

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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THE MULLINSES

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## Baptist and Reflector editor announces retirement

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* since Sept. 1, 1987, will retire effective Feb. 28.

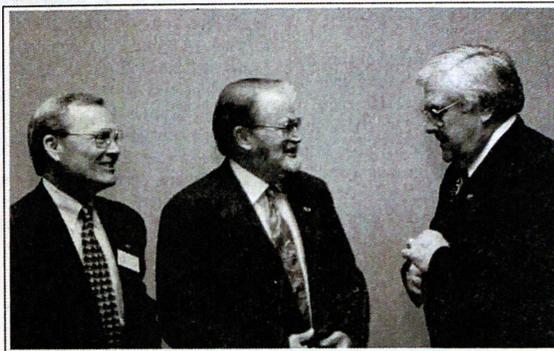
Allen, who will be 67 on July 1, indicated he may continue as editor for a short time on an interim basis.

Allen announced his retirement plans to members of the *Baptist and Reflector* board on Monday evening Jan. 12.

He told board members he reached his decision last summer while he was away on a trip. One night he could not rest or sleep.

"I felt God reminding me of an important decision that I needed to make," he told the board. "He was very near to me for several precious hours. By morning's first light, my decision was made and I had written it down."

Allen's retirement will mark the end of 31 years with Baptist



WM. FLETCHER ALLEN, center, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* since 1987, discusses retirement plans with Bill Northcott, left, pastor of First Church, Covington, and chairman of the paper's board of directors, and James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer. — Photo by Connie Davis

state papers, including the last 10 with the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Allen joined the *Baptist Courier*, newsjournal of South Carolina Baptists in 1966, as associate editor. He served there until 1983 when he was named editor of the *Baptist True Union*, newsjournal of

Maryland and Delaware Baptists. He also was news director/alumni editor for six years at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., which is his alma mater. He is a native of Hartsville, S.C.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director James

Porch made Allen's decision public to the TBC Executive Board at the close of their Jan. 13 meeting.

"Fletcher Allen came here in 1987 and has very faithfully served us as editor, friend, and as an ambassador among Tennessee Baptists," Porch said.

Bill Northcott, pastor of First Church, Covington, and chairman of the Executive Committee (which serves as the paper's board of directors), noted Allen has been an outstanding editor.

"He is a person of integrity and credibility," Northcott said.

Several other board members gave personal testimonies regarding Allen and his ministry as editor. He was given a standing ovation by the Executive Board.

Allen plans to continue to reside in Franklin. He and his wife, Betty, have four grown daughters and eight grandchildren. The Allens are active members of Clearview Church, Franklin. ■

## Executive Board receives report from communications audit

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board heard a report from a recent communications audit of board ministries during their Jan. 13 meeting here.

Board members also learned Carrol Kelly is the nominee to succeed Katharine Bryan as executive director of Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (see story on page 3) and were introduced to Gene Williams, new youth/adult missions awareness specialist in the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.

The communications audit was conducted during 1997 by Craig Communications of Nashville.

The goals of the audit were:

- to evaluate the effectiveness of the seven Executive Board Ministries as to their past and current communication efforts.
- to assist in improving future communications and public relations efforts to better serve Tennessee Baptists.
- to strengthen the Executive Board's image and enhance the marketing of ministries to Tennessee Baptists.
- to support the implementation of the mission statements of the various ministries.
- to evaluate and analyze the *Baptist and Reflector* as to its reach, circulation, content, and effectiveness.

Floyd Craig, president of Craig Com-

munications, told board members the Executive Board staff in many ways is already moving to meet the needs discovered in the research.

When Tennessee Baptists, both laity and paid church staff, were asked which services should be given more priority by the state convention to serve its churches, 71 percent indicated more emphasis is needed on evangelism and 68 percent cited counseling for hurting families and family life education as the greatest priority.

Other priorities listed: provide more assistance on pastoral leadership, 60 percent; provide more information on trends and issues affecting churches, 60 percent; provide more Sunday School leadership — See Executive Board, page 3

## Special 'Macedonian Call' planned for next week

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Do you want to know how to volunteer for missions at home or abroad? Read next week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. "Macedonian Call," the monthly compilation of news about Partnership Missions will tell you all you want to know — and more.

The regular "Macedonian Call" pages will provide vital information on missions involvement and it will highlight the Volunteers in Missions Day emphasis set for Feb. 22.

Tennessee Baptists lead the way as mis-

sions volunteers — and this special emphasis will make it easier for you to connect with volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer in Missions Day packets, which have been mailed to churches, include information on how to promote and conduct VIM emphases. The Jan. 28 issue will thoroughly explain all available missions ministries.

Call TBC Partnership Volunteer/Missions, at (615) 371-2021 or 1 (800) 558-2090 for information on VIM, and be sure to read next week's missions news in "Macedonian Call." ■

— Editor

## Roan Mountain church damaged by recent flooding

For *Baptist and Reflector*

ROAN MOUNTAIN — First Church, Roan Mountain, here received extensive damage from recent flooding in northeast Tennessee.

The church's building has been condemned. See page 6 for photos and additional information. ■

## 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, bookkeeper

► **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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# WMU initiates pilot project; discusses relationships

By Teresa Dickens  
For Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union executive board commissioned the organization's first "Missions Innovators" and discussed the future relationship between WMU and Southern Baptists' mission boards during their Jan. 10-14 meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly here.

Three staff members of national WMU — Kathy Burns, Alabama; Sheryl Churchill, Virginia; and Sylvia DeLoach, Texas — were commissioned as the first Missions Innovators, a program WMU is piloting during 1998 in partnership with Baptist state conventions in Alabama, Texas, and Virginia. The goal of the project is to work one-on-one with churches and associations to develop and expand their missions involvement.

The relationship between WMU and the Southern Baptist Convention's International and North American mission boards was a common theme in the addresses of the leaders of each agency.

Historically, WMU has had a close working relationship with the two mission boards, including a coordinating group that jointly planned curriculum emphases and the promotion of the national mission offerings. With the restructuring

## AAEO posts fifth consecutive record

Baptist Press



TALLADEGA, Ala. — For the fifth year in a row, Southern Baptists gave a record amount to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO).

The year-end total for the 1997 offering was \$41,060,000, according to a joint announcement Jan. 13 by Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, and Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Reccord credited WMU leaders across the country with successfully promoting the offering which was \$1.5 million, or 4 percent,

above last year.

"In the midst of massive changes in the SBC last year, you did not let the Annie Armstrong Offering fall through the cracks," Reccord said. "When things were up in the air, you kept plugging and accomplished a phenomenal feat for North American missions. Thank you."

WMU initiated a national offering to support SBC missionaries in the United States in 1895. In 1903 the offering was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, WMU's first corresponding secretary. Nearly \$700 million has been given to the offering during its 102-year history.

During his report, Reccord assured WMU leaders that NAMB leadership wants to maintain a close working relationship between the two agencies. ■

of the SBC, nothing has been developed to replace these formal avenues of planning.

During her address, Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of WMU, acknowledged the new situation had created "tension" for WMU leaders, but noted they had not "waited idly nor do we have plans to relinquish the original God-ordained purpose for which WMU was organized almost 110 years ago. Yet, we have cooperated so long that we hardly know how not to do so."

As the direction of the two boards has taken form in recent weeks, she said, "It does appear that we have a place in

the work of both mission boards, in the mission offerings promotion and in missions education. Leadership of both mission boards have stated their intention to partner with us."

However, she noted, the relationship will be different than in the past. "We must be aware that we are not the sole partner ... nor are we equal partners since we serve at their discretion." But, she assured the board, "We will negotiate for our place ... and learn to operate in a more ambiguous atmosphere than we have known in the recent past."

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin agreed

with O'Brien. "We can't look to the past to see what relationships will be in the future," he told the WMU board.

"Let's come together and with a joint vision explore where God wants us to go and where he wants us to be together," Rankin said.

North American Mission Board President Bob Reccord also assured WMU leaders his agency wants to maintain a close working relationship with them. "Although things are in process and we don't have all the answers yet, I do not want to walk into the future without WMU," he said. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### January

21 —Pray for Ann Sproue, IMB missionary to Brazil, who has undergone chemotherapy treatments.

22 —Pray for Michael Collins, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

23 —Pray for All Nations Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, which is a new work. Moses Seo serves as pastor.

24 —Pray for Michigan convention's Executive Board meeting to be held Jan. 27.

25 —Pray for the children's choir of Casa de Oracion congregation in San Rafael de Guapiles in Costa Rica.

26 —Pray for Christians across Canada to work together and present the Gospel to their nation and their world.

27 —Pray for the Michigan convention's associational Celebrate Jesus 2000 rallies being held in January and February.

## Disaster relief units respond to flooding, icing

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist disaster relief units have responded in force to the recent storm system that brought severe flooding and icing to much of the eastern United States, as well as to a "super-typhoon" that struck Guam in mid-December.

Feeding units from Ohio, Virginia, and a consortium of four northeastern Baptist conventions have responded to icing and flood conditions in upstate New York that have left thousands living in shelters. Also, units from Tennessee and North Carolina are responding to flooding in an area of the Smoky Mountains on their common border.

Discussions are currently underway regarding possible involvement in other New England states and Canada, according to Mickey Caison, national coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief and an adult volunteer mobilization associate for the North

American Mission Board.

More than 400,000 people in Maine and more than 100,000 in northern New York were without utilities days after the storm, according to Associated Press. Outages affected 13,000 homes in New Hampshire and 6,000 customers in Vermont.

After causing deadly floods across the South, the storm spread thick, clinging ice across the Northeast and the eastern third of Canada. Fifteen deaths in Canada were blamed on the storm, five in New York, and three in Maine. Flooding killed 11, including seven in Tennessee. The damage in Maine alone was estimated at nearly \$6.2 million.

In upstate New York where Southern Baptists currently are offering aid, more than 110 shelters were still open Jan. 14, Caison said.

"There has been some thawing but there has been a lot of ice, and there's also the fact they are having to rebuild some electrical grid systems," Caison said, noting simple repairs are often impossible be-

cause of the devastation.

The three Southern Baptist feeding units began operations Jan. 12. The Northeast unit, based in Syracuse, N.Y., is operating in Watertown; the Ohio Baptist Convention unit is in Malone further to the east; and the Virginia Baptist unit is in Plattsburg, N.Y. All three units prepare meals for distribution to shelters operated by American Red Cross. Southern Baptists are the only national group providing mass food preparation services for the Red Cross.

In Tennessee, Sullivan Association's feeding unit and a cleanup unit from Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol, responded to flooding in Roan Mountain (see story and photos on page 6).

According to Caison, the warm-water pattern in the Pacific Ocean known as El Nino might have been a factor in the storm.

Southern Baptists also are responding to a "super typhoon" that struck the island of Guam last month. ■

# Tennessee WMU names Carrol Kelly as executive director

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — After six months of work by a search committee, the Executive Board of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union has named Carrol Kelly to serve as executive director, effective Jan. 19.

The recommendation was announced Jan. 13 by Carol Richardson, Tennessee WMU president, to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board during its meeting at the Baptist Center here.

Richardson, a member of First Church, Memphis, said the search committee, led by Peggy Bell of Trenton,

had been "very aggressive in requesting and reviewing" candidates and now she was "privileged" to report Kelly was the committee's choice. Richardson said she was assured the Tennessee WMU staff under the leadership of Kelly would continue giving Tennessee Baptists "the excellent service that you deserve."

Kelly, who has been interim director of Tennessee WMU since Katharine Bryan retired as executive director, has served on the staff of the Ten-



KELLY

nessee Baptist auxiliary since 1985 in the area of adults/training.

Prior to that she served at WMU, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala., where she was communication group manager, assistant to education division director, and Baptist Women Consultant.

Kelly also has been Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women director, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.; Baptist Young Women director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.; WMU promotional director, St. Louis (Mo.) Baptist Association; and a public school music teacher in Texas.

A native of Texas, Kelly is a gradu-

ate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Her volunteer experience includes service at First Church, Nashville, where she is a member. She currently is Women on Mission facilitator. Kelly has been WMU director, 1991-94; a member of the WMU leadership team; a member of the Missions Committee; a Sunday School teacher; and a member of a mission team which worked in Appalachia. Kelly also served as a telephone counselor for the Crisis Intervention Center in Nashville. **B&R**

## Executive Board receives report from communications ...

— Continued from page 1

training, 55 percent; encourage churches to start new work, 53 percent; provide more information on volunteer mission opportunities, 51 percent; provide more demographic help for churches, 46 percent; provide more college scholarships, 42 percent; provide more emphasis on state missions, 38 percent; give individual consultation to start churches, 26 percent; encourage churches to increase the state mission offering, 26 percent; and encourage churches to increase Cooperative Program giving, 25 percent.

Craig told board members the findings "do indicate a window of opportunity to respond to the expectations of Tennessee Baptists." He cautioned, however the findings are "time-sensitive" and the windows of opportunity may not remain open for long.

Craig's findings included 38 recommendations.

James Porch, TBC executive director, told the board the Ministry Council has reviewed the recommendations and have developed initial action responses.

Among those responses is the implementation of a three-year statewide ef-

fort to "strengthen and build relationship" in which, by the year 2000, every Tennessee Baptist church will have been visited at least once by a member of the Executive Board ministries staff, and ways to provide more information on Tennessee Baptist ministries through printed materials and a video.

Kingport layman Gene Williams was introduced as the newest Executive Board ministries staff member, effective Jan. 15.

Williams, a member of Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel, retired in January after 29 years with the Kingsport Fire Department.

Tim Bearden, leader of the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, told board members Williams "is a strong layman with a love for missions and ministry."

The Executive Board also dealt with two issues related to property.

Board members voted to purchase .43 acres of land adjoining Camp Carson in Newport for \$10,000, from funds currently on hand dedicated to the development of camp properties.

Rationale for the purchase was the property will provide additional buffer land for the camp. It also can be ob-



GENE WILLIAMS, new youth/adult missions awareness specialist, speaks to members of the TBC Executive Board.

tained now below market cost.

In another action, the board voted to transfer the BSU Center at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate to Cumberland Gap Association.

Board members were told the association desires to take ownership and responsibility of the BSU center. The

association has been paying utility and maintenance expenses for the center during the past year.

During the executive director's report, Porch told board members Cooperative Program receipts are projected to be on or slightly over budget after the first quarter of the fiscal year which ends Jan. 31.

Porch also noted that Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates said the issue of gambling may not be as critical this year as first thought. He noted states all around Tennessee have legalized gambling and many Tennesseans travel across state lines to gamble. He suggested the formulation of a "think tank" to discuss the gambling issue.

After learning of Baptist and Reflector Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen's decision to retire (see story on page 1), James Robertson of Knoxville recommended the board adopt a resolution of appreciation for Allen's "leadership, Christian spirit and enduring ability" to reach out to all Tennessee Baptists. The motion was approved.

Board members also heard reports from representatives of TBC schools and institutions. ■

## Tennessee volunteer's bold witness makes big impact in Germany

By Mary E. Speidel  
For Baptist Press

**MURFREESBORO** — Darwin Spinks, 72, never met a stranger.

That quality served him well as a recent Southern Baptist volunteer in Germany. While working outdoors on a construction project at a Baptist church in Hildburghausen, he called out to almost all passers-by to get their attention. If someone stopped, he dropped his work to share the Gospel. Never mind that he didn't speak a word of German.

Despite that, Spinks, a retired printer from Northside Church, Murfreesboro, led five Germans — four teens and a homeless man — to faith in Christ.

"Darwin has a heart for soul-winning," said Steve Brubaker, Southern Baptist International Mission Board mis-

sionary in Hildburghausen, a city of about 13,000 people in former East Germany. "He'd try to speak English to anyone he could. If that didn't work, he'd find someone who could translate.

"Rumor has it he was even seen witnessing to a tree," joked Brubaker, from New Holland, Pa.

Spinks, of course, didn't go to that extreme, but he took advantage of every opportunity to share his faith.

One opportunity came inside a restaurant near the Baptist church where he and other volunteers — from Tennessee and Missouri — renovated buildings and grounds. During lunch with the project's workers and other church members, Spinks said he sat at a table with a talkative German Baptist woman and a homeless man named Ditmar, who "drank too much."

As they waited for their meal, Spinks asked Melanie Brubaker, 13-year-old daughter of missionaries Steve and Celeste Brubaker, to translate for him. Through Melanie, Spinks shared the plan of salvation with Ditmar, who earlier had wandered by the project and offered to help.

After Ditmar prayed to accept Christ, the German woman jumped up and cried, "Ditmar just received Jesus," recalled Spinks. "I thought, 'She's the best witness we've got.' Everyone could hear her."

Also during the trip, Spinks led to Christ a teenager whose great-grandfather had been a member of the Gestapo, the secret police of Nazi Germany. That decision was especially meaningful to Spinks, who fought in World War II and whose cousin died in combat on German soil.

Another day Spinks wit-

nessed to an 84-year-old man on the streets. A teenager named Steffi, a friend of Melanie Brubaker's, translated.

"I wasn't getting anywhere with this guy," recalled Spinks. "Then it dawned on me that Steffi had never yet made a decision for Christ. I turned to her and said, 'Steffi, how about you?' She received Christ right there on that street, with one of my arms around her and the other around the man."

Spinks' bold witness encouraged German Baptists, too. "Most of our church members just don't feel comfortable witnessing to their friends and aren't very confident that it would do any good, anyway," Brubaker said. "Darwin specifically helped them see how 'personal evangelism' could work."

Meanwhile, other volunteers modeled their own unique styles of evangelism. Dorothy Seals, also of Northside

Church, led Backyard Bible Clubs for children.

When she and other workers handed out German New Testaments, "the children couldn't believe we were actually giving them the Bibles to keep. They were so thrilled," recalled Seals, whose husband, John, was the team's leader.

Volunteer experiences like that "help put everything in proper perspective," she said. "These trips cost money, but it's worth every penny."

"I know folks need a new car or their kitchen remodeled or whatever," Spinks added. "But what's the most important thing? Reaching people for Jesus Christ or buying a new car?"

For Spinks the answer is clear. "I may never amount to a hill of beans, but I know that someday I'm going to reach somebody who is going to go on and win thousands of people to Jesus Christ." ■

# Murder of daughter strengthens her faith

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — The Mullins family here was enjoying a more peaceful period in their lives that fall of 1994. During the past two years, the family had undergone some adjustments, but now life was calmer.

Kelver, a pastor, and Mattie Mullins were busy in their ministries and jobs. Living with them was their youngest daughter, Judy Freel, and her two sons, Forrest, 3, and Hunter, seven months.

The family had adjusted easily to living together, which for more than a year included Rusty, Judy's husband. Then Mattie's 104-year-old mother, who lived with them, died. Finally, they learned Rusty, who had moved to Alabama where he was employed, was involved with alcohol and drugs. But re-

cently he had assured Judy he would get help for his addictions.

On Sept. 7 at about 3:30 a.m. Kelver and Mattie were awakened by Forrest who called them outside. There they found Judy, 31, lying in a pool of blood. Her throat had been cut and she had been stabbed. She was dead.

A whirlwind of events began which destroyed the previous calm — care for Forrest and Hunter, meetings with law enforcement officials, and arrangements for the funeral.

Several months later, Kelver's mother died.

A year passed before the crisis and surrounding events stabilized.

Rusty and two acquaintances had been found guilty of Judy's murder. They apparently killed her for proceeds from her life insurance policy. Rusty was in prison for life with no chance for parole.

Forrest and Hunter had been adopted by Judy's sister and had adjusted well to a rural lifestyle in near-by Gray. And the boys were in contact with both

sets of grandparents, including Rusty's parents, Edward Freel, chairman of the Science Department, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and his wife, Jerri.

But as the calm developed the emotional pain caused by her daughter's death persisted for Mattie Mullins. So she wrote about Judy and the experience. She was invited to speak to groups, for which she wrote her messages.

A friend suggested she read a book written by a woman from the community about the loss of her daughter to cancer. Then Mullins had the chance to meet the woman, who agreed to read what Mullins had written. The woman strongly encouraged Mullins to write a book about her recent experiences.

A few months later Mullins had three contracts from publishers who were interested in publishing the book. However, the process of finding the right publisher has been a journey just as recovering from the crisis has been a journey, said Mullins.

Most of the publishing companies wanted to emphasize the murder and details surrounding the incident. She was taking a different approach.

Mullins was encouraged when she learned the publisher who published the mother's account of her daughter's

death to cancer was interested in a book about Mullins' experience. And the publisher agreed that the Christian journey of the family, rather than the murder, should be the focus of the book.

*Judy, A Life Remembered, A Tragedy Overcome: A Mother's Tribute* will be published in a few months, said Mullins.

She wrote the book "not only as a tribute to Judy, but to help others in crisis situations," said Mullins, who is a member of First Church, Erwin, and serving with Kelver at Cherokee Church, Jonesborough, where he is interim pastor. Another reason for the book was to initiate a scholarship in Judy's memory at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Judy's alma mater.

The writing was a practice in discipline in an important way, Mullins said. Despite her earlier resolve to write with a certain focus, it was difficult, she explained. Mullins said she found herself veering from that focus to write about Rusty.

"There were things I could have written about him," she said. "But this book is not about him."

"God led me into a way of forgiveness so I could go on living and not be bitter or turn from the world," she said.

Mullins explained if Christians don't forgive, the Scripture



says God won't forgive them.

Other good things have occurred since the tragedy, she added.

Forrest, who observed the murder, has not been emotionally scarred by the experience. One reason is the family followed a doctor's advice and got him a year's treatment at a mental facility.

Forrest, who is now 7, often speaks of his mother, and when he does it is to relate good experiences, Mullins said. He often tells Hunter about their mother. And Forrest and Hunter have been integrated into their new family. He refers to the two cousins he lives with as sisters.

Another good result is the Christian witness by her family, Mullins said. They have shown that people, at least Christians, can endure a crisis, accept it, and learn from it.

Finally, every member of the family "has grown closer to God because of this," she said.

BER — For more information about the book or the scholarship, contact Mullins at 904 Millercrest Drive, Johnson City, Tenn. 37604; (423) 926-7827; kelmat@BNOG.net.



THE PARENTS of the late Judy Mullins Freel are Kelver and Mattie Mullins.

## Tennessee Baptists encouraged to send nominations for boards, committees

Shown at right are replicas of the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees.

Each year the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees conduct a lengthy process to select nominees to the convention for positions on the boards and committees of the convention. This process is dependent upon Tennessee Baptists nominating qualified people for these positions.

Forms for both the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees processes are being mailed to each church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Additional forms are also being mailed to directors of missions. Your prayerful attention to this opportunity to recommend Tennessee Baptists for positions is encouraged.

The completed form should be mailed to the Executive Leadership Group, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728 by March 2. Also, forms may be faxed to the Executive Leadership Group at (615) 371-2093.

Each recommendation form is copied and submitted to each member of the respective committees.

Tennessee Baptists are reminded that numerous recommendations are presented and all recommendations are given consideration. ■

**RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees, TBC 1998

East \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Boards. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 1, 1998. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible.)

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ Board/Committee.

**CHOOSE ONLY ONE:**

Executive Board  Children's Home  Adult Homes

Religious University  Home Care  Newman College

Tennessee Baptist Foundation  Camps  Health Care  Knoxville Children's Academy

Baptist Health System, Inc.  Hospital Health System, Inc.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ (Business) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_ Ordain \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Person \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Average Sunday School Attendance: 0-250 \_\_\_\_\_ 250-500 \_\_\_\_\_ 500-1000 \_\_\_\_\_ >1000 \_\_\_\_\_

Church Staff Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service:

3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1996 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific:
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualify him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Convention Committees, TBC 1998

East \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Committees. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 1, 1998. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible.)

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee.

**CHOOSE ONLY ONE:**

Committee on Arrangements  Committee on Credentials

Committee on Audits  Committee on Regulations  Committee on Boards

Historical Committee

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ (Business) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M \_\_\_\_\_ Ordain \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Person \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Average Sunday School Attendance: 0-250 \_\_\_\_\_ 250-500 \_\_\_\_\_ 500-1000 \_\_\_\_\_ >1000 \_\_\_\_\_

Church Staff Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service:

3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist causes in 1996 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific:
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualify him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Submitting Recommendation Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

# Short time span for windows of opportunity

**M**uch about the modern world teaches us to take advantage of doors that open and windows of opportunity that beckon.

We're familiar with calls to action from Southern Baptist Convention missions boards — when foreign governments, perhaps not friendly to Christians, open those doors even slightly.

Baptists usually respond with increased efforts, and with geared-up resources to get the job done.

Craig Communications' report is a joint undertaking to determine the effectiveness of all Executive Board ministries. Responses tell us we have a window of opportunity to "get our act straight" and make those ministries user-friendly.

How long will the window be open? We don't know. As for the *Baptist and Reflector*, responses from the Craig report confirm our feeling that the time is now.

On the international scene, windows of opportunity for responding to spiritual needs have no guarantee for length of time. The same is true on the home front, and in Tennessee.

It's becoming common knowledge that about half of Tennessee's population is unchurched, and many those people may not know Christ as Savior. That fact illustrates the need for action.

Knowing that, and realizing that the window of opportunity may be closing

gradually, reaching people is top priority.

All Executive Board ministries are responsible to carry the Great Commission to the people. The *Baptist and Reflector* is a partner in this. We must be a qualified messenger, we will continue to undergird all work in missions, evangelism, and ministries.

How do we do that?

The paper for 162 years has tried to report on ministries — and future plans, but now, the door of opportunity is not as promising.

The fields always have been white, but the harvesters aren't able to keep up with needs — certainly not at our current rate. Different times call for new strategies, and those strategies must be reported clearly to the people. The results of the strategies must be reported as well.

We are developing plans to help reach more Tennessee Baptists, and others, with news through the pages of the *B&R*.

The plans will come from 27 recommendations of the Craig Communications report. We are determined to be where the action is, and to report quickly.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is the messenger for Tennessee Baptists. It is quite appropriate that most of the 27 recommendations were formed from responses of readers and prospects.

Many pastors and church leaders will be contacted in the next months. You will

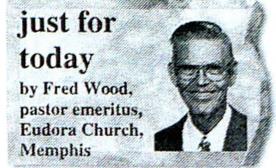
be asked to help supply the *B&R* to church members. We all know that windows of opportunity may close at any time. It is important that we travel the same road as we seek to reach people for Christ in the new century — as well as right now.

The *B&R* staff knows what Tennessee Baptists want and need — a messenger with a message wrapped in an attractive, readable, interesting package. As long range plans develop, our readers will see an increased emphasis on readability and reader-friendly emphases.

As the messenger, we mean to stay on the cutting-edge of front line actions. We encourage all Tennessee Baptist churches and especially their pastors to affirm the messenger. We are all laborers together for Christ.

We know that papers are read when they use the best equipment which allows good design, use of four colors, and the ability to "grab" the reader's attention. We also know there has to be a good message for that attractive paper.

One of our main purposes is to help make the efforts of Executive Board ministries complete and successful. Not only can we do that by reporting needs and telling about the results, we will stay on course to continued excellence in layout, sensitivity, courage, and reporting. — **Wm. Fletcher Allen**



## Start with a smile

Steve: Joe is a great salesman. He can sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo."

Sam: "Jim's even greater. He can sell them one with an ice cube dispenser."

## Take this truth

Whatever you do in life, someone else can top it. Therefore, don't set your goals according to the accomplishments of others. Be yourself. God doesn't evaluate you compared to what your neighbor does. He looks at what you do with his will for you."

## Memorize this Scripture

Jesus said, "If I will that he should tarry until I return, what is that to you?"

## Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to be so busy doing your will that I do not have either the time nor the desire to compare myself with anyone else. ■

## Who said that?

Facing the retirement years and their accompanying baggage demands courage. Millions of aging heroes, when faced with the reality of their mortality, reach deep within themselves and find the courage and the stamina to prosper. ... They live. They work. ... They strive for meaningful involvement in all areas of life as long as God gives them breath. — *When a New Day Dawns*, Gerry A. Peak, Convention Press, Nashville, Tenn., 1993

# When men look for answers in wrong places

## One word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



People everywhere are ignoring the goodness and grace of God. They ignore his marvelous tendency to care for all his creation.

In fact, we forget about God himself, and scurry around trying to find answers to life — when he has all the answers.

Adults must amuse and frustrate God, if he can be frustrated. Often we act worse than confused sheep or little children who have no knowledge about anything.

The world seems to think it

is sophisticated to ignore the Creator while investigating and researching every tepid idea about creation.

Hence, we constantly have arguments and discussions among "learned" people about the origin of the universe and the age of our Earth!

How woefully silly it is to ponder about creation when the Bible shouts, "God did it all!" and God himself is saying through all the truth of evidence, "It is me the Word is talking about."

A few days ago I tuned in to a PBS television series about science and scientists. It was interesting and intriguing until the last chapter — when that word "evolution" began to surface.

I won't go into all the details, but I was disappointed and chagrined when the narrator, none

other than one of my favorites — Charles Osgood, spoke some phrases that jangled my nerves and startled my thinking.

He was talking about those intrepid "seekers" such as Charles Darwin and others of his "enlightened" era.

The narrator said something like this: "Someone had to find a mysterious something that makes it all work."

I was alone, so I shouted to the TV set, "It's been done already — the prophets, the apostles, the Christian martyrs, the preachers, ordinary people like me, and it is so simple. You are talking about God without even acknowledging him!"

The narrator didn't hear me.

But I was vindicated about an hour later when I had tired of the program and punched in a video I received for Christmas.

It was the story of four spectacular years in the life of Americans, 1969-72, when we sent nine teams to the moon and back.

It began with the prophetic speech of John Kennedy, announcing the space program.

The film depicted highlights of all those trips, and the heavens opened in living color. It was so vivid that even the blackness of space was grand, beautiful.

But to make my point for me, the voice of one of the astronauts spoke of the Creator.

I heard the explorer say, "We felt an unseen love — we were not alone."

Another had spoken of the similarity of his fellow traveler and himself — that the grace of God had put them there on the moon — like Adam and Eve. Both men had reached out and touched the face of God. ☺☺☺

# Formula for a good new year: a memory that's short

## families matter

by Paul Barkley counselor, professor



events, appointments, etc. I usually tell them that I am working on my reputation as the "absent-minded professor," and that my progress is coming along well.

The truth is that the computer of our mind retains everything that we have said, seen, felt, or tasted. The problem we have is the lack of ability to recall on demand. There are events and sensations that elicit

memories that we don't particularly want, and we have difficulty drawing up memories we do want.

While memory is the source of much enjoyment when we look at a picture or treasured people and places, it can also be a tool for destructive force in the family.

However, there are some things we should forget in order to build a better family.

As we face a new year with all its opportunities and potential, we take advice from the Apostle Paul in "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before," consider what we should forget. Let's use an acronym of the word **SHORT** to remind us of five things that should not be remembered.

We should all forget our **successes**. All of us have room for improvement, no matter how much success

we had last year.

We should forget our **hurts**. Many families have been destroyed by the baggage of unforgiven and forgotten problems of the past.

We should forget our **ominous** memories. We are worried by ghosts of past failure at times. If our focus is always the past failure, we will never see the future potential.

We should forget our **rickety** abilities. No one is good at everything. Worrying about things we can't do robs us of energy which could be used doing what we are capable of doing.

We should forget our **terrors**. Everyone has something he or she fears. Some are real, some are not.

Finally we need to remember the words of a poet: It is better to walk with God by faith than it is to walk alone by sight. ■

# Flooding causes deaths, damage in northeast

For Baptist and Reflector

**ROAN MOUNTAIN** — Northeast Tennesseans are in the process of recovering from what some believe may be the worst flooding in the area since 1940.

Major flooding occurred here and in Hampton when 24 inches of snow fell in higher elevations and then 12 inches of rain in only a few hours.

The surge of muddy water from the Doe River crested at 1 a.m. in Roan Mountain and hit Hampton about 40 minutes later. In downtown Elizabethton water nearly reached the bottom of the Covered Bridge, flowed down Main Street past the Carter County Courthouse and across Broad Street to the Watauga River.

Flooding accounted for seven deaths in Tennessee, left hundreds homeless, and caused more than \$14 million in damages, according to preliminary reports. Carter County was approved last week by President

Bill Clinton for federal disaster aid.

County and state officials estimate more than 200 mobile homes were severely damaged along with 193 houses and a dozen bridges. About 100 miles of road is believed to be damaged.

Among the buildings that have been condemned is First Church, Roan Mountain.

Rushing flood waters caused the back wall of the building to bulge. The fellowship hall was flooded, but was able to be cleaned out. It is being used as the Red Cross Service Center for the community.

Pastor Richard Stout of First Church, Roan Mountain, noted that at 8 p.m. before the water crested early the next morning the water was two feet below the table, still in its banks.

A deacon helped Stout tie down some picnic tables. Stout remembers thinking it was a waste of time.

Thirty minutes later he had to wade back to the shelter which was three feet in water. He and his wife tried to move their vehicles to higher ground, but his car lost traction and began floating away. It finally regained traction and he was able to move it safely.

A week later, Stout, weary from all that has occurred, sees God's hand in what happened.

"At first I thought God was chastising me, but now I see he placed me here to minister.

"There are so many ministry opportunities here among people who have lost it all. I have talked to a lot of people."

Late on Jan. 8 Stout received a call from David Burton, min-



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST** Disaster Relief Coordinator Tim Bearden, center, discusses plans with fellow staff member Gene Williams, left, and Nathan Coggins, Disaster Relief director for Holston Association.

ister to senior adults at Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol, who said a group was coming to help cleanup efforts. Late that evening Burton and Bruce Devoe, minister to singles and children at Tennessee Avenue, arrived to inspect the buildings and make plans for the cleanup. A group from Tennessee Avenue arrived the next day. By the end of that day the fellowship hall had been cleaned.

Work was almost completed on the sanctuary which included removing and washing the pews. The damage to the building, however, was too great and it was later condemned. The church has no flood insurance and little financial resources to rebuild.

A feeding operation was set up by volunteers from Sullivan Association on Monday, Jan. 12, in cooperation with the American Red Cross at First Church, Elizabethton.

Tommy Holtzclaw, director

of missions, noted the team was preparing daily for 700 disaster relief workers (1,400 meals per day).

The meals were prepared in the kitchen of First Church, Elizabethton, and transported to the feeding area in Roan Mountain and Hampton.

More than 100 volunteers from the association prepared approximately 19,000 meals during the nearly two-week period, Holtzclaw said.

Brent Seals, pastor of First Church, Elizabethton, said the church was glad to share its facilities to help relieve the suffering caused by the flooding. Church members also have assisted in cleanup efforts.

Nathan Coggins, a member of Grace Church, Lamar, and

Disaster Relief director for Holston Association, has been working with members of his church and others to help survivors in Roan Mountain. They have adopted an older lady and have found her temporary housing.

Gene Williams, new TBC staffer, is serving as on-site coordinator for Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief efforts.

Donations for the rebuilding of First Church, Roan Mountain, and general disaster relief can be made to: Disaster Relief, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024.

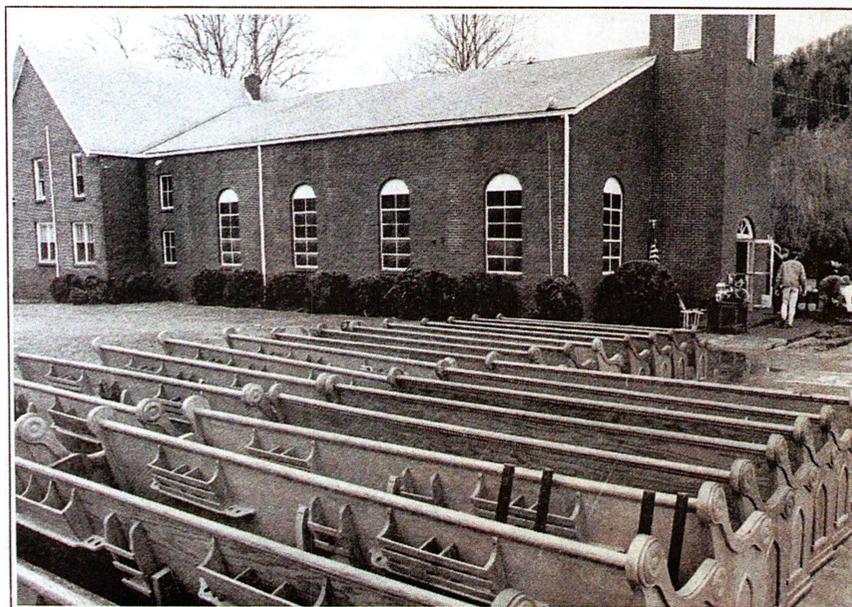
Volunteers wishing to help in cleanup efforts can call (423) 547-1501 for details and locations. Specific goods needed include: blue jeans, bed sheets, heavy rubber gloves, paper face masks, and work shoes.

The same number above can be called to find out delivery locations for donated goods. ■

This article was compiled by Associate Editor Lonnie Wilkey with information provided by Tim Bearden, TBC disaster relief director; Tommy Holtzclaw, DOM, Sullivan Association; and Joe Ledford of the Elizabethton bureau of the Johnson City Press.



**PASTOR RICHARD STOUT** of Roan Mountain Church takes a break during cleanup efforts at his church which was severely damaged by flooding.



**PEWS WERE TAKEN** out of First Church, Roan Mountain, in order to dry. The church received extensive flood damage and later was condemned. The church did not have flood insurance. — Photo by Eddie LeSueur, courtesy of the Johnson City Press.



**THESE HOMES** along the Doe River in Roan Mountain were severely damaged by flood waters.



**SULLIVAN ASSOCIATION** workers, from left, Mitzi Gott, Mary Nell Bowser, and Linda Durham, prepare meals at First Church, Elizabethton, for delivery to Roan Mountain.

## Church Staff Leadership Group

# TBC group helps church staff members

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The distinctive of the Church Staff Leadership Group of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries is that it is designed to work with people employed by churches, said Gary Rickman, group leader.

Members of the other six groups which lead Executive Board ministries certainly assist church staff members, but their assignments lead them to assist all Tennessee Baptists. In contrast, the Church Staff Leadership Group works primarily with church staff members, explained Rickman.

And he pointed out his staff is well prepared for their assignment. The group's seven ministry specialists can relate to church staff members because they have been members of church staffs, having served a total of 121 years at Baptist churches.

So it's not unusual, then, added Rickman, that the staff, just like a church staff, views its work as a calling by God. That view is affirmed in the group's vision statement — "Our call is to support church staff leaders throughout the discovery and fulfillment of their God-given mission."

### Many offerings

The group offers many kinds of assistance to church staff members, ranging from helps for family and personal life to assistance with finances.

One emphasis of the group is helping staff members develop skills in church administration. This is led by Archer Thorpe. He offers training on strategic planning and time management.

Aubrey Hay, another staff member, has enlarged his focus. To do his main assignment of helping people find church staff positions, he is leading more people in career assessment and helping more ministers and laypeople understand church conflict.

An additional emphasis of the group is to help church staff members plan worship, especially in light of "the varieties of worship done in Southern Baptist life today," said Rickman.

To do this, the group held its first PowerSource Worship Conference last year. This year the conference will be May 18-19 at Brentwood Church, Brentwood, according to Julian Suggs, who plans the meeting along with Ev Robertson. Once



LEADING the group's ministries are, from left, Aubrey Hay, Gary Rickman, Ray Gilder, Lana Rose, Julian Suggs, Archer Thorpe, and Ev Robertson. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

again it will assist staff members in considering worship issues, understanding worship methods, and, finally, experiencing several kinds of worship, said Rickman.

The group also is focused on helping bivocational ministers, which are church staff members who hold jobs in addition to their church responsibilities. Such ministers lead about 47 percent of Tennessee Baptist churches, he noted.

Ray Gilder, who has this responsibility, can relate to bivocational ministers because he is one, said Rickman. In addition to his Executive Board ministries position, Gilder is pastor of Gath Church, McMinnville.

Gilder is excited about an upcoming meeting for bivocational pastors which is the first of its kind in recent years. Bivocational ministers from five states including Tennessee will gather Oct. 2-3 in Duffield, Va., for the Appalachian Bivocational Celebration.

Of interest to Tennesseans, said Gilder, is the fact that D.L. Lowrie, former executive director, TBC Executive Board ministries, and pastor, First Church, Lubbock, Texas, will speak.

One outcome of the gathering may be an ongoing ministry to churches in Appalachia said Gilder, who is chairman of the meeting's planning committee.

### Helping church secretaries

A new assignment of the group is the expanded role of

Lana Rose to assist church secretaries. In past years, TBC Executive Board ministries has offered an annual conference for secretaries and assisted the Tennessee Baptist Secretaries Association.

Previously, that assistance was offered by Discipleship Training workers. Now Rose, who offers counsel on annuity accounts, will assume those responsibilities.

Rose said the next annual meeting for church secretaries will be April 13-15 at the Bap-

tist Center in Brentwood. In addition, Rose will help church secretaries build support groups.

### Other services

Additional services provided by this group's staff includes help with church building projects and development of music and stewardship in the church. On a more personal level, the staff provides advice on theological training, compensation issues, financial planning including annuity plans, and offers general counseling.

Plans for the future are to develop a mentoring program for young church staff members, training for interim pastors, and further development of training in strategic planning, said Rickman. **BER** — This story is the fifth in a series on Executive Board ministry groups formed by the reorganization of Tennessee Baptist Convention ministries.



## Group members

### Ministry Specialists —

- Gary Rickman — group leader/ministers financial support
- Ray Gilder — bivocational ministries
- Aubrey Hay — church-ministers relations
- Everett Robertson — worship/drama/music
- Lana Rose — church annuity accounts/church secretaries
- Julian Suggs — church music/worship
- Archer Thorpe — church administration/stewardship

### Ministry Assistants —

- Joy Clay-Corby — church administration/stewardship
- Sandra Garner — church-ministers relations
- Christy Patterson — worship/drama/music
- Diane Wells — ministers financial support, bivocational ministries
- Penny Williams — worship/drama/music



MINISTRY ASSISTANTS of the group are, from left, Diane Wells, Joy Clay-Corby, Penny Williams, Sandra Garner, and Christy Patterson.

# Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

More than 30 students with Tennessee ties were among December graduates of four of Southern Baptists' six seminaries: New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

The other two SBC seminaries, Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo., and Golden Gate in Mill Valley, Calif., did not report any Tennessee graduates.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: bachelor of arts (B.A.); doctor of ministry (D.M.); doctor of musical arts (D.M.A.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.); master of arts in religious education (M.A.R.E.); master of divinity, (M.D.); and master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.).

Other abbreviations are master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of church music (M.C.M.); master of arts in



**Mark A. Bedwell**  
Pinson  
Pinson  
NOBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**J. Jeffrey Cate**  
Central  
Hixson  
NOBTS  
Ph.D.



**Dee Drake**  
Min. of Youth,  
Education, FBC  
Manchester  
NOBTS, M.D.



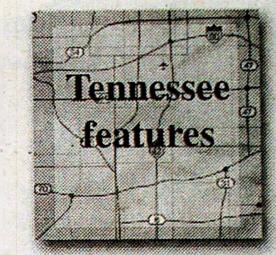
**Lisa Levdah**  
Calvary  
Knoxville  
NOBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**John R. McBride**  
Pastor  
Cross Creek  
Indian Mound  
NOBTS, D.M.



**Donnie Starkey**  
Valley Grove  
Sevierville  
NOBTS  
B.A.



**Gregory Huff**  
Knoxville  
SEBTS  
M.D.



**Daniel Williams**  
Elizabethton  
SEBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Kimberly Atchley**  
Central  
Alcoa  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



**Celeste Church**  
Edgemoor  
Clinton  
SBTS  
M.C.M.



**Katy Creasman**  
Alpha  
Morristown  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**Miles Creasman**  
Eastanallee  
Riceville  
SBTS  
M.A.C.E.



**John Ghosten**  
Mount Calvary  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Cal Hampton**  
First Church  
Clarksville  
SBTS  
M.D.



**Gregg Hodge**  
First Church  
Franklin  
SBTS  
Dip., Theology



**Carolyn Holm**  
Central  
Oak Ridge  
SBTS  
D.M.A.



**Ann Knopp**  
Knoxville  
SBTS  
M.D.C.E.



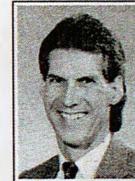
**James G. Bell**  
First Church  
Mt. Juliet  
SWBTS  
Dip., Theology



**Jennifer Bordenet**  
First Church  
Tullahoma  
SWBTS  
M.D.B.L.



**Heather Dominguez**  
Memphis  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.



**Jonathon Gardner**  
New Hopewell  
Powell  
SWBTS, M.A.C.M.



**Howard Holland**  
First Church  
Joelton  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.

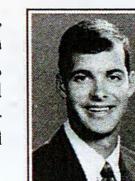
church music (M.A.C.M.); master of music (M.M.); master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); and diploma in theology (Dip. Theology).

Photos were not provided for the following graduates:

Southern Seminary — Dale Denning, pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan, M.D.; Robert

Allan Lockerman, Cleveland, D.M.; Charice Tara Randolph Waldrop, Bayside Church, Harrison, M.A.C.E.; and Howard J. Welch, interim pastor, Midland Church, Bell Buckle, M.D.

Southwestern Seminary — Joseph M. Hodge, Bethany Church, Loudon, M.M.; and Ethel M. Wolfe, First Church, McKenzie, M.A.M.F.C. ■



**Russell Jackson**  
Two Rivers  
Nashville  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.



**John Kimberly**  
Shaws Chapel  
Brownsville  
SWBTS  
M.A.R.E.



**Ricky C. Nelson**  
Calvary  
Oak Ridge  
SWBTS  
Ph.D.



**Charles Shields**  
First Church  
Decatur  
SWBTS  
M.A.M.F.C.

## TBCH administrator, wife survive fire

For Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — Shirley Gafford, wife of Gene Gafford, vice president for West Tennessee for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, is recovering from injuries sustained in a fire in late December.

The Gaffords were vacationing in Hot Springs, Ark., when the house they were renting caught fire.

Mrs. Gafford fell while escaping the burning house, breaking her leg in three places. Because of osteoporosis, one of the plates will not take hold.

She is undergoing treatment and will need additional surgery, said Gerald Stow, TBCH president.

"The Gaffords really need our prayers," Stow said. ■

### Classified

WANTED TO BUY: 15-passenger van; '92 model or up. Call Pastor Bobby Greer at (901) 845-5842.

### SBC YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED

11 US cities for Spring/Summer missions. Package includes lodging, most meals, mission assignment, group interaction, sightseeing. For info, costs, check our web page — [www.yom.org](http://www.yom.org) or call Youth on Mission 800 299-0385

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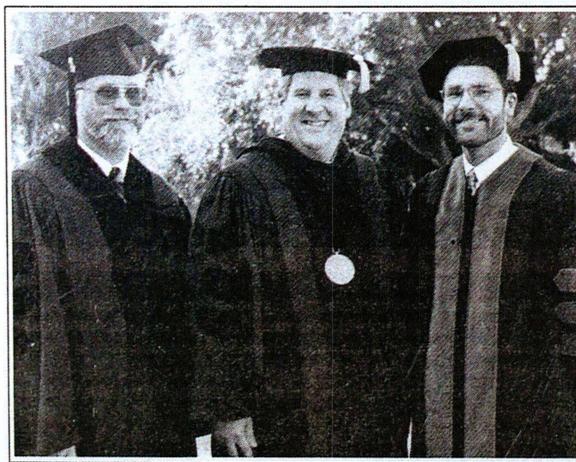
### Classified

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Accounting and bookkeeping, background with computer skills in Windows 5 and desktop publishing. More information, call (615) 794-6285.

**ORGANIST:** Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a church organist. If interested, send resume to 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207, or call (615) 865-6262.

**PART-TIME:** If you are interested in a part-time single adult ministry position, contact Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, at (615) 896-0940.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** Resumes are being accepted for the position of Community Minister-Youth Director. Seminary and/or graduate work related to social ministries preferred. Send resume to Union Avenue Baptist Church, 2181 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104, or call (901) 276-5421 for more information.



**TWO STUDENTS** with Tennessee ties received doctoral degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement exercises in December. Standing with New Orleans Seminary President Charles S. Kelley Jr., center, are John McBride, left, pastor of Cross Creek Church, Indian Mound, receiving the doctor of ministry degree, and J. Jeffrey Cate of Hixson, now associate professor at California Baptist College, Riverside, the doctor of philosophy degree.



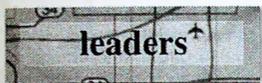
■ **Brace Church**, Summer-town, has ordained **Lenny Pack** as a deacon.

■ **Woodlawn Church**, Bristol, has ordained **Dennis Greenwell**, **Clarence Lewis**, and **Josh Powers** as deacons.

■ **Mary Faye Hammett** recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of her service as church secretary at Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Pinecrest Church**, Johnson City, ordained **Gary Price** as a deacon.

■ **First Church**, Clarksville, has ordained **Larry Evans** as a deacon.



■ **Richard Easterly**, vice president/administration, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, which is based at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, will retire June 30 after serving 12 years.

■ **G. Wesley Shotwell**, pastor, Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch, has been called as pastor of Ash Creek Church, Azle, Texas. He has served the church for six years.

■ **First Church**, Halls, has called **Hal Poe**, dean of academic services, Union University, Jackson, as interim pastor.

■ **First Church**, Lawrenceburg, called **Tony Gordy** as associate pastor for music and ministries, effective Dec. 7.

■ **Dell Sewell**, pastor, Ramah Missionary Church, Leoma, for nine years, has retired.

■ **Bill Brooks**, pastor, Fairview Church, Oak Ridge, has resigned.

■ **Calvary Church**, Heiskell, has called **Harold Ogle** as interim pastor.

■ **Edgemoor Church**, Clinton, has called **Terry Moore** as interim pastor.

■ **First Church**, Norris, has called **David Seiber** as pastor.

■ **Longfield Church**, Lake City, has called **Willie Aiken** as interim pastor.

■ **Ted Painter** recently observed his 27th anniversary of service as pastor, New Salem Church, Soddy-Daisy.

■ **Darrell Newman**, minister of music, White Oak Church, Chattanooga, has celebrated his 23rd anniversary of service there.

■ **Kenneth Ayers** is serv-

ing as associate pastor for evangelism/discipleship, Indiana Springs Church, Kingsport. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond (Va.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served churches in Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia.

■ **Olive Hill Church**, East, Olive Hill, has called **Bill Copeland** as interim pastor.

■ **Dennis Trull**, pastor, First Church, Savannah, has been called to serve as pastor of First Church, McKenzie.

■ **David George**, pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, has celebrated his 22nd anniversary of service there.

■ **John David Laida**, pastor emeritus, First Church, Clarksville, is serving as interim pastor, First Church, Owensboro, Ky., where he served in the same capacity five years ago. During the past year he served as interim pastor, First Church, Bowling Green, Ky., and First Church, Nashville.

■ **Macedonia Church**, Ripley, has called **Trey McClain**, a student at Union University, Jackson, as minister of youth.

■ **Green River Church**, Waynesboro, called **Cal Hampton** as pastor, effective Dec. 31. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also holds a degree from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville. Hampton also has served as pastor of a church in Bedford, Ky.

■ **Ronnie Wylie**, pastor, Southside Church, Dyersburg, has retired after serving 13 years.

■ **Springhill Church**, Dyersburg, has called **Jody Grimison** as minister of youth and education.

■ **Mountain View Church**, Johnson City, has called **Tony Connors** as pastor. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He also served as adult singles minister, Calvary Church, Knoxville.

■ **Darrell Slagle** has resigned as pastor, King Springs Church, Johnson City.

■ **Mount Harmony Church**, Knoxville, has called **Eric Grizzle** as minister to students.

■ **David Wilson** has been called as pastor of Millican Grove Church, Sevierville.

■ **Bill Sherman**, who recently retired as pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, is undergoing chemotherapy to prevent reoccurrence of melanoma cancer.



**OFFICERS** of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation board pause during its recent meeting in Nashville. They are, from left, **James Clark**, Nashville, chairman; **Jane Jones**, Greenbrier, secretary; and **Jim Renegar**, Chattanooga, vice chairman. The trustees approved a \$10,000 grant to build a church building in Rio de Janeiro, to support the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro Baptist Partnership. The project will be the first church construction of the partnership. Members of the board will travel there to help build it. The board also will provide Bibles and tracts to support the partnership.

■ **Calvin Metcalf**, retired pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, received a heart transplant at Cleveland (Ohio) Clinic Jan. 18. At press time on Jan. 19 he was breathing on his own and was alert. Metcalf has been in three other health care facilities since August. He retired July 31.

■ **Donnie Lamon** has resigned as pastor, Walden's Creek Church, Sevierville. He is available for church staff supply or other ministry and can be reached at (423) 429-2974.

■ **Oak Grove Church**, Mount Carmel, has called **Greer Ruble**, retired executive assistant, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, as minister of education, effective Jan. 4.

■ **Larry Thomas** has been called as pastor of Allons Church, Allons, which he will serve full-time. He was a bivocational pastor for 10 years. He formerly served New Home Church, Smithville.

■ **Shallow Ford Church**, Erwin, has called **Mike Kean** as pastor. He was youth minister, White Oak Church, Chattanooga. He is a graduate of the Beeson School of Divinity, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

■ **Scott Edwards**, pastor, Enon Church, Jonesborough, has been called as pastor of New Victory Church, Jonesborough.

■ **James Chatman**, pastor, Clifton View Church, Johnson City, has been called as pastor of Enon Church, Jonesborough.

■ **First Church**, Donelson, has called **James Walker** as minister of education/administration.

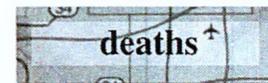
■ **Bill Wolfe** has been called as interim pastor, Flat Mountain Church, Dunlap.

■ **Cloverport Church**, Toone, has called **Ike Aslin** as youth and children's director.

■ **Piney Grove Church**, Henderson, has called **Danny Hopper** as pastor.

■ **First Church**, Whiteville, has called **H. K. Sorrell**, interim pastor, as pastor, and his son, **Bill Sorrell** as youth leader and associate pastor.

■ **Guaranda Drive Church**, Johnson City, has called **Brett Allen Maragni** as pastor. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

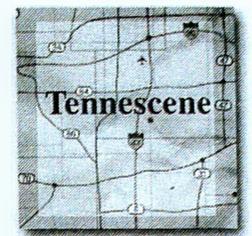


■ **Marvin S. Suiter**, interim pastor, Pine Grove Church, Duck River, died Dec. 22 in his home in Centerville. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he had served as director of missions, Indian Creek Association. He also served as pastor of several churches in Middle Tennessee, including First Church, Centerville, and Only Church, Only.



■ **Eldad Church**, Trenton, is celebrating its 170th anniversary during January. The congregation is the oldest in Gibson County Association. Also, on Jan. 28, **Joe E. Franklin**, pastor, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his public commitment to the ministry in Detroit, Mich.

■ The women's ministry of **Valley Grove Church**, Knoxville, (on Old Sevierville Pike) will hold its third annual retreat March 27-28 in Pigeon Forge. Andi Miller of First



Church, Hendersonville, and Michele Nietz of Seymour Heights Christian Church, Knoxville, will speak. Music will be provided by Ecclesia, a group from Grace Church, Knoxville. For more information, call (423) 579-3794.

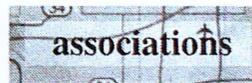
■ **Bluegrass Church**, Hendersonville, will hold revival Feb. 15-18. Lon Shoopman will speak.

■ **Berean Church**, Gallatin, went over its goal of \$500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The new congregation has 17 resident members. Gifts were \$585.

■ **Trinity Church**, Cordova, will hold a Marriage Seminar Feb. 1 from 9-10:30 a.m. David Allen, a Christian psychiatrist and author, will speak. It is for couples planning to marry or in the early years of marriage. For more information, call (901) 759-5955.

■ **Belle Aire Church**, Murfreesboro, will host a Seminar of Hope for Infertile Couples Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Technological and adoption information will be presented. Dean Sisk, pastor of the church, will speak. For more information, call (615) 848-1870.

■ **Central Church**, Chattanooga, held revival recently. As a result, 43 people made professions of faith. Ron Herrod, evangelist, spoke.



■ **Bledsoe Association** will host a crusade Feb. 26-27 with B. Gray Allison, chancellor, Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, speaking. Tim and Amy Wuester, music evangelists of Gallatin, will present music. The meeting will be held at First Church, Portland. For more information, call (615) 451-3241 or 672-9509.

■ Members of the **Hardeman County Association** Crisis Assist Team prepared meals for the needy and for shut-ins during the holidays. They prepared and distributed 685 meals to churches, home health agencies, nursing homes, the county jail, Western Mental Health Institute, and individuals.

## Deacons meeting set for Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — " ... In the Spirit Serving as a Deacon" is the theme of the state deacons conference Feb. 27-28 at Englewood Church, Jackson.

Roy Edgemon of the Baptist Sunday School Board will deliver messages at both sessions and breakout conferences will be offered on a variety of topics.

Registration begins Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Church Staff Leadership Group, TBC Executive Board, at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 2008. ■

# Feedback sought from compensation survey forms

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The church staff/support team of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Church Staff Leadership Group needs input from Tennessee Baptist churches.

The group is conducting a compensation study that can be used to assist churches during budget planning.

"Each year we are asked a lot of questions regarding how your church compares with other Southern Baptist churches in the area of salary and benefits for church staff personnel," said Gary Rickman, group leader.

The compensation study is repeated every other year to provide churches with up-to-date information, Rickman noted. "The success of this

study will depend largely upon the response from you," he said.

The 1998 Compensation Study Survey, to be filled out on each paid church staff position, was mailed to every church in December. The form may be copied or call the Church Staff Leadership Group for additional copies.

Forms can be returned in the self-addressed envelope provided with the survey forms.

"We realize this is confiden-



RICKMAN

tial information and have designed the survey with this in mind," Rickman said.

He noted that it is important that sufficient data be received on all size churches and church staffs to have a usable survey.

Surveys should be returned by Feb. 16.

Beginning in June, churches may request a general compensation study report or a customized compensation study report from the church staff/support team.

"We encourage your church

to participate in this survey. We believe when your church approaches budget planning time next year, you will find this up-to-date study very helpful," Rickman said.

Questions can be directed to Rickman (615) 371-2009 or Lana Rose at (615) 371-2008. ■



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## Houseparents Needed in Memphis

Houseparents are needed for the GENESIS Ministry, a program for adolescent girls, at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Memphis. For more information contact: Dr. Gene Gafford, TBCH, 6896 Highway 70, Memphis, TN 38133 or call (901) 386-3961.

"Go

and

make

disciples

of all

nations"

Matthew

20:19

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or

1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 7932

Time

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Locations

Feb. 5  
Broadmoor Baptist  
Memphis  
Feb. 9  
Cumberland Baptist  
Knoxville  
Feb. 10  
Grace Baptist  
Elizabethton  
Feb. 12  
Oakwood Baptist  
Chattanooga  
Feb. 17  
Stevens Street Baptist  
Cookeville  
Feb. 19  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist  
Mt. Pleasant  
March 2  
Long Hollow Baptist  
Hendersonville  
March 3  
Poplar Heights Baptist  
Jackson  
March 12  
West Paris Baptist  
Paris

## Death and dying

By Ron Blankenship

### Focal Passage — John 11:1-44

A person cannot find a guiding purpose in life without a deep meaning in death. Neither can one grasp the reality of the resurrection unless an adequate biblical understanding of death and grief is developed.

**The Reality of Death (vv. 11-14, 39):** Death is the normal end of this physical life. As the psalmist wrote, "What man shall live and not see death (89:49)? Jesus stated clearly, "Lazarus is dead" (John 11:14).

Prior to the fall, mankind knew nothing about death. Yet, after the fall, physical death entered the world because of humanity's sin and disobedience (Genesis 2:3). Even Jesus died a physical death (Galatians 4:5). The New Testament presents a scandalous and gruesome view of our Lord's death. Even Jesus feared the agony and type of death on a cross he would face.

Death is usually something that happens to the other person. We live in a death-denying Western culture. Many people never confront the certainty that they will die. We use words to describe death like, "he has passed on" or "she is asleep." With life expectancy increasing due to modern medical breakthroughs, death is replaced by an illusion of immortality. Unless we confront our fear of death we cannot live meaningful lives.

**The Reality of Grief (11:33-36):** Grief after loss is real. The shortest verse in the Bible is "Jesus wept" (11:35). Our Lord gives his children permission to cry during grief over loss of someone or something of value. Tears release built-up pain due to grief.

We only die once physically. However, we grieve many times during a lifetime. Grief is universal. We grieve not only over the separation from the person but also over what will happen to us. Separation causes pain.

Working through a good grief process helps in rebuilding your life. The Stoics advised self-control and rejecting feelings. In the Sermon on the Mount, though, Jesus said that mourners will be blessed and comforted. We can't deny feelings in grief such as: shock, denial, depression, anger, loneliness, and guilt. Grief is a set of emotions which cannot be destroyed, but they can destroy us. They must be faced and worked through with the help of God and people who care. Helpful books are *Death and Dying* by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, *Death and Dying* by William P. Tuck, and *Death from the Other Side* by Paul W. Powell.

**The Reality of Resurrection:** I am glad the resurrection is real. Paul the Apostle said, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Corinthians 15:20). So, the Christian can rejoice, "Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? ... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57).

After physical death there is eternal life. Physical death doesn't end it all. Our faith in the resurrection will not take away our grief immediately, but the hope it provides will strengthen us in the process of grief.

Jesus used the resurrection of Lazarus to point to his own resurrection, and as a sign that all who are in Christ will experience resurrection from the dead. If Jesus had not specifically said, "Lazarus, come forth!" all the dead bodies in the cemetery would have been raised.

Christian faith declares that whatever powers control life and death, God's power is final. He has the conclusive voice, even over our scariest of foes, death. — Blankenship is pastor, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.

## Living in humility

By Hal Poe

### Focal Passage — 1 Peter 5:1-11

One of the problems of using human language to express the inexpressible beauty and will of God is that people have a tendency to get it all wrong, even though the words are not complicated. In 1 Peter 5 we find an example of how Peter qualified the common understanding of a term that Christians were using. Christians have always borrowed terms from everyday life to use within the church. In the present day, many people advocate using business models for running the church on a sound business basis. When the YMCA moved toward putting itself on a firm business foundation, they succeeded in making the YMCA a first-rate organization. Unfortunately, it no longer serves the purpose for which it was founded: to evangelize young people.

### Family Bible Lesson

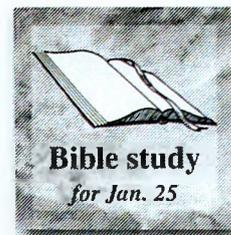
Peter speaks of the overseers in the church. In the business world an overseer had charge of other workers and commonly exercised force to make them produce. The overseer usually acted like an "onlooker." He did not hard work himself, but he made sure others worked hard. In other cases the overseer operated like a spy who took note of the ones who did not work hard enough and reported them. This type of person in everyday affairs might be confused with the type of steward, manager, or literally "economist." Jesus did not use the term "overseer" but he used a comparable term. We might say boss, foreman, supervisor, administrator, or a variety of other terms for the same function. It is interesting to note that Jesus took the time to distinguish the difference between

the person who has a job and the one who does the job wisely in response to a question from Peter (Luke 12:41).

Going strictly by the word used, a person might get the idea that a leader of a church had the right to beat the members into submission. As Jesus had taught him, however, Peter took the time to qualify the term overseer by telling what an overseer was not. He also described the overseer in relationship to two other ideas. The overseer was also an "elder," which had the ancient idea of wise family member attached to it (v. 1). The overseer was also a "shepherd," which had the idea of care giver attached to it (v. 2). In other words, no single human comparison can adequately speak of what it means to serve Christ through leadership in his church.

Modern denominations have taken the different words and developed entire organizational structures around them rather than combining the positive traits connected with each term. The medieval church took the term "overseer" as its model. Because the Greek word used by Peter is *episcopos*, this structure is called "episcopal." In Old English an overseer was a *biscope* which came to be called a bishop. The Reformed Church of the Reformation preferred the term "elder" for its model. Because the Greek word used by Peter is *presbyteros*, this structure is called "presbyterian." The congregational churches like the Baptists were drawn to the "shepherd" model which figures so prominently in the Gospels. The French word for shepherd came into English during the Middle Ages as *pastour* which we now call pastor.

The pastor/bishop/elder of a church who prefers to act like only one of these dimensions of leadership will likely cause damage to the church, as 2000 years of church history would confirm. — Poe is dean, Academic Resources and Information Services, Union University, Jackson.



## Attitudes that harm relationships

By Rocky Churchwell

### Focal Passage — Genesis 37:3-11, 25-28

It has not been too unusual for the parents that I have conversed with to express their fears about parenting, especially on how difficult it is to keep a balanced relationship between the siblings, and to avoid favoritism. After being a parent of three, I can really sympathize with their worries. All of us want our children to grow up, loving and supporting each other, so that they will stay close the rest of their lives, but if we aren't careful, we may find one child has some talent, or attribute the others don't have, and we want to cater to them. We must remember that when we show favoritism, the other children will not only feel it, they will come to resent the child who seems to have the most.

We find an example of that sort of thing in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

#### Careful love

You might think that Jacob would have had some keen insight into the perils of sibling rivalry, especially after his experiences with Esau his brother, but apparently not. As we begin chapter 37 the writer tells us that Jacob loved his son Joseph best because he was the

### Explore the Bible Lesson

son of his old age. Instead of loving all his sons the same, Jacob did special things for Joseph, like make him a lovely robe.

Robes were important in Joseph's day because they were warm, they could be useful in wrapping things in, and were even used in loans. But this was no regular robe as robes go. Joseph's robe was richly adorned, and was probably made like the ones that royalty wore. It wasn't the sort of thing a farm boy would wear in the fields to work, which may have been an indicator that Joseph liked to stay at home with his father while his brothers worked in the fields.

Add to this, Joseph liked to use his dreams to brag to his brothers. No one likes to work all day listening to someone brag.

#### Building jealousy into an attitude of hatred

I kind of feel like Jacob could have put a stop to Joseph's bragging but he didn't. In fact the only time it seemed to bother him was when it involved him.

You might ask, "What could

make someone hate a brother or sister so much that they would want to kill them?" We need to remember that if allowed to fester, jealousy over petty little things will soon grow into an overpowering

hatred.

When Joseph was sent to find his brothers at work in the field (he probably should have been out working with them in the first place), they plotted to kill him. They were tired of his dreams, and the sight of that robe.

It is true that God had plans for Joseph. It is also true that God used this situation to get Joseph away from his family so that he could learn. But such is not always the case. I have seen times, when jealousy was allowed to fester in a family, and when the children all grew up, they moved away never to see each other again.

If you are a parent, keep in mind what happens when you show favoritism. Love each child for themselves. If you are a child in a family where you feel that a sister or brother is loved more, try not to allow hatred to kindle.

We must all seek to identify attitudes that need to be eliminated, so that our family relationships will be strengthened. — Churchwell is pastor, First Church, Jamestown.



## Mosley to retire from SBC position

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee for the past 11 years, plans to retire April 1.

Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president, said Mosley celebrated his 70th birthday Dec. 28 and

"with the encouragement of his wife and daughters, has decided to retire to allow more time with his family, especially the grandchildren. He also hopes to accomplish a number of things he has had to put on the back burner until now."

Prior to the Executive Committee, Mosley was executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association from 1980-87 and a supervisor of pastoral ministries for the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1967-80.

Mosley is the author of several books and numerous articles for Baptist periodicals. ■



MOSLEY

## NAMB radio programs receive top rankings

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — All four radio programs produced by the North American Mission Board rank among the top 10 syndicated religious radio programs, including the number one spot, according to *Religious Broadcasting* magazine.

Occupying the top slot is "Powerline," a fast-paced program of contemporary music. Other ranked shows include "Country Crossroads," third; "MasterControl," eighth; and "The Baptist Hour," ninth. ■

## Baptist Book Store shoppers bolster World Hunger Fund

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Shoppers in Baptist Book Stores across the United States have donated \$12,147 to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's World Hunger Fund.

Giving mostly change from purchases in the 71-store chain, customers contributed in canisters at the check-out counters beginning June 1 and continuing through the end of 1997.

According to Mark Scott, vice president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's retail group, the effort began as the result of employees' desire to be involved in a mis-

sions endeavor. It also was a project that appealed to Southern Baptists and evangelical Christians who visit the stores, Scott added.

Scott said contributions to the SBC World Hunger Fund will continue to be received at Baptist Book Stores through 1998. ■

## Sixteen prisoners earn NOBTS degrees

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Sixteen men incarcerated at Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La., stepped forward recently to receive a degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The commencement service Jan. 8 was a first for New Orleans Seminary in that the 16 students who completed the associate in pastoral ministries degree were the first group to graduate from the seminary's two-year-old extension center at the penitentiary.

"There is no life God cannot redeem," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley told the graduates, family members, and prison officials attending the graduation ceremony, held within the prison's multiple locked gates, razor-wire fences, and iron bars. ■

## Russian exile Georgi Vins dies

Baptist Press

ELKHART, Ind. — Georgi Vins, 69, died of a brain tumor Jan. 11 in his adopted home-

town here, where he had founded Russian Gospel Ministries International, Inc., after his exile from the former Soviet Union. Vins was diagnosed with a malignant inoperable tumor last fall.

In 1979, Vins was stripped of his Soviet citizenship and exiled to the United States with four Soviet political dissidents, in exchange for two Soviet spies caught in the U.S. The swap was arranged by then-President Jimmy Carter. His family was allowed to join him in America six weeks later.

Vins had been the general secretary of the Council of Evangelical Baptist Churches in the former Soviet Union. ■

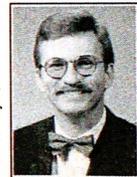
## Georgia paper taps Union grad

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Joe Westbury, a Union University graduate and former director of public relations, has been named associate editor of *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Westbury most recently was editor of adult missions education material for the former SBC Home Mission Board, now North American Mission Board. Westbury also worked for the former SBC Brotherhood Commission as an editor.

He and his wife, Jan, have a daughter. ■



WESTBURY

## Alcohol problems more likely for young drinkers

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times as likely to develop alcohol dependence, or alcoholism, than those who began at 21, according to a report from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a division of the National Institute of Health.

Alcohol abuse, described as a maladaptive drinking pattern that repeatedly causes life problems, was more than twice as likely to occur for those who began drinking before 15 than for those who began at 21, according to the report.

The report, released Jan. 14, was based on an NIAAA-sponsored sample of nearly 43,000 interviews in 1992. Of those who began drinking before age 15, more than 40 percent were classified as alcohol-dependent at some time in their lives, the study found. That finding contrasted with 24.5 percent for those who began drinking at age 17 and about 10 percent for those who began drinking at age 21 or 22.

The report found the risk for alcohol dependence decreased by 14 percent for each year of increase in the onset of drinking. ■

## Cabal first dean at Boyce College

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Southern Baptist professor Theodore J. Cabal has been named the first dean of James P. Boyce College of the Bible at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The new college, approved by seminary trustees last October, is set to begin operations Aug. 1.

Cabal currently is assistant professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He will begin his new duties June 1. ■

## WMU awards \$65,000 in grants

Baptist Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's executive board awarded \$65,000 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting Jan. 10-14 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly here. ■

## Novelist switches markets from secular to Christian

By Stacey Hamby  
For Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — If it had not been for a persistent mother-in-law, author Catherine Palmer might never have been the Cinderella at the ball that launched her professional writing career.

Helene Palmer encouraged her daughter-in-law to enter a writing contest. The book won "Best Historical Romance Novel" and "Best of Show."

"It was a shock to say the least," Palmer said. "Agents and editors came up to me and asked what other novels I had written, but that was the only one."

Palmer immediately began praying about this opportunity, wondering what doors were opening to her in romance writing in a very secular publishing field.

Psalm 19:14 came to mind. "It says, 'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,'" Palmer said. "So, I started writing and reading romance novels. I

found a wide range of quality. But basically, I wanted to tell stories using moral standards."

Sixteen published novels later, Palmer still is finding stories to tell. Several of her books have appeared on Waldenbooks' and B. Dalton's romance national best-seller lists, including one novel that stayed in the number one and two spots for three weeks. Her books have been published in six languages and sold more than one million copies worldwide. Her final secular novel was nominated for a RITA Award from the Romance Writers of America.

A Christian writing in a secular industry posed some challenges, though.

Sexual contact is a characteristic of most secular romance novels, Palmer acknowledged, so "I had my characters married before any of that happened."

During this time, she said, the Lord



PALMER

was saying to her: Write what was pleasing to him, and he would put her in the public eye as a voice for him. "And he has," Palmer said. "I've done tons of public speaking, and even in the secular settings, I talk about my faith."

*The Treasure of Timbukto* and *The Treasure of Zanzibar* are her first novels released by Christian publishing company Tyndale House of Carol Stream, Ill. She also is a consulting editor for Tyndale and is helping the publisher set up a romance line.

Palmer said she made the switch from the secular market to the Christian market so she could express her faith message in more detail. "I wanted to show the vital importance of faith in Jesus Christ as the foundation of a successful marriage," she said.

Palmer lives in Jefferson City with her husband Tim, who is managing editor of Missouri Baptists' *Word and Way* state newspaper. They have two sons, Geoffrey, 11, and Andrei, 8. She is a member of First Church, Jefferson City. ■