

REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

March 4, 1998

this week's news

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ANN BENNETT

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Union celebrates 175th anniversary; \$1.65 million gift

For *Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — Union University, founded in 1823, celebrated its 175th birthday Feb. 21 with a homecoming party and the world's longest birthday cake.

Union is the oldest institution of higher education affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the oldest universities in the mid-South.

Hundreds of Union students, alumni, and friends took part in the Homecoming festivities.

The party included a 175-foot birthday cake which was decorated and displayed in the main corridor of the Penick Academic Complex.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture were present to certify the length and weight of the cake as well as to insure that the cake was 100 percent edible. With their approval and certification, the university submitted the entry to the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

The cake was baked by Jesse Clark of Union's cafeteria staff. She spent 26 hours baking the cake, six hours icing it, and three hours on the border, said Tom Ridenhour, food services director. She used 80 five-pound boxes of cake mix, 560 cups of water, 400 eggs, 6.7 gallons of oil, and 625 pounds of icing to make the cake that was cut into 5,120 slices.



UNION UNIVERSITY President David S. Dockery cuts a piece of the school's 175-foot birthday cake, commemorating Union's 175th anniversary.

Different school organizations and departments decorated the cake.

The cake, which weighed 1,795 pounds, would have cost about \$1,800 to make, but most of the ingredients were donated, Ridenhour said.

Earlier in the week, on Feb. 19, Union had another cause to celebrate.

School officials announced the second

largest gift in the university's history.

An anonymous Jackson business leader gave Union \$1.65 million to establish a support organization to benefit the university.

The gift comes just two months after the announcement of a \$2 million gift by James Ayers, another West Tennessee business leader.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a long-time supporter of the school and a former trustee.

Proceeds from the endowment will be used to support special projects and scholarships at Union. The donor stated a desire for the gift to advance higher education at Union and to help students receive the advantages of a Christian education.

A bell tower, which will anchor a great lawn spanning an area of planned new campus development, will be among the first projects funded by the endowment. Union trustees adopted a campus master plan Dec. 5 projecting development of a variety of new facilities on university-owned property west of the present campus.

"This generous gift is a wonderful expression of commitment to the future of Union University," said President David S. Dockery.

"Through the investment, the donor will make an impact on successive generations of outstanding young people who attend Union University," he said. ■

Fatal accident reshapes chapel service into time of prayer

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A fatal traffic accident involving a Tennessee Baptist pastor prompted prayer and an unscheduled chapel message on tragedy at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 26.

Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack was set to speak at the seminary, but an earlier tragedy in Nashville changed his plans.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two

Rivers Church, Nashville, where Strack had preached a revival series, was on his way to pick up Strack from his hotel when Sutton hit a pedestrian who stepped in front of his car. Sutton was going to drive Strack to Louisville for the evangelist's preaching appointment.

There were no indications Sutton could have done anything to avoid hitting the woman, Pamela Sue Douglas, 47, who stepped into traffic

while attempting to cross the road Sutton was traveling, a Nashville police spokesman told *The Tennessean* daily newspaper, and no charges are expected, although the investigation is continuing.

Ray Moss, associate pastor of Two Rivers, said Sutton was planning to meet with Douglas' family members. He called the accident "one of those unavoidable tragedies that sneaks into our lives" in *The Tennessean* news report.

Southern officials learned Strack would not be coming after chapel had begun. Southern President R. Albert Mohler Jr. led the audience in a time of prayer for the deceased woman's family and Sutton, whom Mohler called a "man of great character and compassion."

Daniel Akin, dean of the theology school, then preached from II Corinthians 1:3-11 on the subject. "What do we do when tragedies strike?" ■

Dobson to speak at SBC meeting

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — James C. Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, will bring the concluding message for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 here.

Dobson, nationally recognized expert on the family, will be the keynote speaker for the Thursday, June 11, final session.

Also on the agenda for the SBC meeting is the election of a president to succeed Tom El-liff, of Del City, Okla. who has served two one-year terms. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson is the only publicly announced candidate at this time.

James Merritt, a pastor from Snellville, Ga., is slated to bring the annual convention sermon. ■

CP gifts to state convention up 2.4 percent after four months

For *Baptist and Reflector*

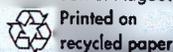
BRENTWOOD — At the end of the first four months of the 1997-98 fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists had given \$10,579,441 to the Cooperative Program.

The total represents a 2.4 percent or \$247,571 increase

over the previous year. "Tennessee Baptists continue to respond to the challenges of missions and evangelism in the Volunteer State and even unto the world," said James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. ■

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Contact legislators on gambling issue

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Listed below are the names of members of the 100th General Assembly of Tennessee. TBC Public Affairs Consultant Bill Bates encourages Tennessee Baptists to write a letter expressing their views regarding gambling in the state, or to call the Nashville office of legislators from their area. Two bills which could lead to a state lottery that are now under consideration are SJR 052 and SB 3103. All phone numbers use area code (615).

Senators

Lt. Governor **John Wilder**, Mason, 1 LP, Nashville 37243-0026; 741-2368

Ben Atchley, Knoxville, 303 WMB, Nashville 37243-0206; 741-3791

Tommy Burks, Monterey, 9 LP, Nashville 37243-0215; 741-3978

Bobby Carter, Jackson, 305 WMB, Nashville 37243-0027; 741-2676

William "Bill" Clabough, Maryville, 309 WMB, Nashville 37243-0208; 741-3748

Stephen Cohen, Memphis, 8 LP, Nashville 37243-0030; 741-4108

Jerry Cooper, McMinnville, 309 WMB, Nashville 37243-0214; 741-6694

Rusty Crowe, Johnson City, 321 WMB, Nashville 37243-0024; 741-2468

Ward Crutchfield, Chattanooga, 13 LP, Nashville 37243-0210; 741-6682

Lincoln Davis, Pall Mall, 6A LP, Nashville 37243-0212; 741-1449

Roscoe Dixon, Memphis, 8A LP, Nashville 37243-0033; 741-4158

Gene Elsea, Spring City, 318 WMB, Nashville 37243-0213; 741-2525

John Ford, Memphis, 7 LP, Nashville 37243-0029; 741-3304

David Fowler, Chattanooga, 304 WMB, Nashville 37243-0211; 741-1764

Bud Gilbert, Knoxville, 306 WMB, Nashville 37243-0207; 741-2234

Jo Ann Graves, Gallatin, 6 LP, Nashville 37243-0218; 741-1654

Thelma Harper, Nashville, 10A LP, Nashville 37243-0219; 741-2453

Tommy Haun, Greeneville, 307 WMB, Nashville 37243-0201; 741-3851

Joe Haynes, Goodlettsville, 5 LP, Nashville 37243-0220; 741-6679

Douglas Henry, Nashville, 11 LP, Nashville 37243-0021; 741-3291

Roy Herron, Dresden, 11A LP, Nashville 37243-0024; 741-4576

Keith Jordan, Franklin, 320 WMB, Nashville 37243-0023; 741-2495

Rosalind Kurita, Clarksville, 6 LP, Nashville 37243-0022; 741-2374

James Kyle, Memphis, 10 LP, Nashville 37243-0028; 741-4167

Tom Leatherwood, Bartlett, 317 WMB, Nashville 37243-0032; 741-1967

Randy McNally, Oak Ridge, 302 WMB, Nashville 37243-0205; 741-6806

Jeff Miller, Cleveland, 311 WMB, Nashville 37243-0209; 741-3794

Curtis Person Jr., Memphis, 308 WMB, Nashville 37243-0031; 741-2419

Ronald Ramsey, Blountville, 310A WMB, Nashville 37243-0202; 741-4524

Robert Rochelle, Lebanon, 4 LP, Nashville 37243-0217; 741-4109

Kenneth "Pete" Springer, Centerville, 2 LP, Nashville 37243-0025; 741-4987

Michael Williams, Maynardville, 310 WMB, Nashville 37243-0204; 741-2061

Andy Womack, Murfreesboro, 9A LP, Nashville 37243-0216; 741-1066

House of Representatives

Speaker of the House **Jimmy Naifeh**, Covington, 19 LP, Nashville 37243-0181; 741-3774

Joe Armstrong, Knoxville, 25 LP, Nashville 37243-0115; 741-0788

John Arriola, Nashville, 17 LP, Nashville 37243-0153; 741-1852

Mae Beavers, Mt. Juliet, 209 WMB, Nashville 37243-0157; 741-2421

Don Bird, Cleveland, 207 WMB, Nashville 37243-0124; 741-1914

H.E. Bittle Jr., Knoxville, 115 WMB, Nashville 37243-0114; 741-0810

Sam Bone Jr., Lebanon, 110 WMB, Nashville 37243-0146; 741-7086

Bill Boner, Nashville, 202 WMB, Nashville 37243-0152; 741-8478

Kathryn Bowers, Memphis, 23 LP, Nashville 37243-0187; 741-2509

Jim Boyer, Coryton, 205 WMB, Nashville 37243-0119; 741-5046

Henri Brooks, Memphis, 38 LP, Nashville 37243-0192; 741-5625

Tommy Brown, Chattanooga, 22 LP, Nashville 37243-0128; 741-4374

Frank Buck, Smithville, 32 LP, Nashville 37243-0140; 741-3817

Tim Burchett, Knoxville, 207 WMB, Nashville 37243-0118; 741-1766

Gene Caldwell, Clinton, 113 WMB, Nashville 37243-0133; 741-4400

Carol Chumney, Memphis, 26 LP, Nashville 37243-0189; 741-1855

Ralph Cole, Elizabethton, 217 WMB, Nashville 37243-0104; 741-5725

Ronnie Cole, Dyersburg, 33 LP, Nashville 37243-0178; 741-6241

Barbara Cooper, Memphis, 113 WMB, Nashville 37243-0186; 741-4295

Jerry Cross, Caryville, 22 LP, Nashville 37243-0136; 741-6851

Charles Curtiss, Sparta, 34 LP, Nashville 37243-0143; 741-1963

Gene Davidson, Adams, 36 LP, Nashville 37243-0166; 741-3979

Ronnie Davis, Newport, 117 WMB, Nashville 37243-0111; 741-6934

John Deberry Jr., Memphis, 26 LP, Nashville 37243-0190; 741-2239

Lois Deberry, Memphis, 15 LP, Nashville 37243-0191; 741-3830

Bill Dunn, Knoxville, 205 WMB, Nashville 37243-0116; 741-1721

Mary Ann Eckles, Murfreesboro, 25 LP, Nashville 37243-0149; 741-2405

Dennis Ferguson, Kingston, 23 LP, Nashville 37243-0132; 741-7658

Craig Fitzhugh, Ripley, 20 LP, Nashville 37243-0182; 741-2134

Stancil Ford, Talbott, 107 WMB, Nashville 37243-0110; 741-2202

Joe Fowlkes, Cornersville, 24 LP, Nashville 37243-0165; 741-1864

George Fraley, Winchester, 202 WMB, Nashville 37243-0139; 741-8695

Tim Garrett, Goodlettsville, 38 LP, Nashville 37243-0150; 741-6811

Ken Givens, Rogersville, 23 LP, Nashville 37243-0109; 741-0746

Steve Godsey, Blountville, 212 WMB, Nashville 37243-0101; 741-7623

Mark Goins, LaFollette, 205 WMB, Nashville 37243-0134; 741-7614

Douglas Gunnels, Greenback, 212 WMB, Nashville 37243-0121; 741-3736

Ed Haley, Millington, 106 WMB, Nashville 37243-0195; 741-1866

Tre' Hargett, Bartlett, 106 WMB, Nashville 37243-0197; 741-8201

Jere Hargrove, Cookeville, 18A LP, Nashville 37243-0142; 741-1875

Beth Harwell, Nashville, 107 WMB, Nashville 37243-0156; 741-0709

Joyce Hassell, Memphis, 207 WMB, Nashville 37243-0196; 741-4162

Tommy Head, Clarksville, 33 LP, Nashville 37243-0168; 741-4441

Bobby Hicks, Gray, 212 WMB, Nashville 37243-0106; 741-1717

John Hood, Murfreesboro, 110 WMB, Nashville 37243-0148; 741-7849

Larry Huskey, Sevierville, 219 WMB, Nashville 37243-0112; 741-1631

Douglas Jackson, Dickson, 32 LP, Nashville 37243-0169; 741-4499

Sherry Jones, Nashville, 37 LP, Nashville 37243-0159; 741-2035

Ulysses Jones Jr., Memphis, 35 LP, Nashville 37243-0198; 741-4575

Joe Kent, Memphis, 219 WMB, Nashville 37243-0183; 741-6813

Michael Kernell, Memphis, 38 LP, Nashville 37243-0193; 741-3726

Howard Kerr, Maryville, 206 WMB, Nashville 37243-0120; 741-1769

Matthew Kisber, Jackson, 33 LP, Nashville 37243-0173; 741-4156

Edith Langster, Nashville, 35 LP, Nashville 37243-0154; 741-1997

Doyle "Butch" Lewis Jr., Manchester, 108 WMB, Nashville 37243-0147; 741-5068

Mark Maddox, Dresden, 109 WMB, Nashville 37243-0176; 741-7847

Bill McAfee, Chattanooga, 104 WMB, Nashville 37243-0127; 741-3949

Steve McDaniel, Lexington, 103 WMB, Nashville 37243-0172; 741-0750

Mike McDonald, Portland, 17 LP, Nashville 37243-0144; 741-1980

Robert McKee, Athens, 206 WMB, Nashville 37243-0123; 741-1946

Kim McMillan, Clarksville, 32 LP, Nashville 37243-0167; 741-2043

Larry Miller, Memphis, 20 LP, Nashville 37243-0188; 741-4453

Jason Mumpower, Bristol, 212 WMB, Nashville 37243-0103; 741-2050

Chris Newton, Benton, 206

WMB, Nashville 37243-0122; 741-2371

Gary Odum, Nashville, 22 LP, Nashville 37243-0155; 741-4410

Bob Patton, Johnson City, 209 WMB, Nashville 37243-0107; 741-2511

Paul Phelan, Trenton, 34 LP, Nashville 37243-0179; 741-5091

Clarence "Pete" Phillips, Shelbyville, 20 LP, Nashville 37243-0162; 741-3772

Phillip Pinion, Union City, 109 WMB, Nashville 37243-0177; 741-0718

W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant, Arlington, 106 WMB, Nashville 37243-0199; 741-7084

Mary Pruitt, Nashville, 25 LP, Nashville 37243-0158; 741-3853

Shelby Rhinehart, Spencer, 34 LP, Nashville 37243-0137; 741-3879

Don Ridgeway, Paris, 208 WMB, Nashville 37243-0175; 741-6900

Randy Rinks, Savannah, 18 LP, Nashville 37243-0171; 741-2007

Wayne A. Ritchie, Knoxville, 109 WMB, Nashville 37243-0117; 741-3770

Dennis Roach, Rutledge, 205 WMB, Nashville 37243-0135; 741-2534

Robb Robinson, Madison, 24 LP, Nashville 37243-0151; 741-3897

Bobby Sands, Columbia, 110 WMB, Nashville 37243-0164; 741-4153

Charles Sargent, Franklin, 214 WMB, Nashville 37243-0161; 741-6808

Larry Scroggs, Germantown, 107 WMB, Nashville 37243-0194; 741-7135

Jack Sharp, East Ridge, 107 WMB, Nashville 37243-0130; 741-1934

Randy Stamps, Hendersonville, 112 WMB, Nashville 37243-0145; 741-0753

Arnold Stulce, Soddy-Daisy, 108 WMB, Nashville 37243-0131; 741-4381

John Charles Tidwell, New Johnsonville, 109 WMB, Nashville 37243-0174; 741-7098

Harry Tindell, Knoxville, 35 LP, Nashville 37243-0113; 741-2031

Joe Towns Jr., Memphis, 36 LP, Nashville 37243-0184; 741-2189

Brenda Kaye Turner, Chattanooga, 26 LP, Nashville 37243-0129; 741-6381

Larry Turner, Memphis, 37 LP, Nashville 37243-0185; 741-6954

Raymond Walker, Dayton, 204 WMB, Nashville 37243-0125; 741-7645

Page Walley, Toone, 213 WMB, Nashville 37243-0180; 741-2054

Ben West Jr., Donelson, 37 LP, Nashville 37243-0160; 741-6959

Keith Westmoreland, Kingsport, 214 WMB, Nashville 37243-0102; 741-4553

John White, Lawrenceburg, 24 LP, Nashville 37243-0170; 741-2051

Zane Whitson, Unicoi, 204 WMB, Nashville 37243-0105; 741-6800

Mike Williams, Franklin, 17 LP, Nashville 37243-0163; 741-4389

John Mark Windle, Livingston, 201 WMB, Nashville 37243-0141; 741-1260

Leslie Winningham, Huntsville, 36 LP, Nashville 37243-0138; 741-6852

Bobby Wood, Harrison, 104 WMB, Nashville 37243-0126; 741-3920

Such as gambling, abortion, schools

Kingsport woman takes on social concerns

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — When Ann Bennett talks about certain subjects she may be rifling through beige file folders filled with newspaper clippings and notes.

Or, as she explains a point, she may excuse herself and rush to an office in her house. As a FAX machine whirs, she will return with pages of research she has downloaded from the Internet.

And her natural ease with people and graciousness as a hostess become overshadowed by her passion — helping her community by working for social change.

Bennett, who is chairman of the Sullivan Baptist Association Christian Life Department, helps lead a Released Time Program in a middle school which provides one and a half hours of spiritual training to about 30 students each week. And she provides information to churches on other social concerns like abortion and gambling. For instance, she will speak soon to a church group about the gambling threat in Tennessee.

She's glad to do this, said Bennett, who is a member of Indian Springs Church here, because so much information about social issues is not readily available.

For instance, said Bennett, many newspapers aren't discussing the fact that measures which would allow gambling in Tennessee may not allow the general public to vote on whether many forms of gambling will be allowed.

After a constitutional convention on the issue, the general public would get to approve or disapprove a state-run lottery, but the state could be open to the other kinds of gambling, Bennett opined. For example, if the constitutional ban on lotteries is removed, what would stop a bookie from setting up for business? she asked.

Many pastors aren't discussing this, she declared. "They think they're having to preach against the right to vote."

What motivates her is the potential impact on her family and others of slot machines, video poker, numbers games, casinos, and lotteries. In 1994 when the state seriously considered removing the lottery ban from the constitution, 15 casinos

were planned for the state, nine of them to be located in East Tennessee, she reported. That interest probably hasn't waned, she added.

When she speaks to the church group about the issue, she said, she will discuss why a Christian should be against gambling based on general principles of the faith. In other words, a Christian breaks their faith covenant with God when he or she turns to games of chance rather than relying on God to provide for him or her.

But she also will point them to a Scripture she has just discovered which discusses gambling directly, said Bennett. In Isaiah 65:11 God warns his followers not to give offerings to the gods of Fate or Fortune, which were Hittite and Babylonian gods, "the modern-day counterpart to Lady Luck," she added.

Christians need this information because many Christians support legalized gambling, she said. This must be true, explained Bennett, because a recent statistic noted 70 percent of Tennesseans support legalized gambling.

Entry into activism

Bennett became an activist on social issues during a transitional period in her life.

She had left a job she loved after "God closed doors there." Bennett had a marketing career and worked at Eastman Chemical Company here. So she focused on her family for several years. Then she heard a plea for volunteers to serve at a crisis pregnancy center.

Pregnant at the time, Bennett went for the first ultrasound she had ever experienced. The child in her womb had the same movements as her 15-month-old, she reported.

It was an eye-opening epiphany, she said. She flipped from a pro-choice view of abortion to a pro-life view.

And her activism began.

"I was a Christian. I just



SHOWING SOME of the numerous newspapers to which she refers to keep herself and her association informed is Ann Bennett. — Photo by Connie Davis

explained. Bennett experienced pastors and Christians who either avoided political issues or avoided biblical reasoning on those issues. She recalled reading letters to the editors of secular newspapers on

church buildings," she said.

However, she would encourage Christians to become more open-minded in one way — to other's views.

In her approach, which may stem from her marketing back-

ground and her education, which includes an M.B.A., Bennett researches differing views on an issue, even views which oppose hers. In addition to personal discussions, she reads materials. For instance, she has read the *American Humanist* and studied the views of the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

"If we can't see what they're deceived with, how can we reconcile them to where they're supposed to be? How can we get them past the lie that holds them captive?" she asked.

Released Time Program

Bennett is undaunted by a new response to a social need. When she read about Released Time Programs in public schools, she didn't know anything about it and found that it was being provided in only two other schools in the state. But she pursued it. Last fall, a Released Time Program was begun at Lynn View Middle School here.

The program allows for instruction at a church instead of related arts, which includes sex education and mental health instruction, Bennett pointed out.

"There is more and more attitudinal type course work in the public schools," she explained.

Whether it's the B&R, which has always publicized the info I sent, or the churches I FAX info to, it's what people do with the information that makes anything I do of value.

— Ann Bennett, chairman, Christian Life Department, Sullivan Baptist Association

But when one analyzes the argument, the person is really saying that Christians should be willing to confine their religious beliefs.

"What the church faces in all social issues is the idea that the darkness hates the light. They (non-Christians) want Christian values confined, faith confined, our Jesus confined, all inside the doors of our

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didn't know any better and nobody told me any differently and I didn't take the time to research anything," she said.

Her activism also is in response to what she experienced while growing up in a committed Baptist family, she

Tennesseans
in the
marketplace



Led by a board which includes many Southern Baptists of Sullivan Association, the program continues and is the "greatest home missions opportunity out there," said Bennett.

About 30 students attend the weekly session at a Presbyterian church near the school, which is about half of the students eligible. To meet their needs, said Bennett, plans had to be changed when teachers found the students did not have basic biblical knowledge.

The number of students participating has grown and the community has supported the project, Bennett detailed. This is true despite initial resistance by the city and county school boards to the program. One measure of community

views was a TV news report which polled viewers' opinions on the program. Ninety-five percent of those who responded said they supported the Released Time Program.

To follow up on the physical needs of students which have been discovered, the program's board, assisted by the association's Woman's Missionary Union, distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to 144 families. And other gifts were shared through a clothing closet.

A result of the program is that youth have become Christians.

"All I can say is God did it," said Bennett.

Associations

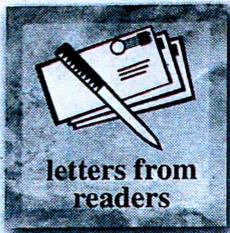
Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions, Sullivan Association, reported the department had been a great benefit to the association. "We have seen God working through Ann as she has worked in our association in this area," he said.

Bennett takes none of the credit. "Whether it's the B&R, which has always publicized the info I sent, or the churches I FAX info to, it's what people do with the information that makes anything I do of value. It is the churches here who've made a difference on lotteries and released time."

For more information on the above issues, contact the association at (423) 378-4863. On the Released Time Program, see the church's web page at www.3wave.com/bsbc/rthome.htm. **B&R**

What the church faces in all social issues is the idea that the darkness hates the light. They (non-Christians) want Christian values confined, ideas confined, faith confined, our Jesus confined, all inside the doors of our church buildings.

— Ann Bennett



about letters

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



Partnership Prayer Requests

March

- 4 — Pray for churches in Michigan without pastors.
- 5 — Pray for Tennessee volunteers Barbara Cox and Elizabeth Childs, who will teach March 6-13 at a Sunday School leadership training seminar in Costa Rica.
- 6 — Pray for members of Vargem Grande Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who are recovering from recent flooding.
- 7 — Pray for Tanya Lang, Jackie Irvine, Charissa Liew, and Susan and Salt Jones, all of the Baptist Student Ministries of the University of British Columbia, Canada, who will minister during spring break at Pineview Church.
- 8 — Pray for 60 children saved in February during a VBS at Ebenezer Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 9 — Pray for Samuel Viswasam of Royal Heights Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, who is ministering to East Indians.
- 10 — Pray for Betty Wiseman and a team from Belmont University, Nashville, who will work March 13-23 in a Family Ministry Conference in Costa Rica.

Plan for schools

I have an alternative plan to help finance our schools instead of using a state lottery. We would need the cooperation of our grocery stores and other high volume stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and others who might be a part of this patriotic venture.

The stores would have some sort of tickets or cards that could be bought at the check-out counter with other purchases. The cards could be bought for about half the price of a lottery ticket, about 50 cents, and would be charged after the sales tax on other purchases.

The stores would keep up with the number of tickets sold and send the money to local school boards or designated people who would appropriately distribute the funds. This could replace the current practice of saving cash register receipts for school equipment.

The generosity of those purchasing these school achiever cards when they buy other products would produce more money for school children than a lottery would ever provide.

With this plan, those who could not afford to contribute would not be enticed by the prospect of "striking it rich," or dreams of grandeur. If they could not afford the tickets, they simply would not buy them.

We all know the tantalizing effect of getting something for nothing and what it can do to some people. Some would spend the children's milk money for a chance, no matter how remote, to become a grand win-

ner. They don't seem to realize it takes many, many losers to make just one winner.

Henry L. McDaniel
Kingsport 37763

Seeks help

I am writing with a request for some help for our church, Willow Bend, a small congregation with a large vision. We are meeting in a donated space and want very much to continue to meet the spiritual needs of the community.

Many churches and Baptist agencies have sound and video equipment that have been replaced by a new system or is no longer needed. We really could use some of that equipment, especially a video projection system (sometimes known as a "One Gun") for our praise and worship team. This equipment would be used to project song lyrics on a screen for the congregation to sing.

Our prayer is that we can find a church or group that has such a system they would be willing to sell or donate to our church. If so, contact: Willow Bend Church, 2967 Jarrell Ridge Farms Road, Clarksville, Tenn., 37043; (931) 362-4717.

E.H. "Buster" Gilliam, pastor,
Willow Bend Church
Clarksville 37043

Deplores secularization

A secular newspaper article notes the recent blending of contemporary Christian music with mainstream industries. How much more secularization of American lifestyle can Christians tolerate? Last year's boom in Christian music sales has intoxicated the in-

dustry's artists, executives, and some fans into being gung ho for materializing this unholy union.

The excuse used by the Christian music industry's leaders and some artists for this act is that it is in the name of "evangelism." How evangelistic is contemporary Christian music anyway? Not much; it is much more appropriate for encouragement to those who are already Christians. Just because of the nature of this style of music, the message is much less clear than in other forms of Gospel music.

For instance, do you ever hear Southern Gospel played on a mainstream country music station? Why not? Even though Southern Gospel has a country sound, it is uncompromising in its evangelical message — which just does not mix with secular radio.

Look at the artists who the papers mention who are in agreement with the secularization idea. The Gospel message is hidden behind their music often.

Clearly evangelical leaders in Christian music such as Rebecca St. James, Carmen, and others have not been mentioned. I am almost assured they do not advocate this compromise. And, it is compromise.

I have listened exclusively to contemporary Christian music for almost two months, but it has encouraged me so much that I find it literally impossible to again listen to any secular music.

Chad Blair
Cookeville 38501

Served well

I read of your retirement and want to offer congratulations.

You have served Baptists well and I appreciate your commitment to responsible journalism through the years.

Best wishes as you enter this new phase of life and ministry.

Philip Poole
Bolivar, Mo.

Many thanks

Many thanks to Fletcher Allen for his years of hard work and dedicated service to our convention. We can testify to his unselfish ministry not only from observation but from first-hand experiences our daughter had when she worked for him.

Her first job out of seminary was as a writer for the *Baptist and Reflector*, and she repeatedly commented on the long hours Fletcher and the staff would put in, even when snow or other unforeseen circumstances sent other TBC workers home. She also told us in detail of the love, joyous spirit, and sense of purpose in serving Christ that was felt in the B&R office.

As Tennessee Baptists we feel a tinge of sadness as we see Fletcher Allen come to a much-deserved retirement. We're grateful for all the ways he's sought to serve his Lord and us, his fellow Baptists, and we wish him well in the days ahead.

Monty and Diane Jordan
Talbot 37877

New Sunday School lesson writers begin

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Two pastors and a state director of missions are writing commentaries for the March-May Sunday School lessons.

James A. "Jim" Growden is writing the Explore the Bible series. Growden is a long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor, currently serving bivocationally at Hillcrest Church, Nashville. He also teaches school.

Growden is a graduate of Belmont University. He has a diploma of pastoral ministry from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and a master and doctor of divinity from Trinity Seminary, Newburg, Ind.

He has been very active in Baptist life at all levels. He was a member of the TBC Executive Board from 1986-92 and has been moderator in both Bledsoe and Concord associations. In 1994 he was selected as a bivocational pastor of the year.

Growden's wife Carol is employed by Tennessee Woman's

Missionary Union. They have two grown sons.

Billy E. Murphy, bivocational pastor of Howse Church, Atwood, since 1991, is writing the Family Bible series.

The Ridgely native is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and holds three degrees, including the doctor of ministry, from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Murphy served as moderator of Carroll-Benton Association from 1995-97 and is on the TBC's Committee on Arrangements for the annual state convention.

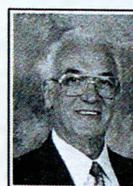
He also is a technology coordinator/computer consultant for West Carroll Special School District, Trezevant.

He and his wife, Nancy, have two grown children.

Michael Rogers, director of missions for Bradley County As-



GROWDEN



MURPHY



ROGERS

sociation since 1997, is writing the Life and Work series.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Rogers holds degrees from Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Debi, served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Venezuela from 1984-89. Prior to becoming DOM in Bradley County Rogers was pastor of Chevy Chase Church, Lexington, Ky. He is founder/president of Kingdom Agenda Ministries, and is author of *The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in Your Workplace*.

The Rogers have two children. ■

Book of letters compiled for B&R editor

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — A book of letters is being compiled for *Baptist and Reflector* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen on the occasion of his retirement March 31.

Allen became editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* in September 1987. He has served in Baptist journalism for more than 30 years, including 17 years as associate editor of the *Baptist Courier* in South Carolina and four years as editor of the *Baptist True Union* in Maryland-Delaware.

Anyone interested in writing a letter to be included in the book should mail them unfolded to: Susie Edwards, *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ■

TBC relationships being studied again

Relationships are under study again. The Relationships Focus Group, appointed last November to study ways to maintain and strengthen relationships among Tennessee Baptists, met February 19-20 to organize for the task.

Similar studies have been made, but with different names. Some have had limited success in defining diversity and its effects on relationships, but none have discovered a guarantee for long-term success.

It is evident that problems still exist; that is reality. Annual state conventions are reminders. It's better to face up to our differences instead of dancing around them in order to maintain a facade of fragile peace and quiet.

Such a peace always exacts too costly a price, and gives life to problems. Harmony derived from such a peace is temporary.

For the Focus Group to gain success, differences must be spelled out clearly — without any acrimony. Differences must be admitted. Misconceptions must be corrected. Groundless perceptions must be overcome with honesty, clarity, and integrity of the heart.

The two-day organizational meeting of the Relationships Focus Group evidently was a "getting to know you" session, with

some emphasis on setting guidelines and praying for God's guidance.

The first session, reported in the *Baptist and Reflector* last week, was not held in Brentwood — appropriately. So there were no kibitzers to advise prematurely.

It's easy to jab at the committee's methods and motives. We know the group is serious about the work, and has the tough task of proving the critics wrong.

Each member of the group must be accessible to other Tennessee Baptists, and also staunchly unflappable.

Granted several have had experience with similar TBC studies, but their commitment and knowledge will be helpful. However, some new ideas are needed.

We advise the Relationship Focus Group to get all "sides" and beliefs and feelings on the table. Don't chase rabbits, ignore false trails, cut to the bottom line. Make sound recommendations for success on the road to spiritual growth.

Whether or not it hurts, pursue the truth. Make prayerful determinations without waffling on issues — find God's way and will and have courage to do it.

There may be skeptics among us, but we believe that a huge majority of Tennessee Baptists will be praying for you. They may not believe solutions are possible, but they sincerely long for them.

We have wasted too much of our energy and God's time to let this effort fail. It may be the last and only hope for Tennessee Baptists to get on with our Great Commission assignment — and overcome differences between conservatives and moderates — and such.

The Focus Group says it will study issues further April 23-24 and issue a progress statement then. Tennessee Baptists are eager for that report.

There is pride and stubbornness on both "sides" and this should be acknowledged and confessed. God is not weak; he has dealt with more difficult relationship situations. It's not necessary to surrender faith standards and beliefs — but honest compromise on mechanics is acceptable and honorable. — *WFA*

Sympathy and prayer offered

Tennessee Baptists offer sympathy and prayer for those involved in a tragic accident last week. The car of Nashville Pastor Jerry Sutton, Two Rivers Church, accidentally struck and killed a pedestrian. (See report on Page 1).

The accident was unavoidable, police reports said. Sympathy is extended to all involved, especially to families, friends, and to the church. Pamela Sue Douglas was attempting to cross a busy street. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Pete: "I heard about your store burning down. Did you lose much?"

Phil: "Not as much as I would have a few days ago. I had just marked down nearly all of the stock by 25 percent."

Take this truth

Life is a matter of what value you set on your possessions and how you rate your priorities.

Memorize this Scripture

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? — Matthew 16:26.

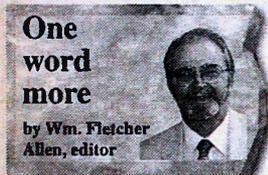
Pray this prayer

Lord, please help me to remember that all I have is because of your goodness. Give me the wisdom to choose the best things for first place in my life. ■

Who said that?

Hanserd Knollys (1598-1691), was a dissenter and a nonconformist who was influential in both the political and ecclesiastical currents of his time. He recognized no other authority except what he believed to be the will of God, yet he was tolerant toward those who held other beliefs. It was his faith and toleration ... which deserve attention and respect — *Religious Liberty on Trial*, by Muriel James, Providence Publishing House, Franklin, Tenn., 1997

Baptist journalists, it's time to return to basics



One word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Some wise person told me long ago that "you can't mistreat Baptists and expect to hold their trust."

And he added, "We all need to return to our first purpose." The first purpose should lead us to our final goal. And the first purpose usually is the strongest, the one with the most benefits for all concerned, and — if you are a praying believer, it comes from God.

Some people call it "returning to the basics."

For a journalist, a writer, or call it a wordsmith, this is almost always true.

We begin with a purpose, and if you are a denominational journalist, you don't include financial gain in your planning. Here's that two letter word again, *if*: If you are sincere in your devotion to Christ and his purpose for your life, the way may be difficult, but it never will be without answers.

In my decade of association with the *Baptist and Reflector*, I've had probably twenty or thirty letters or resumes from budding journalists.

Most of them have wanted to work for Southern Baptists. And many already have their job (or position) chosen.

A few have said, "I know God is calling me to be a Chris-

tian journalist, and I want to be in his will. I'll go anywhere and money is not my game. I have scruples."

The sincere, committed ones have counted the cost — they are willing to take the lumps without getting rich financially. It's not required that we have printer's ink in our veins — but truth must flow freely.

I don't know the reason, but those in that category are fewer and fewer. There seems to be less devotion, less fervent desire to work with words to tell the Gospel story which can influence people by sharing the lives of other believers.

As with all denominational work, journalists are becoming fewer in number. It's sad.

You would expect a writer of my generation to say it's sad,

but I really feel that way.

Getting back to the basics is not a silly idea. There is no shortcut in doing anything assigned by God. It is hard work, but the benefits are terrific.

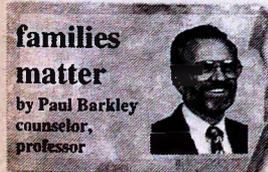
Just as a good, sharp saw, flawless hammer, and an accurate measurer are necessary for a carpenter, a wordsmith also must have the right tools.

We all begin, as they say, at the beginning. Journalists don't begin a career by jumping into it hastily or skipping over the first hurdles.

The right tools — are not a good computer, pads and pens, a telephone and fax machine.

The tools are — desire, instinct, compassionate heart, a strong will to be your best at what God wants for you, and God's constant blessing. ☺☺☺

That's no Tennessee boulder, it's just tumbleweed



families matter

by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

been. It is not new truth for our century. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Paul admonished the Philippian believers to focus on the positive (Philippians 4:8).

It is important to realize that what we expect, we often produce.

Let's look at four statements from this understanding:

Attitude predicts action. Many bad actions can be traced to bad attitudes. When we are mad at the world, we are hard to live with most of the day. No

one can do anything to please us.

I can't control actions of others, but I can control my attitude toward their actions, which in turn will affect my reaction toward them.

Belief produces behavior. If I stand in front of one of my classes in the middle of a lecture and yell, "Fire!" most of my students won't move a muscle. They don't believe there is a fire.

A person from East Tennessee visiting a friend in Oklahoma's panhandle is returning home one evening. Rousing from half-sleep in the passenger seat, he sees a large gray object in the road rolling directly at the car.

He screams, "Look out!" and grabs the steering wheel, causing the car to run off the road.

The Oklahoman asks, "What's the matter with you?" The Tennessean responds, "Didn't you see that boulder coming at the car?"

The Oklahoman answers, "That was not a boulder, it was a tumbleweed." Belief produced behavior.

Expectation presupposes experience. Sometimes we have either unrealistically high or unrealistically low expectations of ourselves or others.

This expectation affects the presupposition of our experience. A student goes into an exam expecting to know little and does not even try to answer some of the questions.

In psychology this is sometimes referred to as "learned helplessness." Those who work with co-dependents have a phrase that sums up this attitude — "Because I never could, I never can."

Outlook presumes outcome. Our outlook determines the amount of effort, money, time, and self we are willing to invest in a particular task. When we have a negative outlook, the outlook determines the output which in turn affects the outcome.

What we think, believe, and expect does affect the way we live, and therefore affects the way life works for us. ■

Registration opens for summer Youth Impact Camps

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Registration is now open for Youth Impact Camps this summer.

Camp dates and locations are:

June 15-19 — Camp Carson, Newport

July 13-19 — Camp Linden, Linden

Impact Camp is a week-long camp experience for youth, grades 7-12. Youth who have completed the sixth grade and have already promoted to the youth group may also register.

Through fellowship, recreation, music, Bible study, and worship experiences, campers and sponsors focus on who God

is and how he has gifted them to make a specific impact on the world.

A special feature each summer is a one-day mission experience where campers, staff, and sponsors go out into the community for a missions experience.

Camp cost is \$125 per camper and \$80 per sponsor. Costs include air-conditioned lodging, meals, insurance, program fees, and camp T-shirt.

Churches who register their groups prior to May 8 receive an early-bird discount of \$5

per camper.

For more information, call the TBC Christian Growth Development youth ministry team at (615) 371-7906. ■

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The Pastor Search Committee of South County Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. SCBC supports a broad range of mission projects and a Filipino congregation. Send resumes c/o Pastor Search Committee, 5115 Butler Road, St. Louis, MO 63128.

Classified

PASTOR FULL-TIME: South Knoxville Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Send to: Search Committee, South Knoxville Baptist Church, 522 Sevier Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37920.

FOR SALE: Pews, all wood with red cushions. (27) 14 ft., (4) 11 ft., (2) 10 ft., pulpit, 2 pulpit chairs. \$25 per linear foot, price negotiable. Call Kerry Walker at Trinity Church (931) 728-4588 or Tom Giel (931) 393-7443.

CHILDREN/YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER: Degree in early childhood education or Christian education preferred; ministerial experience preferred, but not required. Send resumes before March 15 to: Attn: Personnel, Walker Memorial Baptist Church, 1350 West Main, Franklin, TN 37064, or FAX to (615) 794-0202.

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For registration information, contact Beverly Smothers, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, at (615) 371-2031. Registration Deadline: March 13, 1998.

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April 17-18 — East Ridge Church, Chattanooga — Dr. Lane Morris, Leader; Cost: \$40 per couple
May 1-2 — First Church, Savannah — Dr. John Lepper, Leader; Cost: \$20 per couple
To Register: Send \$10 to Donald E. Mauldin, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. (Indicate which retreat)
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Contact: Pastor Search Team, Northbrook Church, 421 Hwy 45W, Humboldt, TN 38343.
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Job description

By Mike Rogers

Focal Passage — Luke 5:4-11

"I need a change. I can't take another day of just doing the same thing over and over for the rest of my life. I feel like my life doesn't really matter!" shared Bill, venting his frustration with his job. He has a good paying job with some excellent opportunities for advancement. Yet Bill can't shake this feeling that his life isn't really making a difference.

Bill's wife feels like she is just going through the motions as a housewife. She does the same tasks day after day. The highlight of her day is the time she has to visit with other moms during her children's soccer practice.

Both Bill and his wife love the Lord and are active in their church, yet both are searching for greater meaning in their lives.

An amazing discovery

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). This incredibly full and abundant life comes from a radical new perspective — a Kingdom view. It is life that is not controlled by circumstances but carefully shaped by God as we begin to see through the eyes of Christ. Our focal passage this Sunday begins to open our eyes to a new and higher purpose for life. Jesus revealed a new job description for James and John (the sons of Zebedee) as well as Simon, their partner in the fishing business. First, he grabbed their attention when he demonstrated his sovereign position of authority over their "day-to-day" job. Can you image their surprise when Jesus began telling them how to fish? A carpenter teaching fishermen to fish! They thought they were the professionals when it came to fishing.

What they failed to realize was that the sovereign power of God was at work in their "day-to-day" lives and was not limited to the religious perspective and teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus revealed to them that God was actively at work even in the routine of their daily work life. They dropped their nets where they had been unsuccessfully fishing all night long, and their catch was so great that they could not pull the nets in alone.

Simon Peter was so shocked by the experience that he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" His amazing discovery was not just a big net full of fish, but that he found himself in the presence of almighty God. Have you ever experienced the presence of almighty God in the midst of your daily work routine? That is an amazing experience!

A higher purpose

Finally, Jesus revealed to Simon, James, and John that God had a higher purpose for their lives. They would become, "fishers of men." It did not matter in what circumstances they might find themselves, their focus in life would be to cooperate with God as he sought to reconcile others to himself. They were a part of his divine plan.

The character of our daily life will change as we accept God's higher purpose for our lives as Christians. We will live and work with purpose and meaning. Our lives will make a difference. Life will become an exciting kingdom venture each day as God invites us to make personal investments in the lives of others. We're in the people business — because God is in the people business. Bill and his wife have been invited to join God in this work, and so have we. — Rogers and his wife Debi are the authors of *The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in Your Workplace* (LifeWay Press, 1997). Mike also serves as director of missions, Bradley Baptist Association.

Keeping the faith

By Billy Murphy

Focal Passage — Mark 1:21-27, 32-34, 40-45

After Jesus had been rejected in his hometown of Nazareth, he moved his focus to Capernaum. Here he spoke many of his parables, the Sermon on the Mount, and performed many miracles.

Mark's use of the term "straightway" is the perfect word for the situation. Jesus lost no time in beginning to prove his consecration and authority as the Son of God. The Jewish synagogue was a teaching institution as opposed to one of worship and sacrifice. "... He entered into the synagogue and taught" Every Sabbath, a very simple service composed of prayer, reading Scriptures, and an exposition of the Scriptures was conducted in the synagogue. This particular Sabbath, Jesus was asked to read and give the exposition. What Jesus said was not as important as the manner in which he said it. Whatever it was, Jesus taught and explained with a personal authority. He spoke as one bringing a message from God, authorized to speak in God's name — as the "Holy one of God" promised in Scriptures. He spoke with the finality of the voice of God. The people including the scribes responded in astonishment.

Family Bible Lesson

Jesus apparently was interrupted by the cries of a man possessed by an unclean spirit — a demon. What an opportunity for Jesus to prove his authority. The people were astonished at the way he spoke and with his approach to the sick man. Jesus conquered the demon. Against the background of demonology of that day, the people and Jesus recognized that demons existed. He overcame the demon with something other than the traditional magic or paganistic exorcism. He used the power of God, the Gospel, and the authority of the Holy Spirit.

After a demonstration of the power of God and his author-

Overcoming temptation

By James Growden

Focal Passage — Luke 4:1-13

What a timely subject for Bible study with all the things going on in the world today. Let's establish a definition for temptation and get everyone on the same page. The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia states: "Temptation: in modern times, the word tempt means simply 'to entice'; as used in the KJV of the Bible, however, it's primary meaning is to 'prove' or 'test.'"

It is in this latter sense that God may be spoken of as tempting men. God does not entice men to sin, but he does test their faithfulness. We need to remember that only Jesus was able to withstand all temptation. With this in mind, we can see that we too can overcome temptation by following Jesus' example of relying on the Bible and Holy Spirit to deliver us from temptation. We need to commit to this goal.

Luke 4:1-13 tells about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This follows his baptism and Luke's account of Jesus' genealogy. The temptation was the next step in preparation for Jesus' public ministry. God's plan is unfolding in a natural process for his only Son, our Savior.

In verses 1-2, Jesus was being prepared to serve God and man. These were the four essentials necessary for preparation. If Jesus had to be prepared to serve God, how much more

Explore the Bible Lesson

do we. His preparation included: (1) being filled with the Holy Spirit; (2) spending time alone with God; (3) being tried and tested. Trials toughen us, making us stronger and giving us assurance; (4) fasting and praying, two essentials in preparation to do a great work for God.

Christians today need preparation for ministry and these four essentials should be our guide. If Jesus followed this pattern, it is surely sufficient for us today.

Notice how Satan (vv. 3-4) asked Jesus to misuse his power and his abilities. The first temptation was for Jesus to meet the necessities of life by his own power. Jesus countered this temptation by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, in which Moses reminded the people of what God had given them. Satan wanted Jesus to prove his Messiahship by centering his attention and power upon himself. Jesus' answer was that spiritual food was needed and this is so true today.

Satan turns to the second temptation (vv. 5-8), an appeal to Jesus to be in control of "all the kingdoms of the world." The condition was that he must worship Satan. Jesus had come to earth to seek and to save men eter-

ity, Jesus directs attention to a private miracle. He went to Simon's home and found the mother of Peter's wife "sick of a fever." Jesus did not leave his faith in the church building. No words were spoken; no authority was claimed; he simply took her by the hand, lifted her up, and the fever left her. Jesus did not require an audience to demonstrate his power.

The things that Jesus did in Capernaum could not be concealed. Peter's house was besieged with crowds seeking Jesus' healing touch. People came from everywhere with their sick to be healed. They did not come earlier because they respected the law that forbade the carrying of any burden through a town on the Sabbath day (Jeremiah 17:24). The people of Capernaum waited until the sun had set, and they came carrying their sick to Jesus. He willingly healed them.

Jesus had no time alone. He knew he had to have that special time alone with his Father. He could not function without prayer to summon spiritual reinforcements. Jesus knew that if he was to meet the needs of men, he must first meet God. If prayer was so necessary for Jesus, how much more so for us? Jesus and his apostles moved out to proclaim the Good News throughout Galilee.

While on this campaign, he encounters a man with leprosy, who inquires of him. Under Jewish law, the leper was not only unclean, but also an outcast. By coming to Jesus, he broke the law. Jesus met him with understanding and compassion. After healing him, Jesus sent him to the priest to fulfill the ritual that signaled his healing. He charged the man not to tell what had happened. But the healed leper spread it everywhere. Why such a charge? The people were looking for a social reformer, a political activist, a military conqueror, who would be an earthly king. Jesus was concerned that stories of his miracles would strengthen their false concepts. Jesus wanted the people to properly understand and accept his Messianic role, one that would change society forever. — Murphy is Computer Consultant for West Carroll Special School District and a bivocational pastor, Howse Church, Atwood.

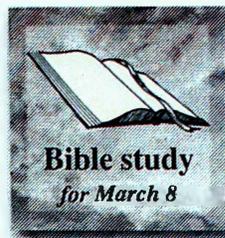
nally to secure their loyalty for God. Satan was asking him to compromise (1) his standards and behavior, (2) his loyalty and faithfulness to God, and (3) his ministry and mission.

Note Jesus' quick and decisive answer, totally dependent upon Scripture to conquer this temptation. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (v. 5). We must worship, follow, and serve God alone, not the ways and standards and evil of Satan.

Next the Devil tried to get Jesus to change the timing and structure of his ministry. Jesus knew he must go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. He knew that he was the suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). Satan challenged Jesus to throw himself off the highest point of the temple. This time Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16.

The conclusion (v. 13) to Jesus' temptations was striking. Jesus' defeat of Satan was decisive but not final. Throughout his ministry, Jesus would confront Satan in many forms.

Too often we think as Christians we are above temptation, but in reality we must be constantly on guard against Satan's ongoing attacks. Where are you most susceptible to temptation today? How are you preparing to withstand it? — Growden is a teacher and a bivocational pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville.





■ **Clark Inman** has been called as minister of music at Calvary Hill Church, Ripley.

■ Walnut Grove Church, Ripley, has called **Jacob Kitchens** as minister of youth.

■ Birchfield Church, Maryville, called **Leon Amburn** as pastor, effective Jan. 25.

■ **Joe Lambert** began serving March 1 as pastor of Unity Church, Maryville. He comes to Unity from First Church, Fort Mill, S.C., where he was associate pastor and youth director.

■ Central Church, Erwin, recently called **Lawrence Jones** as part-time youth minister.

■ **Donald Scott** began serving March 1 as pastor of Mt. Tirzah Church, Newbern. He was pastor of Calvary Church, Humboldt.

■ Woodville Church, Ripley, recently welcomed **Gene Stafford** as pastor. He formerly served in Princeton, Ky.

■ On March 1 Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, honored **George and Marian Becvar** with a reception and love offering. Mrs. "B" has retired as assistant director of the church's WEE program and Becvar served as pastor of Hermitage Hills for 20 years from 1957-77. The prayer room is named in his honor and he has been named pastor emeritus of the church.

■ Woodmont Church, Nashville, has called **Fisher Humphreys** of the Beeson Di-

vinity School of Samford University as interim pastor.

■ Two staff members recently resigned at Westview Church, Chattanooga — **David Burns** after five years as music director, and **Carole Moon** after 15 years as church secretary.

■ **Don Aycock** has been called as pastor of McLean Church, Memphis. Aycock was a staff member of the SBC Brotherhood

Commission before it merged with the new North American Mission Board. He also worked for Baptist Hospital in Memphis and was a pastor in Louisiana and Kentucky for 20 years. He is the author of 15 books and leads "Legacy Builders" men's retreats around the country. He holds degrees from Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Carla, have twin sons.



AYCOCK

■ **Shannon Garrett Jr.** has joined the staff of Trinity Church, Cordova, as minister of music and associate pastor. He previously served for seven years at Brookwood Church, Birmingham, Ala. He and his wife, Ellen, have two children.

■ Senior Pastor **Bill Daniel** celebrated his fifth anniversary as pastor of Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, on Feb. 14. He was honored with a special dinner on Feb. 15.

■ **Charles Jeter** was recently called as full-time pastor of Trinity Church, Bolivar.



■ **Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes**, will hold revival March 8-12 with Billy Oakley as evangelist and Elwood Doss leading the music.

■ **Halls Westside Church, Halls**, is having revival through March 6 with Hoyt Wilson as guest evangelist. The revival began March 1.

■ **Hawthorne Church, Dyersburg**, recently installed a new roof on their church building and parsonage as well as some other repairs. The congregation also has launched an emergency food assistance program for their community under the direction of Ocie West and Tina Greenlee.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg**, will hold revival services March 15-20 with Ben Wilkes as evangelist.

■ **Macedonia Church, Ripley**, will hold revival services March 22-27 with Malcolm Norton as evangelist and Mike Walker as music leader.

■ **Harvest Church, Dyersburg**, will soon be laying the foundation for a new educational building and fellowship hall.

■ **First Church, Trimble**, is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year with a number of scheduled events. Former pastors are returning to the church one Sunday

every month to supply the pulpit.

■ **Stacey Heinecke** presented a concert March 1 at Grandview Church, Maryville.

■ **Broadway Church, Maryville**, will host an associational Prayer Ministry Conference March 28 from 9 a.m. until noon with John Franklin of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Call (423) 982-6012 for more information.

■ **Fellowship Church, Millington**, will hold revival March 15-19 with Jack May as evangelist and Kevin Hamilton leading the music.

■ **First Church, Mason**, recently dedicated its newly renovated worship center. As part of the celebration the church held a Gospel Sing featuring The Finchers Quartet.

■ **Munford Church, Munford**, will hold revival March 29-April 1 with evangelist Jackie Kay and Rick Talley leading the music.

■ **Faith Church, Atoka**, dedicated its new worship service March 1. The church also held a Gospel Sing Feb. 28, featuring The Journeymen.

■ **Raleigh Church, Memphis**, is hosting a concert with Won By One on March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

■ **First Church, Cookeville**, is preparing for a day of spiritual awakening and rejuvenation on March 8. Evangelist Harold Hunter will lead a one-day revival beginning with the Sunday morning worship service.

■ A medical team from **First Church, Union City**, will be leaving on a mission trip to Venezuela on March 13.

■ Revival services will be held March 29-April 1 at **Spring Creek Road Church, East Ridge**.

■ **First Church, Old Hickory**, will hold spring revival March 29-April 1 with evangelist Henry Linginfelter.

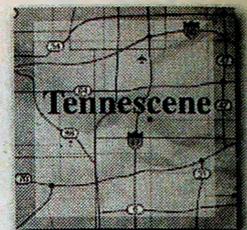
■ **Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville**, will hold revival March 15-18 with guest evangelist Lon Shoopman Jr. Herbert Cox will direct music.

■ **Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar**, is holding revival through March 5 with evangelist Phil Glisson.

■ **Hebron Church, Middleton**, reported a good revival in January with evangelist Tim West. There were two professions of faith and several rededications.

■ **Porters Creek Church, Middleton**, recently paid off the note on their sanctuary and Sunday School rooms in four years instead of 15.

■ A Spring Bible Conference will be held March 15-18

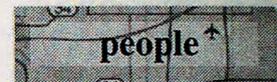


at **First Church, Kenton**, with John Adams, Eddie Malonee, Skip Parvin, Ed North, and Charles Pratt as speakers.

■ **China Grove Church, Rutherford**, will hold revival March 8-11 with James Barber.

■ **Immanuel Church, Trenton**, will hold revival services March 22-26 with Brady Weldon.

■ **Keely Mill Church, Dyer**, will have revival services March 22-27 with guest evangelist Bill Oakley.

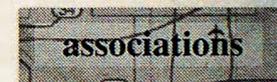


■ **Jerry Wilson** was ordained recently as a deacon at First Church, Milan.

■ **Mike McNabb** was ordained recently as a deacon at Central Church, Erwin.

■ **Sharon Lyon**, senior music design editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board and organist at First Church, Nashville, was given the Hallelujah Award by the Center for Church Music at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, for her contribution to church music.

■ **Grace Church, Bethpage**, recently ordained **James Brown, John Harris, and John Norman** as deacons.



■ **McMinn-Meigs Association** will have its evangelism conference March 9-10. Cluster prayer meetings at various churches will be held March 9. On March 10 at 6:45 p.m. Doug Sager will preach at First Church, Athens. Sager, a Knoxville pastor, is president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The association also will sponsor a Women's Conference March 21 at First Church, Athens, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Guest speaker is Esther Burroughs. Tickets are \$10 and includes lunch. For information about the women's conference, call (423) 745-5441.

■ **The Beulah Association Brotherhood** recently held a Wildlife Supper at First Church, Union City, with guest speaker Tim Bearden of TBC Executive Board ministries as guest speaker.

At Spring Hill Church

Pearce honored for 25 years of service

For Baptist and Reflector

SPRINGFIELD — Spring Hill Church here recently celebrated 25 years of ministry with their pastor Bob Pearce.

In recognition of this milestone the church honored Pearce and his wife, Faye, with a month of Sundays dedicated to the theme "Called, Chosen, and Committed."

Respecting the pastor's wishes that it would not detract from the main task of worship, moments were reserved at the end of each service to allow representative groups to express their love and appreciation for Pearce and his ministry at Spring Hill.

Among those who spoke were young couples, former staff members and officers of the church, members who were present when Pearce became pastor, and youth of the



SPRING HILL CHURCH Pastor Bob Pearce and his wife, Faye, recently were honored by the Springfield congregation for 25 years of service at the church.

church. Both the serious and humorous sides of Pearce's ministry were highlighted.

The conclusion of the celebration came with a Saturday night chili supper and roast. Former Robertson County Association Director of Missions Frank Evans and current DOM Dennis Pulley joined Paul and Elizabeth Robertson, long-time members of the church to royally roast Pearce with stories and memories. His daughter, son, and daughter-in-law joined in the fun and festivities. Afterwards, the Pearces were given many gifts in appreciation of love and 25 years of memories.

The celebration continued on Sunday in a more serious note and ended with a dinner in the Pearces' honor.

"The beauty of this relationship models God's intention for both pastors and churches as they work, love, and minister for the Lord," Pulley noted. ■