

# REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 13

Statewide Edition

April 1, 1998

## this week's news

- ▶ Executive Board staff member affected by tragedy in Jonesborough. — Page 2
- ▶ Nashville journalist examines harm of state lottery. — Page 2
- ▶ Union University receives \$3.1 million gift. — Page 3
- ▶ Union's Lady Bulldogs win national championship. — Page 3
- ▶ Churches, groups, individuals serve across state. — Page 4



WMU TRAINERS

- ▶ IMB trustees seek to mobilize for missions. — Page 6

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## Roan Mountain FBC seeks to overcome loss

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

ROAN MOUNTAIN — Jan. 7, 1998 will forever be etched in the memory of Richard Stout, pastor of First Church here.

It was late in the evening that day when the Doe River overflowed, flooding the small town and leaving millions of dollars worth of property damage in its wake.

Stout and his family barely managed to get to higher ground as flood waters floated away cars and unsecured property.

Flood waters moved the sanctuary off its foundation and damaged much of the inside. The building was later condemned for use.

Church members have been meeting in their fellowship hall since the flood.

Stout said the estimated damage to the building and contents was about \$400,000. The cost to rebuild will be about \$600,000 provided the church uses volunteer labor,



PASTOR RICHARD STOUT looks over proposed plans for a new building for First Church, Roan Mountain, with R.L. Miller, left, chairman of the building committee, and W.O. Hampton, center, building committee member.

the pastor noted.

The church had no flood insurance and lacked funds to rebuild. Tennessee Baptists and others have responded to their plight in a mighty way, Stout said. "There has been an outpouring of love."

The church recently received two \$50,000 gifts, one

from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the other from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The church has received approximately \$100,000 more from churches and individuals to be used to rebuild.

Following the disaster "Tennessee Baptists poured in from

every nook and cranny in the state," Stout said, as they helped clean up the church's fellowship hall and prepare it to be used as the worship center. Other volunteers also came from Virginia and North Carolina to lend a hand, he said.

Tennessee Baptists and others also have generously provided food, clothing, and funds to help people in the community return to their homes as well as assisting the church to rebuild, Stout said.

The pastor noted the church's morale has begun to rise since the disaster.

Attendance dropped for a while but is almost back to normal now with around 150 in worship on Sunday mornings, Stout related.

On the Sunday following the flood, Stout said he challenged the members not to give up and to consider what happened only a temporary setback.

Some good things have developed from the disaster, the — See Roan Mountain, page 3

## B&R staff plans with readers in mind

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

As retiring editor, I assure our readers the staff is ready and able to take care of the paper and meet readers' needs. We believe our readers are discerning, particular, and loyal. You deserve the best.

You have been told about a long range plan to shore up the paper — improving in all areas.

The *Baptist and Reflector* staff has in the past seven years produced two major production changes — and more are on the way.

Many readers and potential readers have participated in a statewide survey by Craig Communications, and many have taken part in focus groups.

The results relating to the *B&R* are helpful, but not unexpected or new.

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

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

straints.

But — the staff is working on your suggestions, requests, and ideas.

The staff, beginning today, is made up of five faithful workers: Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, Betty Williams, Mary Nimmo, and Susie Edwards.

Wilkey, interim editor, has been on the staff as associate editor for 10 years. He is a native of South Carolina and has a journalism degree from the University of South Carolina.

As associate editor he has served as advertising manager and production supervisor.

Davis has worked on the staff for almost 13 years as assistant editor. In addition to designing the paper, she serves as *TenneScene* editor and does film production.

She is a journalism graduate from the University of Oklahoma and Middle Tennessee State University, and is a native of Oklahoma.

Williams has been on the staff for 39 years. A native of Tennessee, she has been responsible for the maintenance of the mailing list and subscription service.

Nimmo, a Kentuckian, just celebrated her seventh anniversary on the *B&R*

staff. She is responsible for producing most of the special churches newsletter pages.

Edwards has been on the staff for 13 years. A Texas native, she is administrative secretary for the paper. As office manager, she is responsible for assisting all staff members.

The staff produces the paper in office totally, except for the actual press printing and mailing.

Computers are used in design and production to produce camera-ready pages for the printer, Franklin Web, in Franklin.

As the Craig Communications recommendations are studied and implemented by the staff and the board of directors, readers will be served with special emphases on shorter news stories, even more Tennessee Baptist news, more helps for family life, and broader regional news. As they thoroughly study the findings from the survey and focus groups, they will develop new strategies for reaching new readers.

The staff is capable and willing. It's encouraging to get so many positive suggestions and ideas from our readers. We are pleased that you want the best possible paper for Tennessee Baptists. *B&R*

## 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
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Paul Medley, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Ambers Wilson
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- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.

 Printed on recycled paper

# Jonesboro killings hit close to home for TBC staffer

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The school shooting rampage that occurred March 24 in Jonesboro, Ark., hit close to home for TBC Executive Board staff member Joy Clay-Corby.

Four students and one teacher were killed following a midday attack at Westside Middle School. The two suspects in the shootings reportedly are 11- and 13-year-old cousins who attend the school.

The two boys immediately were apprehended by police officers and appeared before a federal court judge March 25.

Clay-Corby is a native of Jonesboro and has a second cousin, Brianna Meeker, who is a student at the middle school. Meeker was in the first

class that came out, Clay-Corby reported. She was in the middle of the group and was not hit by the gunfire.

Clay-Corby's mother, Kathleen Clay, is a member at Nettleton Church which had ties either with victims or their extended family. Several of the children at the church were among the students who witnessed the attack.

One of the church's members, Crystal Barnes, was one of the shooting victims initially listed in critical condition at St. Bernards Regional Medical Center.

The TBC staffer noted Jonesboro is not a place that one could expect that kind of tragedy to happen.

Jonesboro is a town of about 50,000 people. It's a farming

and college town, she said.

Curt Hodge, one of the first journalists to arrive at the scene, agreed with that assessment. When he first heard the shootings had taken place at Westside Middle he didn't think it was possible.

"Most people consider Jonesboro the center of the Bible Belt and you would think that wouldn't happen here."

Although blessed with all of the modern conveniences, a trip to Jonesboro "is like a step back in time," Clay-Corby said.

She acknowledged that kids there are taught about guns at an early age. It's a family tradition for the men to take their sons hunting, she said.

But, she continued, they are taught respect for guns and

people and safety.

"When you hear of something like this that slips through the cracks, it takes you by surprise."

Clay-Corby said when she first heard the news and discovered it was her hometown, she cried. She then immediately called her mother to see if anyone she knew was involved.

"My mother and the whole town are in shock," Clay-Corby said.

Her cousin, as well as many other Westside students, are going through counseling after the traumatic experience.

"It seems like a bad dream," she said. ■ — By Lonnie Wilkey compiled with a Baptist Press article written by Trennis-Henderson, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

## Commentary

# Nashville journalist suggests taking hard look at lottery

By Larry Daughtrey  
Columnist, *The Tennessean*

NASHVILLE — They "fulfill our need for excitement, entertainment, a shared experience, a fascination with the unknown, and the desire to be a winner."

Baseball games? A Scout troop? A tent revival? A community effort?

Nope. Those are words describing lotteries on the opening web page of one of the nation's biggest operators of the gambling schemes now available in 37 states. And soon, they may be in Tennessee.

A proposal to set in motion a constitutional convention permitting a state lottery may reach the floor of the state House as soon as this week. Despite more than a decade of debate on lotteries, the legislature has not looked at their effects beyond the warm and fuzzy description by the gambling industry.

A lot of things happen to states that opt for a lottery; and not many of them are pretty.

It starts even before a lottery has been authorized: Gambling money begins to flow into the political process. Already, the industry has watchful lobbyists on Capitol Hill, the sort who want five-figure retainers to let you in the door.

It may be five years from start to finish of the lottery process. And the gambling industry will become a major player in the

legislative campaigns that are already afloat in special-interest money.

The industry now ranks in the top 10 in contributions to federal candidates. To expand gambling, the industry has spent \$10 million in Louisiana, \$9 million in Arkansas, \$15 million in Missouri, and \$16 million in Florida in recent referenda. By comparison, all Tennessee legislative candidates spent just over \$3 million in the most recent election cycle.

The first thing a state learns about a lottery is that the state cannot run it without help. It doesn't have the knowledge, hardware, or software to cope.

So it must farm out the business to a private company. Once its network is set up in all those convenience stores, it is hard for competitors to step forward. A monopoly has been created.

This is when the pipe dreams of a tax bonanza begin to disappear. While Americans wager more than \$35 billion a year on lotteries, less than a third of it ends up in tax coffers. The rest goes for prizes, administration, and advertising.

Lottery advertising is the leading example of consumer fraud in America today.

The glossy get-rich-quick advertising seldom mentions the staggering odds against winning the lottery; a crooked crap game provides for more chance of success. But a state attorney general is

unlikely to prosecute his own government for fraudulent advertising.

Some state lotteries have been caught concentrating their advertising around the first of the month — to coincide with payroll, Social Security, welfare, disability, and unemployment checks.

Which brings up the question of who buys lottery tickets. Studies in Georgia, Illinois, and Massachusetts have found the highest per capita spending on lotteries in zip codes with the lowest income.

In most cases, per capita spending on lotteries in poor neighborhoods is almost 10 times lottery sales in rich ones.

Perhaps the cruelest effect of the lottery is on children. While the legislature rants about keeping guns, drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, and drivers' licenses out of the hands of children, lotteries are ignored. But some studies suggest that almost half of teenagers with access to lotteries manage to play them on a regular basis.

All those trends have been well documented in the 35 years since lotteries began to return to America, almost a century after they fell from public favor. The verdict of the last century was quite clear:

After playing the lottery, every state, including Tennessee, banned it. ■ — Copyrighted by *The Tennessean*, the daily newspaper published in Nashville, March 29. Column is used with permission.

## Baptist leaders sign declaration of cooperation

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Prompted by former President Jimmy Carter and following two meetings at The Carter Center here, more than two dozen Baptist leaders have signed a declaration of cooperation regarding racial reconciliation, religious persecution, and treating each other with mutual respect.

A diverse group, including leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches, Baptist World Al-

liance, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the signatories met in November of last year and again in February, Carter said in a news release March 30.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss differences among Baptists on historical, theological, philosophical, and organizational issues, the release said.

Carter told Baptist Press that as a deacon and Sunday School teacher, he felt there was a lack of understanding and communication among Baptist leaders. He said he was extremely involved with the

percentage of leaders who signed the declaration even though some of those involved don't sign statements as a matter of principle and some wanted to make last-minute changes.

SBC leaders who signed the declaration included James T. Draper Jr. of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Morris Chapman of the SBC Executive Committee, and Dellanna O'Brien of Woman's Missionary Union.

Union University President David Dockery also signed the document. ■

# Union University given \$3.1 million gift

By Nedra Kanavel  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University basketball teams, including the newly crowned national champion Lady Bulldogs, are one step closer to moving into a new athletic/convention center thanks to a \$3.1 million gift from Benny and Norma Fesmire, members of West Jackson Church here.

The gift is the largest in Union's history.

The majority of the record-setting gift will benefit the construction of a new athletic/convention center for Union's athletic department, which is expected to cost about \$9 million.

The center will provide a larger gymnasium and home court for the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs, and will provide a seating capacity of about 4,000. Fred DeLay Gymnasium, the current home of

## Lady Bulldogs win national title

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University toppled four-time defending national champion Southern Nazarene University 73-70 to win the 18th annual NAIA Division I Women's Basketball national championship, held at Oman Arena here March 18-24.

With the win the Lady Bulldogs earned their first national title, avenging a loss to Southern Nazarene Uni-

versity in last year's championship game.

This was the third time Coach David Blackstock has led Union to the title game. Blackstock, 47-84 in 16 seasons with the Lady Bulldogs, has the best winning percentage of any active NAIA coach (.850).

In addition to the team's national title, Blackstock was rewarded with his first ever national coach of the year award as well. ■

the basketball programs, seats about 2,200. The center also will accommodate other major events for the campus and the community, such as concerts and major speakers.

"This is the largest single gift commitment in the history

of Union University and probably among all West Tennessee institutions," said President David S. Dockery.

"Its value is enormous in helping us move forward to build a championship-calibre facility to accommodate our

national championship athletic program," Dockery asserted.

The Fesmires are longtime supporters of Union athletics and are Jackson natives.

He is a former trustee and his son, Ben Fesmire Jr., currently is a Union trustee.

The Fesmires said their gift was led by God, given in belief and support of Union Athletic Director and Lady Bulldogs Coach David Blackstock, and meant to support young people and education and show their commitment to Union and its administration.

A \$100,000 portion of the Fesmires' gift will be used toward the construction of new baseball and softball fields, to be completed this year as part of the university's Campus Master Plan.

The gift comes on the heels of three other major gifts, each one \$700,000 or more, to Union since December. ■



## Bearden to serve on World Missions Conference Council

For Baptist and Reflector

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Tim Bearden of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries based in Brentwood has been named to the World Missions Conference Administrative Council.



The council is coordinated by the North American Mission Board, based here, BEARDEN

announced Kenny Rains of NAMB. Bearden was named during a March 19-21 meeting in Atlanta.

A state director of the conferences, Bearden will represent all state directors on the council, which coordinates the conferences for Southern Baptists. Bearden will serve a two-year term. World Missions Conferences are held in churches throughout the United States, including Tennessee. B&R

# Roan Mountain FBC seeks to overcome loss ...

— Continued from page 1 pastor observed.

"This has brought our church together. There is a new strength and camaraderie," he said.

The church's position in the community has been strengthened as well, Stout added, noting the church has distributed food, supplies, and money that has been contributed from churches and individuals for relief work in the community.

As for the church definite plans have not been made as to where the church will rebuild. Some favor buying land and completely relocating; others want to remain at the site and build higher off the ground.

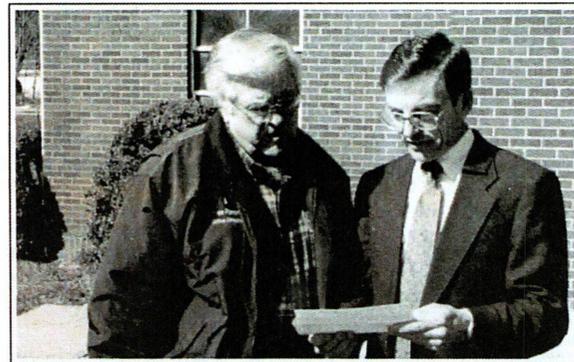
Stout said he prefers moving to higher ground and keeping the current property for perhaps a Christian park. It is contingent on what the church wants to do, he said.

Stout has had time to reflect on the flood and what has occurred since.

He said someone asked him just last week if he thought God had caused the flood.

"I told the person no, but that God picked up on a bad thing of nature and is headed to the goal line. It's up to each one of us to run interference for him," Stout said.

"God will be glorified" out of what happened, Stout is convinced. He noted churches that have given money or supplies have asked that their names



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch recently presented a \$50,000 check to Roan Mountain First Church Pastor Richard Stout to help them in their rebuilding effort. — Photo by Tim Bearden

not be used. "They tell us to just glorify Jesus with it. His

name has been exalted," the pastor related. B&R

## 'The Lord still has plans for us,' couple affirms

For Baptist and Reflector

ROAN MOUNTAIN — When W.O. Hampton went down into his basement the night of Jan. 7, little did he know it would almost become a watery grave.

In just a matter of minutes water began filling the basement, which up to that point had never had more than eight inches of water in it, Hampton said. He later would find out it would hold 82 inches of water.

Hampton, a deacon at First Church here, was checking the sump pump in the basement when the electricity went out. His wife, Helen, was in the basement as well.

The two struggled to find each other in the dark as the



THE HAMPTONS

water continued to rise.

Before they could reach each other the force of the water outside broke the windows and water rushed in.

By the time they found each other, water was up to Helen Hampton's chin. Her husband kept her head above

water as they searched for a way out and she prayed to the Lord for help. They finally made it to a window and were able to get outside to safety.

"He heard my prayer and at that very moment the water stopped its forceful rush into our home. I will never forget how quiet and calm it seemed in the moments after I prayed," she said.

"The experience has strengthened my faith," Helen Hampton said.

"It gives you a new perspective on everything. I have never been that close to death."

"It makes you more appreciative of life," her husband agreed.

"The Lord still has plans for us," Hampton observed.

B&R



RICHARD STOUT points to where water rose at First Church, Roan Mountain, following severe flooding in January. The water moved the church off its foundation, forcing it to be condemned for use.

## Partnership Prayer Requests

April

- 1 — Pray for Wendy Stout, new ISC volunteer to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who will assist IMB missionary Elizabeth Oates, Tennessee/Rio partnership coordinator.
- 2 — Pray for the Mississippi River Ministries Convocation to be held April 3-4 at FBC, West Memphis, Ark.
- 3 — Pray for the search committee that will select the next leader of the Canadian Baptist Convention.
- 4 — Pray for churches in Michigan that are without a pastor.
- 5 — Pray for Baptist work in San Rafael of Guapiles in Costa Rica.
- 6 — Pray for a 29-member creative ministries team from Union University that is serving through April 11 in Costa Rica.
- 7 — Pray for the Promise Keepers meeting April 24-25 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Ask that men will invite non-Christian friends.

## churches

■ **Central Church, Martin**, will hold revival April 26-29. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, raised \$4,900 from its KidsBargain Consignment Sale Feb. 28 for a youth mission trip to Montana.

■ The Adult Sanctuary Choir of **Charlotte Road Church, Nashville**, will present "All Hail King Jesus ... A Resurrection Celebration" April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Also on Easter the church will hold a Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. followed by a breakfast and regular activities. For more information, call the church at (615) 356-5810.

■ **Piney Grove Church, Henderson**, will hold revival beginning April 17. Pat Kough will speak.

■ **West Jackson Church, Jackson**, will hold revival April 19-22. Junior Hill, evangelist, will speak.

■ **Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg**, will hold revival April 15-19. A team of laymen led by Barry Barrett will speak.

■ **First Church, Camden**, will hold revival April 26-29. Jimmy Brown will speak.

■ Revival is being held at **First Church, Somerville**, March 29-April 2. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist, will speak. For more information, call the church at (901) 465-3528.

■ **First Church, Trinity Church, and First United Methodist Church, Manchester**, will present "The Day He Wore My Crown," a drama/musical April 3-4. For more information, call the church at (931) 728-2138/2148.

■ **Bledsoe Creek Church, Bethpage**, plans to eat break-

fast in its new education/fellowship building Easter morning following a sunrise service.

■ **New Community Church, Hendersonville**, is contacting 15,000 residents in its area by mail to invite them to its Easter service and a five-week study.

■ **Youth of Grace Church, Bethpage**, will hold a 10-mile Walk for Missions April 18.

■ **College Heights Church, Gallatin**, will hold its Passion Play April 9-12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 452-4952.

■ **First Church, Mitchellville**, will hold a youth rally, "Time to Tell '98" April 18 at 5 p.m. For more information, call (615) 654-4319.

■ **Richland Church, Nashville**, will hold revival April 10-12. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Hermitage, will speak.

■ **Bethel Church, Cunningham**, will hold a Spring for Christ Crusade April 5-8. Alan Stewart of Chattanooga will speak.

■ **Bloomington Church, Kingsport**, will honor veterans as it dedicates a 60-foot flag pole and American flag April 5 during its morning worship service.

■ **Oak City Church, Seymour**, held a ground breaking/fund raising ceremony March 22 for a new sanctuary.

■ The church choir and youth drama team of **Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol**, will present "It Is Finished!" April 10-12. For more information, call the church at (423) 989-4325.

## state event

■ Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries will hold a **Conversational English Workshop** May 1-3 at Cumberland



**WINNERS OF A MEN'S BAKEOFF** at Adams Chapel Church, Dresden, as a part of its recent Baptist Men's Day are recognized during a service. They are, from left, Larry Reagan, pastor; Charles Reagan; Richard Ferrell; Cliff Evans; and Ray Essary. The participants received points for their desserts and for bringing guests. They also earned awards for their efforts, including a band-aid award. Another activity of the day was a men's choir.

Plateau Baptist Mission Center in Crossville. Lee Ann McAninch, literacy missions specialist, will train people to teach English as a Second Language. For more information, call Judy Hurst, TBC, (615) 371-7916.

## associations

■ A team from **Sweetwater Association** will serve in Haiti April 13-18.

■ **Bledsoe Association** will hold its semi-annual meeting April 23 at Antioch Church, Portland. Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Association, will speak. For more information, call the association at (615) 451-3241.

■ **Nashville Association** will hold a Youth Retreat at the Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia April 24-25. Larry McEwen of Genuine Love Ministries, will lead the worship.

## schools

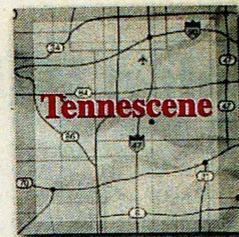
■ **Union University, Jackson**, has received a \$700,000 gift from the estate of Audrey Barr Haney of Tupelo, Miss., a graduate in 1927. The gift will be used to form the Audrey Haney Scholarship fund.

## leaders

■ **Lea Ann West** has been called as director of children's church, Dallas Bay Church, Hixson.

■ **First Church, Westmoreland**, has called **Phillip Baker**, Farm Bureau manager in Lafayette, as music director.

■ **Jerry Sutton**, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, recently celebrated his 12th



year of service there.

■ **Lloyd Bardowell** recently celebrated his 12th anniversary as pastor, Rivergate Church, Hendersonville.

■ **David Laird**, interim minister of education, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, has been called as minister of education.

## people

■ **Pine Orchard Church, Oakdale**, ordained **Chris Redmon** to the ministry March 1 following his call as pastor, Crab Orchard Church, Oakdale.

■ **Hermes Monzon**, pastor of the Hispanic Mission of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, has resigned.

■ **Ronnie White** recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor, Paw Paw Hollow Church, Kodak.

■ **Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar**, honored **Doug Baker**, pastor, Feb. 8 on his 20th anniversary of service there and on his 50th birthday.

■ **Link and Jennifer Almon**, ministers of youth, Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, have resigned after serving three years.

■ **David Silver** has been called as youth minister, Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport, ef-

## death

■ **Bessie D. Gentry**, 100, of Cookeville, died Feb. 23. An active Baptist and philanthropist, Gentry was a member of Cane Creek Church, Cookeville, rather than Cane Creek Church, Tellico Plains, as was reported in last week's edition.



**PARTICIPATING** in the first Training Effective Leadership conference of Woman's Missionary Union Feb. 12-14 at its Birmingham, Ala., office are, from left, back row, Patty Seal, Smithville; Stephanie Gilbert, Clarksville; Carol Gilmer, Centerville; Billie Smith, Clarksville; and Penny Looney, Memphis; seated, Elizabeth Childs, Nashville; Carol Richardson, state WMU president, Memphis; and Traci Roberson, Brentwood.



**BREAKING GROUND** are leaders and representative members of Oak City Church, Seymour, March 22, from left, Bruce Lillie, Knaffle Whaley, Tim Manis, Ashley Belcher, Steve Whaley, Ray Fain Jr., Richard Everett, Wayne Mize and Megan Mize. Everett is director of missions, Sevier County Association. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction of a new sanctuary.

# Look at what's good about Southern Baptists

**T**his editorial appeared first in the July 1, 1992, issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* — Editor

Though our freedom and autonomy get in the way sometimes, and cause us trouble, there are many good things about Southern Baptists. It is better to "accentuate the positive" and "eliminate the negative" as often as possible.

The terms used above are from a song of the 1950s, and form a short parable. There is a great chasm separating positive and negative. The in-between area sounds like lukewarm.

The *Baptist and Reflector* staff pledges to accentuate the good things about Southern Baptists. Placing great emphasis on the work of the churches and the commitment of individual Baptists will continue to be a primary goal.

Achieving this goal will be a week-to-week effort, and we will need assistance from our readers. We believe Tennessee Baptists are perceptive — and able to judge good news and features. Just as a congregation is often referred to as the "great" choir of the church, we refer to our readers as a corps of reporters.

We have tried always to stress the good things about Baptists. And we will try even harder. There will be "bad" news, of course. This is life. We need to point out some good things about Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists.

■ We are people of the Book, God's

Holy Word. There has been quibbling about who believes the message of the Bible best or most. But Southern Baptists truly are people of the Book. That designation is sometimes used in derision by some who don't know Southern Baptists — but it is a name we claim gladly.

■ We are followers of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Risen Lord, Savior. We strive to make him Lord of our lives, accepting his Holy Spirit as our guide and helper.

■ We are children of the Lord God Almighty, the only god, the creator and redeemer. We love him — and he loves us and sent his Son to save us from our sins, offering us eternal life.

As Southern Baptists, we display attributes which distinguish us as Baptist believers. Without formal contract, we adhere to certain beliefs, doctrines, ideals.

■ Among Southern Baptists there is, a determination and commitment to do better things using better methods. Constant reviewing and renewal are a part of our signature.

■ We honor our heritage and history, but we are not bound by that part of history which is less than the quality we know as best. Our heritage includes men and women who are and are among the best servants — pastors, musicians, hymn writers, missionaries, pray-ers, evangelists, educators, theologians — and just plain people.

■ We are missions-minded, blessed by

God with superb and self-sacrificing missions leaders. We believe Jesus Christ died for the sins of mankind, that he rose again, and will return.

■ We are believers and practitioners of sound Biblical faith and practice.

■ We are faithful stewards in small and great places.

■ We use the Baptist Faith and Message not as a creed and not for coercion, but as a clear statement of our best understanding of who we are and what it means to live as Christians and Baptists.

■ We are recipients of the liberating genius of God's grace and mercy, and beneficiaries of his salvation.

■ We have discovered what good things can happen when we cooperate with God in developing great plans and programs for missions, evangelization, education — through seminaries, missions agencies, colleges, Bible study, discipling, and feeding people. We reach far beyond our homes, streets, cities, nation — in obedience to the Great Commission.

■ We support and renew our camps, boards, commissions, publishing houses.

While our record is not unblemished, that record also bears up well under the glare of world scrutiny. The faults and failures are easily identified and scorned.

We pray that the day is not past when Southern Baptists are recognized as people who try to do good — rather than becoming known as quarrelsome, worldly do-gooders. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Customer to hat check lady in a restaurant as he was leaving: "Are you sure this is my coat?"

Lady: "I don't know, sir, but it's the hat you were wearing when you came in."

Take this truth

Things are not always what they seem. What looks like an opportunity may be a scam. And that which looks like a setback may be God's way of opening up a new door to happiness and success.

Memorize this Scripture

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. — Proverbs 14:12

Pray this prayer

Lord help me know the facts before I make quick judgments or voice an opinion. ■

## 'It seems that everyone has grown small' — but not him

One word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



I don't recall where or when, but on one of my treks to antique shops, I rescued a biography of Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier La Fayette.

There it was, just getting dusty on a crowded shelf.

If you know anything about him, you probably know him

as Marquis de La Fayette, or General La Fayette.

Born in 1757 to an ancient family of French nobility, he became a French soldier, statesman, and a hero of the American War of Independence.

If we remember him at all, it will be that he fought alongside George Washington for the birth of the United States.

He has towns named in his honor all over the United States, including one in Tennessee.

He was given American citizenship — a gift he always cherished.

He went back home to France to resume his interrupted life, and for the rest of his many years, he defended liberty. His own countrymen imprisoned him for several years, but he also was elected to high offices several times.

The United States was always his model for his France.

On one occasion, as he fought for free elections in France, he surveyed those who once were his friends and supporters, and was heard to remark, "It seems to me that everybody has grown small."

Opponents of liberty grew to fear him. His doctrines were

implicit — the right of the taxpayer to vote, as in America, freedom of the press, individual and personal liberty.

He always stood up for victims of persecution. When he was in the halls of government, liberty had a champion.

Years later on a return to the United States, Citizen La Fayette responded to a toast with these words: "To the perpetual union of the United States. It has already saved us in the times of storm, one day it will save the world."

He believed in us. I pray our nation always will serve as a freedom model. ■

## Looking at heritage — America's first Baptist church

By Merrill Hawkins

— This is the second of a series about Baptist heritage, written by Merrill Hawkins, assistant professor of religion, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. — Editor

In a section of the United States Capitol Building, each of the 50 states has a statue of a leading citizen. Called Statuary Hall, the section allows each state to make a statement about its individual contribution to the nation.

Representing Rhode Island is a voice from its early history, Roger Williams, founder of the colony. After graduating from Cambridge University's Pembroke College, Williams became a minister with the Church of England.

The same separatist movement that challenged John Smyth caused Williams to question his work in the Anglican Church. Rejecting the Church of England to become a Separatist Minister, Williams now

faced the danger of imprisonment.

His prospects did not appear to be in England, but in the English Colonies on the American continent. On Dec. 1, 1630, Williams and his wife Mary boarded the Lyon and set sail for New England and a new life.

They found new life, but not as they envisioned it. The New England Colonies were filled with Puritans (who wanted to remain in the Church of England and purge it) and Separatists.

Williams apparently was dissatisfied with the religious practices of the region.

He felt that the land of New England had been taken from Native Americans without just payment. He also felt that the colonists used the power of government to enforce religious views, as it happened in England.

Though he agreed with the theology of the colonists he did not agree with their politics. About four years after he came to New England, officials there ordered him to be returned to England.

Before he was to be arrested, Williams and his

supporters escaped and settled in Massachusetts. That area was not claimed by any party in England.

Williams formed Providence Plantation, purchasing the territory from its rightful owners, the Narragansett Indians. This was a place where all religious views were accepted, since "God requireth not an uniformity of religion."

Not long after settling in the region, Williams the Separatist became Williams the Baptist.

Exposed to Baptist thought while in England, Roger Williams felt that Baptists, with their teaching on believer's baptism and freedom of religion, reflected New Testament principles more than any other group.

In 1639, Williams submitted to believer's baptism, along with several other people, and formed the first Baptist congregation in America. Although Williams remained Baptist for only a few months, his church — First Baptist Church of Providence, Rhode Island — exists to this day. ■

# IMB trustees focus on 'lostness,' hear of coming missions surge

By Louis Moore  
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Their attention riveted on the "lostness" of world peoples, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees heard proposals March 19-21 to raise the number of missionaries dramatically and share the Gospel with unreached people groups by starting "church-planting movements."

God seems to be providing funds, people, and opportunities for a major surge in missions overseas as the world crosses the threshold into the third millennium, noted IMB Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener during a trustee meeting at First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.

During the meeting, IMB

trustees endorsed President Jerry Rankin's call for mobilizing the entire Southern Baptist Convention for missions overseas. He is pleading for a massive Southern Baptist all-out effort to address the seriousness of a lost world dying by the millions daily without the opportunity to experience salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Trustees heard reports indicating the restructuring of the

IMB's overseas work and a surge in the number of people expressing interest in missionary service could propel the current missionary force of 4,200 toward 15,000 within 10 years.

"It is do-able," said Randy Rains, director of the board's

international service department.

"It's all about lostness," Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations, told trustees. Lostness

"is not theoretical; it is reality," he said.

Willis called for a "church-planting movement" worldwide among every unreached people group. ■

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## Seeking A Change

### Discipleship and Family Development Week Ridgecrest—July 4-10

Leaders who attend the 1998 Discipleship and Family Week will rediscover their passion for building stronger families and churches. During this week of training and spiritual growth, participants will have an opportunity to interact with some of God's greatest servants. This interaction will help leaders initiate spiritual transformation through discipleship. Some of the many conferences on this year's schedule include:

- Conferences for pastors, ministers of education, and discipleship directors
- *Experiencing God*
- *First Place*
- *Choosing to Change*
- *Bible Buddies*
- *Building Strong Families*
- *Jesus on Leadership: Developing Servant Leaders*
- *The Mind of Christ*
- *The Man God Uses*
- *Share Jesus Without Fear*
- *TeamKID*
- *How to Promote Your Discipleship Ministry*
- *Living God's Word*



- *Shaping the Next Generation*
- *KidShare: What Do I Do Now?*
- *Leading Children's Bible Drill*
- *Women's Ministry Training*
- *Men's Ministry Training*
- *Family Ministry Training*
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For additional information, contact the Sunday School Board at (615) 251-2831 or (615) 251-3621.



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Trinity Baptist Church,  
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Program fee — \$12.50; Catfish dinner — \$6. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Mail to Linda Reeves, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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Aug. 8, 1998  
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Registration: \$25 per person. Contact Sue Raley, (615) 371-2082.

**Weekday Education**  
Credit — 6 hours

### National Preschool/Children's Convention

Baptist Sunday School Board,  
Nashville, Tenn.

Oct. 19-22, 1998

Cost: \$150 before Sept. 15; \$200 after Sept. 15

To register, contact the Baptist Sunday School Board Program Training Center, (615) 251-2000.

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# Death

By Mike Rogers

**Focal Passage — Luke 23:32-34, 39-43**

Standing face to face with death is a sobering experience. Several years ago, as a young marine in Vietnam, I stood face to face with death. I thought I was going to be killed, yet in some miraculous way I survived. I call still remember the experience and at times I have even felt some of the emotions of that moment. My memory of that time sometimes shatters the folly of some of the human agendas which surround me.

Do you know what I am talking about? I am talking about our obsession with the things of this world and our veiled understanding of eternity — our not being able to see our life in one honest glance. It is a sobering experience to see your life as it has truly been. Most people live with little awareness of who they have become and how their life has impacted the lives of others. As my dad used to say, we can't see the forest for the trees.

Our focal passage places us at the foot of the cross. Christ is being executed between two criminals. One of the men seems unaware of who Jesus really is. He also appears to not know who he really is himself. His life has been ruled by sin, yet he shows no real concern for who he has been or what he has done. How could a person look death in the face and not see clearly his own life? It is as though he had already died. His spirit, his love, and his personhood were already cold and dead. He felt nothing but contempt for the one who was next to him — Jesus. It meant nothing to him as his life flashed before him — no remorse, no sadness, nothing.

Many people are like this man. They have little remorse for the pain and hurt they have inflicted upon others. They are wrapped up in self and their greatest concern is finding a way to escape the consequences of their actions.

In striking contrast to this man was another criminal who looking into the face of death responded differently — with shocking honesty and compassion. He said to the other criminal, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." These words have given us incredible insight into the heart of this man. He faced death and saw clearly what his life had been. He realized the sin that had destroyed his life. He felt compassion and respect for Christ as he lay alongside him. He asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Salvation has always been an act of the heart. From the heart of God, grace is given — in the heart of man, grace is received. As you walk through each day, what is the condition of your heart? If you were to face death today, would you be able to see what your life has been? And has your heart received the grace that Jesus offered? — 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.

# Entering Jerusalem

By Billy Murphy

**Focal Passage — Mark 11:1-10, 15-18**

The focus for this lesson is on Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and the cleansing of the Temple during the final week prior to his crucifixion. It was the time of the Passover, which was celebrated annually to commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Crowds of religious worshipers from everywhere flocked to Jerusalem for this feast. Messianic hopes were running high at this particular Passover.

Zechariah had predicted the coming of a humble Messiah riding on a donkey colt. When Jesus presented himself as the Messiah-King, he came in a way to show that he was not a military leader, but a humble servant.

Later, while walking through the court of the Gentiles, Jesus observed the actions of Temple workers. He saw all the abominations and abuses which he later corrected. Having seen these things on that first day, one might wonder why he did not correct them at once. It should be observed that God does not always smite the guilty immediately, but he is "slow to anger."

## Family Bible Lesson

The following day as Jesus and his disciples made their way back to Jerusalem from Bethany, he encountered a fig tree. There being no fruit on the tree, Jesus proceeded to place a curse on it. Fruitfulness is the emphasis in this incident. The leaves on this tree might be seen as a promise of fruit but there was none. This tree represented Jesus' condemnation of the people of Israel, the fate of fruitlessness.

Upon his entrance to the temple court he began his cleansing process. This act represented an example of prophetic symbolism. Like Old Testament prophets who did things that reinforced their message, Jesus' action delivered

a message more powerful than words alone. Jesus claimed authority over the place of worship and declared judgment on those who had perverted it for their own selfish purposes.

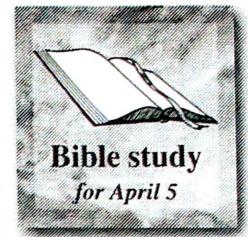
He also called it a den of thieves. Jesus protested various practices exploiting the worshipers because of the greed of temple authorities.

The scribes and Pharisees were concerned with Jewish law; the chief priests, who were mostly Sadducees, were concerned with the temple. These two parties were often at odds with each other, but now they had found a common enemy. They joined forces against Jesus.

The following day as Jesus and his disciples made their way from Bethany to Jerusalem, their attention was focused on the fig tree of the previous day. It had withered and Jesus used the occasion to teach the disciples about faith and prayer. The phrase about removing mountains was a regular saying for removing difficulties in one's life. Prayer is a power which can solve any problem and make one able to deal with any difficulty, but one must be willing to take his or her problems and difficulties to God. One must be willing to accept God's guidance when he gives it. Prayers must be prayers of expectation. Anything done in the spirit of hope and confident expectation has a greater chance for success.

As Jesus walked in the temple, the opposing factions asked him to tell the source of his authority for his cleansing action. Jesus responded by asking them a question about John's baptism. Was it from God or men? They dared not answer truthfully. They dared not say "from God" because they had opposed John; they dared not say "from men" because John was popular with the people. They were forced to say they did not know. Jesus refused to tell them the source of his authority.

Scripture, however, teaches us that his authority was from God and we must live under that authority each day. If so, it will make a significant difference in one's life. — Murphy is Computer Consultant for West Carroll Special School District and a bivocational pastor, Howse Church, Atwood.



# Dying to save others

By James Growden

**Focal Passage — Mark 15:22-25, 29-34, 37-39**

Dying to save others. That's exactly what Jesus did outside Jerusalem on Golgotha. The death of Jesus on the cross is the most phenomenal event in history. Eternal salvation was secured for mankind.

I would like to point out some basic things about Golgotha. Songs tell about a hill that Jesus was crucified upon. The truth is that it was a rounded, rocky knoll, not a hill, vaguely resembling the shape of a human skull.

The soldiers took Jesus to the place outside, but near the city wall, called Golgotha, a Greek transliteration of an Aramaic word meaning, the place of the skull. The word "Calvary" comes from the Latin Vulgate rendering "Calvaria," a variation of calva, "a skull." The place where Jesus was crucified symbolized death itself.

We see Jesus was offered drugs and he refused. The drink was strong and intoxicating, deadening the senses to some degree. It was given to crucifixion victims as a narcotic to ease the pain. God's will was not to be done in a drunken stupor, in a drugged, insensitive, and unthoughtful state.

Next we observe the sin of gambling taking place. Note that (1) Jesus was stripped by the soldiers; stripped of his physical clothing. The dice were used to decide, by chance, who would

## Explore the Bible Lesson

receive Jesus' clothing and (2) the soldiers showed no compassion. Mary, Jesus' mother, was standing nearby and she should have been given the clothes of Jesus. However, this act fulfilled the prophecy of Psalm 22:18.

Crucifixion was a means of execution in which the victim was nailed to a cross. It was a feared and shameful form of capital punishment. Heavy, wrought-iron nails were driven through the wrists and heels. If the victim lingered too long, death was hastened by breaking his legs.

Only slaves, the lowest of criminals, and offenders who were not Roman citizens, were executed in this matter. We see the mocking by the people of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was subjected to verbal abuse. Passersby hurled insults at him. "Shaking their heads," refers to a familiar gesture of derision.

They taunted him for his claim regarding the Temple. If he could rebuild the Temple surely he could save himself by coming down from the cross. Notice this mocking was by the mob, religionists, and two thieves. Mocking. We could do a study on this word. Jesus could have saved himself, but he endured this suffering because

of his love for us.

Jesus hung on the cross for three hours in the daylight (9 a.m. until noon), and then at the sixth hour (noon), total darkness engulfed the entire land until the ninth hour (3 p.m.). The darkness was a cosmic sign of God's judgment on human sin (Isaiah 5:25-30; Amos 8:9-10; Micah 3:5-7; Zephaniah 1:14-15), which was placed on Jesus.

In verse 34, Mark recorded only one of Jesus' seven sayings from the cross. At the ninth hour Jesus cried, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" Mark translated the saying into Greek for his readers, which in English means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Today we as Christians are promised that God will not leave us or forsake us. Jesus' loud cry before he breathed his last breath indicated that he did not die the ordinary death. Simultaneous with Jesus' death, the curtain (veil) of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Verse 39 closes out our focal passage. The Centurion who stood nearby facing Jesus and observing these happenings was the Gentile Roman officer in charge of the execution squad. His words, "Surely this man was the Son of God," are words every human should speak today because he is God's Son and our Savior. — Growden is a teacher and a bivocational pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville.



## Sutton willing to lead SBC Pastors' Conference

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Nashville pastor Jerry Sutton told Baptist Press recently he has been asked to be nominated as president of the annual Pastors' Conference and it is likely he will consent.

The Two Rivers Church pastor said it has not been decided yet who will nominate him.

South Carolina pastor Mike Hamlet of North Spartanburg will be nominated for the presidency by former SBC President Ed Young.

The Pastors' Conference is held the Sunday and Monday before the start of the SBC annual meeting June 9-11 in Salt Lake City.

A third potential candidate — Rick Warren of Lake Forest, Calif. — told Baptist Press he has been asked to be a candidate but he had not yet decided. ■

## Falwell to speak at BSSB event

Associated Baptist Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Some Southern Baptists are upset that Jerry Falwell will appear at Ridgecrest Conference Center this summer during the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Conference for Church Leadership.

John Setchfield, a Marion, N.C. pastor, said he was disappointed Falwell "would be given an audience with our folks as politically motivated as he seems to be."

Mike Miller, director of the church leadership services division for the BSSB, said in a written statement that "a number of past NCCL attendees" requested Falwell as a speaker. "We feel his presence will strengthen the program and we are delighted to have him as one of our speakers," Miller said.

The conference is designed to focus on leadership issues in the church. ■

## N.C. editor plans Dec. 31 retirement

Baptist Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — R.G. Puckett, editor of North Carolina Baptists' *Biblical Recorder* newsjournal since 1982, will retire Dec. 31.

Puckett has also served as editor of the *Maryland Baptist* and the *Ohio Baptist Messenger*.

He is a former president of the Southern Baptist Press Association and former board chairman of Associated Baptist Press. ■

## Airline grounds marketing plans for homosexuals

Baptist Press

DALLAS — After a year-long campaign to dissuade American Airlines from its aggressive support of homosexual organizations and activities, pro-family leaders announced March 23 the airline would back off its pro-homosexual marketing strategy.

Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land, who worked with other evangelical groups in pressuring American Airlines President Robert Crandall to modify his company's marketing strategy, commended the airline for their responsiveness to the group's concerns.

Pro-family groups charged the air carrier with traveling "a family unfriendly path" in February 1997, citing the company's sponsorship of homosexual "pride" events, its financial support of homosexual advocacy groups, and its "aggressive pursuit of the gay travel market."

Crandall agreed to halt American's sponsorship of homosexual parties and refrain from targeting and promoting the homosexual travel market and to instead maintain a position of neutrality. The airline currently advertises discount fares for "domestic partners" and for "gay cruise partners." ■

## 'Killing has begun' in Oregon: ethicist

Baptist Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — "The killing has begun."

So declared a Southern Baptist ethicist after news of two women's suicides under Oregon's "Death with Dignity Act," the first such reports since the law gained effect last fall.

C. Ben Mitchell, assistant

## Materials on day of fasting, prayer available

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Persians of Iran, a predominantly Muslim people group in the Middle East, will be the focus this year for an annual day of prayer and fasting for a people group without free access to the Gospel.

A new video and other materials will be free to Southern Baptists participating in the 24-hour emphasis, which begins at 6 p.m. May 29.

Each spring, Southern Baptists and other "Great Commission" Christian groups devote a day — called the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization — to pray for a people group that has not heard the good news of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Nearly 23 million Persians live in Iran, which was known as "Persia" before 1925. About 99 percent of Iran's 46 people groups are Muslim. Christians make up only about .4 percent of the population.

Iran has a rich history. For more than three millennia, the country was the melting pot of civilizations and people movements between

Asia and Europe. Under Cyrus the Great, Persia was the center of the world's first empire. Invasions by the Greeks, Arabs, Mongols, and Turks brought diverse cultural influences into the nation.

Signs in modern-day Iran indicate the fundamental Islam that has ruled the country since 1979 is moderating. Many American tourists report Iranian hospitality that contradicts the image portrayed by Western media. Christian broadcasts are said to be making headway in the country.

Besides the video, an information kit contains a prayer guide and feature coverage adapted from *The Commission*, magazine of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. In addition, specific prayer requests for the day of prayer and fasting will be posted on the IMB Internet website ([www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)).

To order the information kit, interested persons should call 1 (800) 866-3621 or write Customer Services, International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767. Allow two weeks for delivery. ■



SUTTON



MITCHELL

professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and former Tennessee Baptist pastor in Hixson, said, "These cases illustrate clearly what we knew would happen: that assisted suicide will be used to relieve stress and mental and physical discomfort."

"We're clearly now on the slippery slope" toward euthanasia in the United States, said Mitchell, who also is a consultant on biomedical and life issues for the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. ■

After five years, the church and minister are encouraged to continue and even increase their contributions to provide an adequate retirement income for the pastor.

Interested people may contact their state annuity representative (Gary Rickman in Tennessee), or call 1 (800) 262-0511 for an application form. ■

## Settlement reached in Louisiana lawsuit

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — After months of negotiation and extended deadlines, the lawsuit of four Louisiana College professors against the "conservative resurgence" group in the state has been settled.

The out-of-court settlement comes about 20 months after the suit was filed. In the suit, the four professors charged that letters distributed in 1995 by Leon Hyatt of Pineville and the Louisiana Baptists Speaking the Truth in Love group were defamatory and derogatory and meant to harm their professional and moral reputations. The four professors were Carlton Winbery, Fred Downing, James Heath, and Connie Douglas.

Terms of the settlement include payment of \$40,000 in attorney fees for the professors from a fund donated by Louisiana Baptists leaders for that purpose and an apology letter from Hyatt to each of the professors. ■

## SBC missionary Marie Carter dies

Baptist Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Marie Blocher Carter, a

Southern Baptist International missionary in Argentina died here March 23. She was 59.

Carter, of Lee's Summit, Mo., became ill March 13 with flu-like symptoms. She was later diagnosed with blood poisoning and her condition deteriorated rapidly despite treatment, said missionary Clayton Rock, strategy coordinator for IMB missionaries in Argentina.

Carter is survived by her husband, Richard, and three children. ■

## Church in third month of revival; professions top 900

Baptist Press

LAUREL, Miss. — The "Find Me Faithful" crusade at Highland Church here will continue indefinitely, according to Bart Terry, the church's associate pastor for education and administration.

The revival began Feb. 1.

Pastor Dennis Sewell previously had announced that the evangelistic services would cease at the end of March. Both William Blackburn of Arkansas, the preaching evangelist, and Don Baltziglar of Georgia, the musical evangelist, canceled other commitments in March to continue.

However, due to large crowds continuing to attend and the number of decisions being registered, Sewell said the decision was made to continue.

As of March 17 there have been 917 professions of faith and the church had baptized 381 people, according to Terry.

Services at the church are held Sunday through Friday at 7 p.m. ■