, Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville, effective Jan. 4.

people

■ First Church, Jamestown, ordained **Roy Lee Mundy Jr.**, **Joe Pile**, and **Bill Tant** as deacons Dec. 14.

■ **Ottis W. Sees** was named deacon emeritus of First Church, Jackson, Dec. 21. Sees was ordained as a deacon 50 years ago at Gearins Chapel Church, Greenfield. He has served for 25 years at the Jackson church. Sees has held many other ministry roles in these churches. He also serves in the Habitat for Humanity efforts and, with his wife, Millie, in a hospital host program.

■ **Brainerd Church**, Chattanooga, has ordained recently **Tom Glenn**, **Chris Carpenter**, **Wes Jones**, **Marshall Harvey**, **Charles "Chip" Park**, **Mike Webb**, **Doug Russell**, and **Eddy Smith** as deacons.

deaths

■ **Helen Brown**, 67, former president, Tennessee Baptist Church Media Library Organization, and associate director, Central Region, of the organization's administrative council, died Jan. 1. She was a member of First Church, Murfreesboro, where she was me-



PARTICIPATING in the founding of the Brook Hollow Church Robert E. Mulloy Scholarship Fund for Belmont University at the Nashville church Dec. 14 were, from left, **Bill Troutt**, president of Belmont; **Pat Mulloy**, wife of **Bob Mulloy**; and **Joel Emerson**, associate pastor of the church. Mulloy, who was too ill to attend, was the first minister of music of the church while he was a Belmont student. Mulloy is associate dean of the Mike Curb Music Business Program at the school. The scholarship, which will be funded by \$10,000 a year from the church, also supports the scholarship campaign of the school.

dia library director since 1981, a deacon, and a member of the church council. She is survived by her husband, Tom, who is state lay renewal director.

■ **Leon Bolton**, former member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes board, died Dec. 26. He was a member of Highland Heights Church, Memphis. His wife, Freddie, is a current member of the TBC Committee on Committees.

■ **Richard Miller**, 52, minister of education, Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, died Jan. 6 of an apparent heart attack. He served the Nashville church for almost a year. Miller began serving churches in 1972, ministering in Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, and Alabama, before moving to Tennessee.

churches

■ Children from **Monte Vista Church**, Maryville, traveled to Gatlinburg Jan. 9 to go ice skating, ride a tram, and meet home missionaries serving there. The children donated craft items to help the missionaries in their ministry.

■ On Jan. 18 **Springfield Church**, Springfield, and **Friendship Church**, Cross Plains, an African-American congregation, will worship together. The morning service will be at the Springfield church and the evening service will be at the Cross Plains church.

■ Twenty-two members of **Woodland Park Church**, Chattanooga, will serve in Jamaica Jan. 17-24.

■ **Pleasant Hill Church**, Jackson, has reached its goal of \$1,000 for the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for International Missions. The congregation has about 180 resident members.

■ **Forest Hills Church**, Nashville, will host a MOMS (Making our Motherhood Special) group. Its first meeting will be Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Lisa Durr will speak. For more information, call Sarah Ellen Barron at (615) 794-3309.

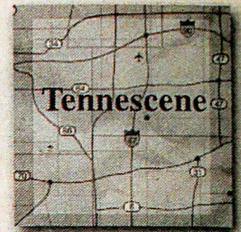
■ The Mary Rose Harding Concert Series of **Second Church**, Memphis, will present The A Cappella Chorus from Harding Academy Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

■ **Trinity Church**, Manchester, dedicated its new worship center Jan. 11.

■ **First Church**, Dec-herd, held a revival recently which resulted in 24 people making a profession of faith, five joining the church, and more than 25 making other decisions. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Hermitage, and Sam Brantley, musician from Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville, led the services.

associations

■ A team from **Carroll-**



Benton Association is serving in Honduras Jan. 9-17.

■ A team of 14 from **Haywood Association** is serving in the Philippines Jan. 14-27. They are doing construction of a church building and evangelism work.

■ **Hardeman County Association** elected the following officers at its recent meeting: Robert Tyson, moderator; Ricky Watkins, vice moderator; Carolyn Grantham, clerk; and Mary Louise Craft, treasurer. Deryl G. Watson is director of missions of the association.

state events

■ **Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries** will offer four training sessions on Situational Self Leadership. The conference will help leaders understand steps to motivation. The meetings are Jan. 29-30 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood; Feb. 5-6, Madison-Chester Association office, Jackson; Feb. 12-13, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville; and Feb. 19-20, Hamilton Association office, Chattanooga. They begin at 1 p.m. each Thursday and end at noon each Friday. For more information, call 1 (800) 558-2090.

■ **Jewell Barrett**, pastor, Battle Creek Church, Springfield, is leading the January chapel services at **Deer Lake Retirement Community**, Nashville, a ministry of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. A long-time pastor and radio Bible teacher, Barrett will present an overview of Revelation.



A YOUTH missions team from Wildersville Church, Wildersville, participated in the church's first missions effort away from home. They worked in an inner city community of Atlanta, Ga. Members of the team worked with Vietnamese children. Recently the congregation sent \$200 to full-time workers there to help provide Christmas gifts for some of the children.



ADDING a new roof recently to the building which serves as the storehouse for the Children's Home campus in Bartlett are members of the Men's Ministry of Germantown Church, Germantown. The men removed a tin roof and installed new decking and shingles.