

# REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 15

Statewide Edition

April 15, 1998

this week's news

## RA Congress participants witness 'miracle'

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**JACKSON** — Southern Baptist missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts of Memphis can attest God is still in the miracle business.

The couple was on the program of the 44th annual Royal Ambassador Congress held April 9-11 at Union University here.

Approximately 806 people attended the RA Congress, sponsored by the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group of the TBC Executive Board ministries.

Two years ago the Watts family was involved in a head-on collision in Peru. Watts and his son Marcus both were in a comatose state and suffered severe head injuries. Watts was not expected to live.

Watts was hospitalized in a Memphis hospital for more than a year. At first he could only communicate by blinking his eyes, but by last May he was able to speak. Marcus has almost fully recovered from the accident. Now in the fifth grade he played basketball on the church team this year along with his brother Josh, a fourth grader. Both boys participated in the RA Congress.

Watts' condition progressed to the point he could return to his Memphis home about eight months ago. He undergoes therapy five days a week on an outpatient basis.

Nancy Watts reported in a recent



**WADE AND NANCY WATTS** of Memphis, right, visit with William and Lucenda Groce of North Jackson Church, Jackson, during Royal Ambassador Congress held last week at Union University. Watts is recovering from an accident in Peru two years ago.

newsletter that his speech continues to improve and he has use of his right arm. He remains in a wheelchair but his goal is to walk again.

The Watts led three conferences on their mission work in Peru and Watts prayed during the Friday evening worship service. It was only the second public appearance Watts has made since the accident. He spoke at an RA event in Chattanooga earlier this year.

Though his speech was slurred he was

able to communicate with the many well-wishers who visited with him before and after his conferences, and it was evident he still has a sense of humor, one of his trademarks, according to people who know him well. "God has really done a miracle," Nancy Watts said.

Long-range goals for the Watts family include returning to serve in Peru. "Our call has not changed," she emphasized.

See page 12 for additional photos and information on the RA Congress. *B&R*

- ▶ Tennesseans speak at Mississippi River Convocation. — Page 2
- ▶ Wonder what's going on in Tennessee Baptists' partnerships? See 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 5-8

### Lynn Porch resumes chemo

*For Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Lynn Porch, wife of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer James M. Porch, will resume chemotherapy treatments this week.

Recent scans and a biopsy indicate involvement of some lymph nodes in the area of a malignant tumor.

Dr. and Mrs. Porch continue to express appreciation for the prayers, encouragement, and support of Tennessee Baptists. *B&R*

## Next few weeks critical to future of lottery

*Baptist and Reflector*

**NASHVILLE** — Days are winding down for the 100th General Assembly and that means any efforts to legalize a state lottery will have to be finalized before the end of the month.

Last week a House subcommittee approved HB3107 which calls for a constitutional convention to consider the removal of the word "lottery" from the state constitution.

At press time Monday the full House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on the bill, but the possibility existed that the vote could be postponed until later, according to Bill Bates, TBC public affairs consultant.

Also, the Senate Finance Committee was to have considered their version of the bill on Tuesday. If approved, it could be placed on the Senate calendar for full vote as early as Thursday, April 16, or possibly

next week, Bates noted.

Bates observed most Tennesseans do not understand that the removal of the word "lottery" from the state constitution would open up the door to any and all forms of gambling. What's more, he added, Tennesseans would not have a choice. The decision of whether to have a lottery or any other type of gambling would be made by the legislature, Bates said.

On March 3 during a Senate

Judiciary Committee, Sen. Roy Herron of Dresden made the same point to his colleagues. Removing the prohibition against lotteries would open the state "to every form of gambling known to man," he said.

Bates encouraged Tennessee Baptists to keep the issue a matter of prayer and to call their senators and representatives. "The next few weeks are critical," Bates acknowledged. *B&R* — Lonnie Wilkey

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## Nashville policeman thankful for pastor's prayer

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**NASHVILLE** — "And God, protect Trent's father, Stan, who is a policeman," said Frank Lewis, pastor of First Church, here, April 5 during a baby dedication.

Trent Jones, four-month-old son of Stan and Sandi Jones, was dedicated that day, but Stan Jones is especially thankful for Lewis' prayer for him. Three days later he was shot while trying to serve a warrant. Jones claims God has performed some

miracles during the experience.

Just four days later, he stood in church, this time thanking Lewis and the congregation for being "a wonderful family."

Unassisted by crutches, Jones said he was walking without pain although he has three wounds in his leg, two made by a bullet from a .40-caliber semiautomatic Glock pistol and one from a piece of glass which remains in his leg.

He told the congregation a detective told him study of the scene couldn't explain the trajectories of the bullets, "but I

can and I know Frank (Lewis) can."

Jones told the *Baptist and Reflector* he will continue serving as a policeman because he feels a spiritual calling to it. His initial call caused him to change his studies in college from preparation for the ministry.

Jones, who has lived in Zambia where his parents served as Southern Baptist missionaries, has never been shot in the line of duty. He has served as a policeman for 12 years in Tennessee and Florida.

Concerning his prayer during the baby — See Nashville, page 2

## about your newsjournal

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# Tennessee Baptists participate in MRM convocation

By Russell N. Dilday  
For Baptist Press

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. — More than 140 Southern Baptists gathered April 3-4 to build partnerships, exchange resources, share dreams, and worship together in their shared focus on the nation's poorest region, the Mississippi River delta.

The Mississippi River Ministry Convocation, held at First Church here was the third such event since the Mississippi River Ministry's inception. The first was held in Memphis in 1992 to launch the initiative and another was held in Jackson, Miss., in 1994.

The Mississippi River Ministry was formed to answer the needs of the eight million-plus people living along the lower Mississippi River region, known by many as "America's Third World." Inhabitants often suffer from poverty, poor health, substandard housing, illiteracy, and high infant mortality.

In 1997, the ministry involved more than 7,000 Southern Baptist volunteers working in care ministries, evangelism, and church planting through state Baptist conventions in the target region, including Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, networking in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and national Woman's Missionary Union.

Meeting planner Tommy Goode, an MRM regional coordinator, highlighted the convocation's theme, "Building Partnerships, Changing Lives," to the group of state convention staff, directors of missions, pastors, and lay volunteers.

"Some (of the MRM partnerships) are

formal, some are friend-to-friend, but the partnerships are important because without the partnerships that keep us together, we couldn't function," said Goode, a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions ministries team.

The convocation program included conferences for urban and rural ministry leaders and missions support organizations, resource awareness, networking, and inspiration. An exhibit area filled with MRM ministries and volunteers, meanwhile, provided convocation participants with resource awareness and networking opportunities. Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Ken Weathersby, team leader for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's evangelism and missions strategies group, were the convocation's keynote speakers.

Weathersby challenged listeners during the Friday evening session to win the lost to Christ as they "run the race set before you."

Jane Bishop, a special ministries leader for NAMB, facilitated the missions support conference, underscoring ways to collaborate among churches, associations and states, ideas for developing and working with volunteers, and community survey needs and techniques.

Gary Farley, director of missions for Pickens Association in Alabama, facilitated the rural conference in an examination

of different ministry models. He also highlighted the need for intentionality in progressing from ministry awareness to ministry action.

Jimmy Barrentine, missions ministries team leader for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and facilitator of the urban track conference, noted, "A city church never has to ask, 'Are we needed here?' The needs are so apparent in the city. It is time to reclaim the city and celebrate the city and recognize that more and more we are an urban nation."

Testimonies of those active in MRM ministries provided a touching addition to the program, as those involved recounted the blessings and trials of working in the delta.

Audette Jenkins, a semester missionary working at Brinkley Heights Church in Memphis, told the crowd, "When I came to Brinkley Heights, I didn't know what I was supposed to do ... but I have been able to clothe them, their families, and their babies, homeless men and women — the forgotten people this ministry is based on."

She related that the MRM is valuable because, as one recipient of an MRM project explained, "They not only restored my house, they restored my dignity."

Beverly Smothers, state MRM coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said Tennesseans often divide their state into three states: eastern, middle, and western.

"We get the other two states of Tennessee to be aware of the West part and to contribute resources to that and to get Western Tennessee to realize its potential. All across the volunteer state of Tennessee, the MRM will continue to be a big deal for us." ■



WEATHERSBY



SMOTHERS

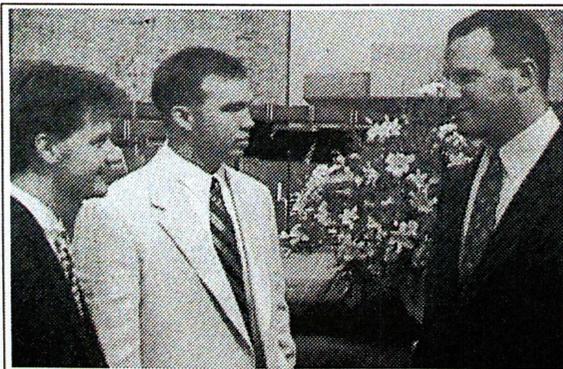
## Nashville policeman thankful for pastor's ...

— Continued from page 1  
dedication, Lewis said it is unusual for him to pray for a parent except in a general way.

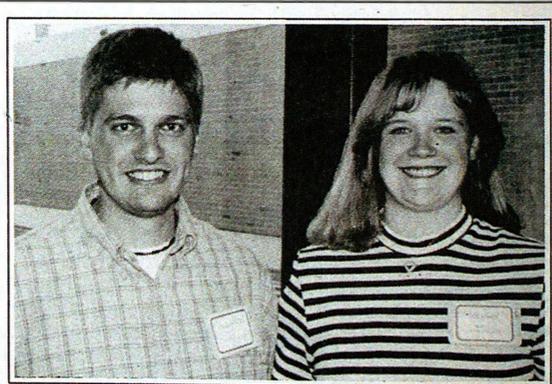
"The first moment that I became aware of his being shot but out of danger my thoughts immediately went back to that prayer and I thought, Thank you God for

doing this," said Lewis.

Jones has been a witness during the ordeal with his fellow officers, and through the media, which has covered the shooting extensively, noted Lewis. Another officer was shot in the chest, but was unharmed because he was wearing a bullet-proof vest. *BER*



**VISITING LAST SUNDAY** at First Church, Nashville, just four days after he was shot in the line of duty, is Stan Jones, right, a policeman, with his pastor, Frank Lewis, left, and Charles Roselle, whom Jones is mentoring.



### State officers elected

The Tennessee Collegiate Spring Conference was held April 3-4 at First Church, Clarksville. Ivy Dixon, right, of UT-Martin was elected state president while Malcolm Eller of East Tennessee State University was elected vice president. See page 12 for story and more photos.

## TeamKid showcases planned in May

For *Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Three TeamKid Showcases will be offered across the state in May.

Sessions are May 19 at First Church, Greeneville, and First Church, Smyrna.

A session will be held May

21 at Calvary Church, Jackson. Sessions at each location are from 7-9 p.m.

TeamKid materials are available for everyone from age 3 to sixth grade.

For more information, call Jerry Chapman, TBC discipleship coordinator at 1 (800) 558-2090, ext. 7932. ■

# Elizabethton journalist lets his faith guide work

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — Secular journalists sometimes are portrayed as uncaring cynics who are out to get a story at any cost.

But don't tell Joe Ledford of the *Johnson City Press*. He's the exact opposite.

Ledford believes being a journalist and a Christian are roles that can go hand in hand.

"We see people at tragic and difficult times," Ledford observed.

"Being a Christian helps me see those situations and people

with compassion," he noted.

"I try to be aware of what I write and how it will impact the family and friends of people whose lives are being torn apart," continued Ledford, who has served at the *Press'* Elizabethton bureau since 1974.

"I don't shade the facts but you don't always need the raw details," he said.

Ledford also notes his role as a journalist helps him discover needs and opportunities to share Christ. "I see how people need God in their lives," he said.

And, together with his wife, Linda, Ledford seeks to lead

others in helping to meet those needs.

For several years the Ledfords, members of Lynn Valley Church here, have been working with children after school in Big A Clubs, a program which was begun several years ago by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

They started with about six children and now have between 35-40 who regularly attend on Monday afternoons at the Watauga Association office. In addition four other Big A Clubs have formed in other locations in Carter County, Ledford said.

Their work with children has opened up doors with parents, the couple noted.

"Befriend a child and you make friends with the parent," Ledford said.

His wife agreed. "No matter what their lifestyle, parents want the best for their children," Linda Ledford said.

Through the work with Big A Clubs and mission trips the Ledfords felt God was leading them to serve in missions.

The Ledfords came to realize that they didn't need to go to a foreign country to be missionaries. The short-term mission trips enabled them to see possibilities of missions in their own hometown, the couple agreed.

Their call to missions culmi-

nated last summer when they were appointed as Mission Service Corps volunteers in Watauga Association.

They serve as catalysts for ministry with children in multihousing communities, literacy missions, and home Bible studies.

The Ledfords also work to enlist volunteers in the various areas of ministry. "We try to show needs and help churches match up their skills with opportunities," Ledford said.

For Ledford, ministry comes naturally. "There are a lot of folks who miss the joy of personal service. I missed it for a long time," he admitted.

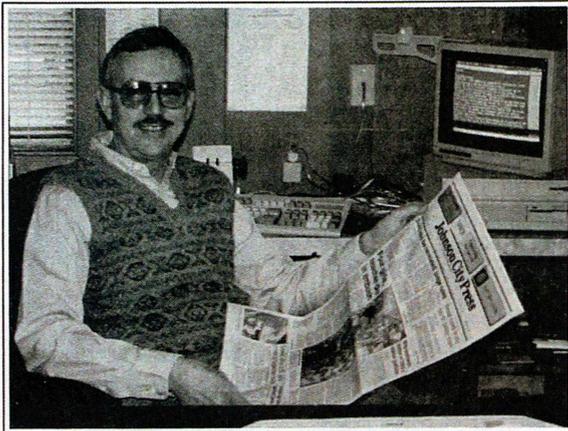


He noted he loves church but his joy comes from "being out in my neighborhood, seeing how lives are changed."

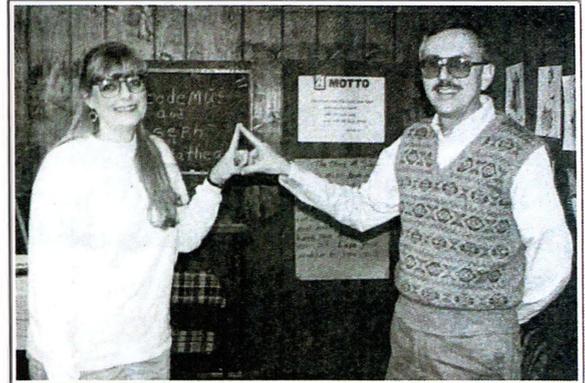
The couple agreed that God has prepared them over the years for their ministry.

"We see step by step how God brought us to today. All of it equipped us to be here," Ledford noted.

And, he continued, "we love what we're doing." *B&R*



**JOE LEDFORD**, Elizabethton bureau chief for the *Johnson City Press*, looks over a copy of the paper.



**JOE AND LINDA LEDFORD** demonstrate the Big A Club handshake. The two, along with others in Watauga Association, minister to children in multihousing communities through Big A Clubs.

## Vanderbilt BSU group sees reality of inner-city life

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — It's nothing novel when a Baptist Student Union mission group rolls out of town for a mission trip. It does take on more significance when several hundred students across the state choose to pay their own way to serve Jesus Christ in ministry instead of spending a relaxing spring break on a beach somewhere.

Fifty-four people from the BSU at Vanderbilt University chose the former option this year by spending spring

break doing ministry in urban Chicago.

"Sometimes I find it hard to imagine that anything can make a difference in today's world," said Nicole Shaub, a freshman from Nashville. "Filled with crime, immorality, selfishness, and sin, our society, appears, on the surface, nearly beyond hope," she said.

"However, it is hope that the Lord calls us to have in him, and it is hope that I witnessed in Chicago," she added.

In north Chicago students served in an inner-city ministry that helps

working people in poverty purchase and rehab apartments. Working with local volunteer tradespersons, they ran electrical conduit, installed plumbing, sanded walls, and painted. In the afternoon they provided tutoring and programming to elementary school children from the neighborhood.

On the south side of Chicago, Vandy students joined with Good Hope Church to start and staff an afternoon program of the church. To promote the church

and program within the neighborhood, students cleared trash from the neighborhood and shared information about church programs with the residents. In the first week as many as 120 children

attended the program to receive tutoring help, after school care, and Christian testimony and mentoring from the Vanderbilt students. Several of the students were able to share the Gospel on an individual basis.

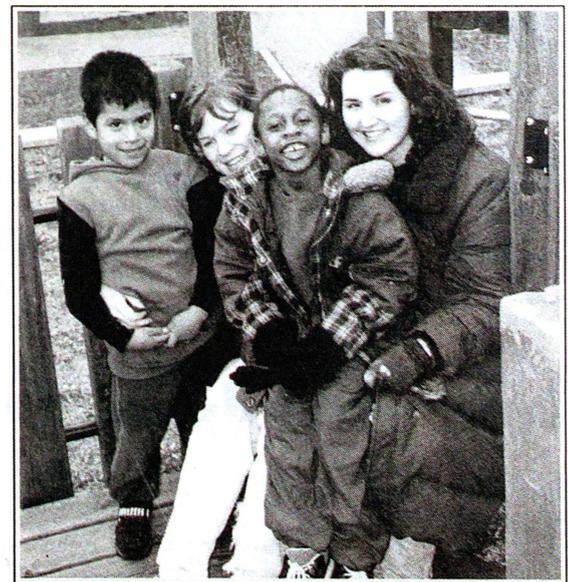
Reflecting on the theme of the trip, "Being Servants," Shaub noted "we didn't go to Chicago and convert thousands of people.

"We didn't preach on the streets, nor

did we do a whole lot of preaching anywhere. We simply served." ■ — Article written by Bill Choate, Baptist Campus Minister at Vanderbilt with assistance from Nicole Shaub.



**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY** student Natalie Cunningham of Florida, who attends First Church, Nashville, tutors a student in Chicago.



**BAPTIST STUDENT UNION** missionaries Nicole Shaub, left, of Nashville and Laurie Martens of Hoover, Ala., spend time with new friends, whom they tutored each afternoon.

# Cooperative Program: At work in Tennessee

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Interim Editor

It's well documented how important the Cooperative Program is in reaching a lost world for Jesus Christ. The Cooperative Program is the primary financial plan of Southern Baptists.

It all begins when individual Southern Baptists give their tithes and offerings to their churches. Churches then decide how much they will keep for ministries of the church and then forward an amount to state conventions. State conventions keep a portion of those Cooperative Program dollars for ministries in the state and forward the remainder to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee which channels funds to different agencies and institutions as directed by SBC messengers.

Through the Cooperative Program Southern Baptists provide support for approxi-

mately 500 missionaries in the United States and nearly 4,200 International Mission Board workers in 127 countries.

The Cooperative Program is their lifeline. It enables them to share the Good News of Jesus Christ without having to worry about where their next meal is coming from or if they will have a roof over their head that night. Not all missionaries have that luxury. Some have to constantly work to raise

funds while they are on the field. This, of course, cuts down on the time to do what they are there for, and that is to win souls for Jesus Christ.

Yet, the Cooperative Program is also hard at work in Tennessee. Some may not realize it but Tennessee is a mission field.

There are more than 5 million people in the state and more than one-half of those are lost or unchurched.

Cooperative Program money in Tennessee is used for programs and missions ministries that will reach our state for Jesus Christ.

Cooperative Program funds assist children with no homes or who are unable to remain in their current home environment. CP money funds programs to train Tennessee Baptists in various areas of work to more effectively reach their communities for Christ.

The Cooperative Program educates Tennessee Baptist young

people within a Christian perspective.

Those young people will be the leaders in tomorrow's churches.

And the list could go on of how the Cooperative Program is used in Tennessee. Each Cooperative Program-supported ministry in Tennessee has a bottom line goal: to win the lost in our state for Jesus Christ. Some of it is done directly; in other cases it is more indirect, but the goal remains the same.

The Cooperative Program, created in 1925, has its critics. It may not be perfect, but it has been a time-proven, effective means by which all Southern Baptists can pool their financial resources to accomplish things that no one individual or church could do alone.

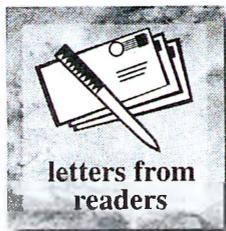
Until God leads Southern Baptists to a better plan, the Cooperative Program deserves our support. Lives for an eternity depend on it. Sunday, April 19, is Cooperative Program Day on the SBC calendar. Celebrate what God is doing through our cooperative efforts. ■



Following  
Christ's  
Servant  
Example  
John 21:19



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY  
APRIL 19, 1998



## Continue team effort

Fletcher Allen has continued to keep us alert and aware of our mission and ministries. His final editorials related to his grandchildren and to those who worked with him to provide for our needs will be remembered.

With the continuing team effort, we will be challenged and informed well with each new issue.

David Cooper  
Bolivar 38008

## 50th anniversary

In the biblical narrative, the history of the nation of Israel begins with Abraham and God's promises to him concerning the possession of the land of Canaan by his descendants. It is one of the oldest nations on earth.

The ancient kingdom of the Jews in

the first century was an outpost of the Roman empire. This place was the birthplace of Jesus and Christianity. This was the land that Jesus knew and traveled through the towns that still bear the names of his day. Only about 80 miles separate Nazareth from Bethlehem.

No one knows the exact route that Jesus sometimes might have traveled during his brief ministry. Some of the honorable sites of Christianity are found in God's Word.

This same Israel that Abraham and Jesus knew became the modern independent state of Israel on May 15, 1948; however, the anniversary will follow the Hebrew calendar date, April 30, 1998.

May God continue to bless the great nation of Israel and all of the Israeli people.

Frank Stoffle  
Seymour 37865

## Explains new name

This June messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will consider a proposal that the name of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention be changed to LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern

Baptist Convention.

We are proposing this name because it better reflects the diversity of our ministries. The Sunday School Board was established and appropriately named in 1891 to reflect its one assignment, publishing Sunday School literature. Through these 107 years, our ministries have expanded dramatically.

While response of Southern Baptists to our proposal has been overwhelmingly positive, the one question I've been asked most often is, "Why are you taking Baptist out of the name?" We want everyone to know we are not. Our official name is "The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention." Our new name, if approved, will be "LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention." Other SBC entities use this same descriptive phrase to clearly identify them as a part of the SBC.

We feel this new name best reflects who we are and encompasses our expanding ministries. We ask for affirmation of messengers to move forward with a new name, and we value the support of all Southern Baptists as we continue to be about our Father's work — reaching people for Christ, helping them grow in their faith, and challeng-

ing them to use their gifts and skills to reach others.

James T. Draper Jr.  
president, BSSB  
Nashville 37234

## Together again

When I was growing up in Morristown our family visited regularly with our cousins in White Pine. These were wonderful occasions but through the years we lost contact with many of them.

Some time ago, through a letter I wrote to the *Baptist and Reflector*, one of these contacts was renewed when John Burgin, who then lived in Louisiana, wrote to me.

It was not until he retired and moved back to Jefferson County that we actually met again.

Dr. Burgin, who recently received a distinguished alumnus award from Carson-Newman College, was a guest at our 50th anniversary gathering, as was his sister, Anna Joyce Northern of Talbot. We look forward to many other times of family reunion.

How great God is to bring family together with friends after a long separation.

Dorothy Blake  
Alcoa 37701

# Leading children to life-long commitment to God

## for children

by Kathy Smith  
minister to children,  
Central Church,  
Fountain City, Knoxville

As Christian parents, you want your child(ren) to make

lifelong commitments to God, but how can we help them do that? Follow these six principles, given in *Children's Ministry* magazine to keep your child or children interested in spiritual things.

► **Do as you say.** Nothing will derail your kids' faith faster than hypocrisy in your life.

► **Minister to your family first.** Place a higher priority on your kids' spiritual needs before any other ministry or program.

► **Make your faith a daily thing.** Spend time each day talking about God and reading the Bible together.

► **Celebrate the Sabbath.** Look forward with your chil-

dren to worshiping God, being with his people, and learning about God's Word.

► **Point out God sightings.** Talk about the way you've seen God at work in your family and in other family members' lives throughout the week.

► **Depend on God.** Let your first step in parenting be

prayer. Ask God for his direction when you're dealing with a parenting challenge.

My prayers are with you as you seek to help your child in making the most important decision of his or her life. ■ — The above article appeared in the newsletter of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville. Used with permission.



# The Macedonian Call

## Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships — Canada, Michigan, Rio de Janeiro, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728

Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

### From your missionary

#### You Too Can Make a World of Difference

Saturday, on April 4, a total of 66 mission volunteers on their way to Costa Rica and Rio participated in orientation at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. These mission volunteers made up basketball, medical, construction, leadership development, and family ministry teams.

Some of these volunteers have been on multiple partnership mission trips, and are returning because they have been used by God to make a world of difference. They are also desiring to make a difference again.

Others were preparing to go on their first mission trip. Each person, whether an experienced or novice traveler, knew that through the partnership that they could "make a world of difference."

What about you? You too can make a difference. Let us assist you as you consider volunteer missions. We offer you strategic volunteer mission projects, expertise, cost containment, and proven results.

Please look over the mission opportunities listed for at home or abroad. Allow us to assist you by contacting Kim Huff or me at (615) 371-2021 or 1-800-558-2090.

In Christ,



SHARP

## TBC institutions respond to Rio partnership

By Marcia Knox

Something new and exciting has started in the Partnership/Volunteer Missions areas due to response by the TBC Institutions to the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro) Convention. No longer will individual volunteers, churches, associations, or college student groups just do partnership missions.

The Partnership/Volunteer Missions bug has now bitten the long-standing TBC institutions such as the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

"The work is so vast in Brazil that it will take all of the TBC Institutions to supply the need for the projects," said Mission Awareness and Involvement Group Partnership/Volunteer Missions specialist, Terry Sharp.

"The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes want to join with the other TBC institutions and be a team member to work with partnerships," TBCH president-treasurer Gerald Stow said. "We in-

tend to bring a recommendation of support to the Tennessee/Rio partnership to the TBCH board members at their mid-year meeting in May."

This recommendation follows a recent trip of TBCH vice president, Bert Sutton, to Rio on a fact-finding trip to look at ministry possibilities.

"The recommendation is for the TBCH to proceed with working with the orphanage and with other related ministries of the Rio Social Action Work such as half-way houses," Stow added.

"Plans call for an exchange partnership with the social workers of the TBCH and the Rio staff workers, and also with the students of the TBCH and the students in the Rio children's homes."

"Besides the professional staff and student exchange, we are also looking at creative ways to let Tennessee churches become aware of the needs in Rio such as a construction team for the orphanages."

The first institution online with the Rio Partnership was the Tennessee Baptist Foundation of Brentwood whose trustees

voted in December 1997 to approve a \$10,000 grant to construct a mission church building in Rio. The building will be constructed by Rio das Pedras, a mission church, with a grant from the Foundation's Special Ministry Fund.

This will be the first church to be constructed since the Tennessee/Rio partnership agreement was adopted at the TBC Annual Meeting in November 1997. A very poor church in a fast growing slum area of the city, Rio das Pedra has purchased two lots on which to build the church.

Plans call for construction of a building that will seat 200 people. The church is scheduled to be built in one week with volunteer help. TBF president-treasurer W. L. "Bo" Childs Jr. and several Foundation trustees will travel June 21-30 to Rio to assist in the building of the first church in this community. Childs and the trustees will travel at their own expense to make the trip.

"It's exciting to involve more Tennesseans in volunteer missions," Childs said. ■

## State children's homes plan efforts in Rio de Janeiro

For The Macedonian Call

Rio de Janeiro, set amid green mountains and bluffs that meet the blue sea with its towering white skyscrapers, is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. However, the needs that exist in that beautiful backdrop are mind staggering, according to a vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

Bert Sutton, TBCH vice president for the Boys Ranch, Millington campus, recently returned from a trip to Rio to search for the most effective ways the TBCH could partici-

pate in the partnership. The partnership trip for March 13-23 was originally planned for Gerald Stow, president-treasurer of the TBCH, and Sutton to review the possibility of TBCH helping with social ministries. Stow was unable to make the trip due to a death in his family.

With much prayer Sutton proceeded on to Brazil for a 10-day stay to search out the possibilities. The partnership arrangement between Tennessee and the Carioca (Rio) Convention will last through the year 2000, and TBCH is planning to be a part of this

partnership arrangement, Sutton said.

Before coming to work at the Boys Ranch, Sutton and his wife Jenny had worked 16 years on the mission field with the majority of the time spent in Brazil in agricultural and social related ministries. This was an advantage for Sutton since he spoke the language and knew the culture as well as worked with many of the missionaries and Brazilian nationals.

"I wasn't prepared for all that I saw and experienced in Brazil," Sutton said. "Being in the interior of the country during most of my mission service and not involved in large city

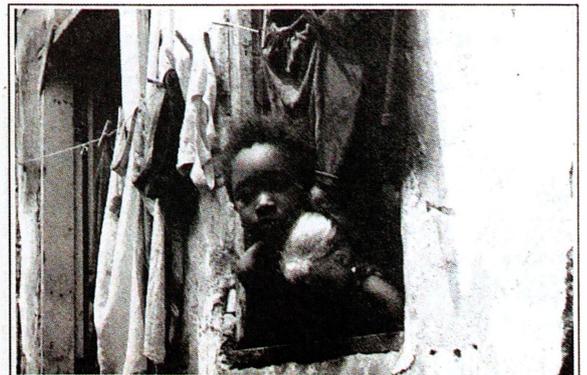
problems allowed me to experience another side of Brazilian life during this trip."

"The TBCH ministry is involved with several aspects of social needs of the children and young people in Tennessee, and some of the same aspects are also a need in Brazil," he added. "However, there are other aspects that are of a tremendous magnitude that no one is set to take care of in Brazil."

The Carioca Convention covering the city of Rio, which has over seven million inhabitants in the city, has one of many social ministries called the Social Action Committee. Some of the Social Action min-  
— See State, page 6



VISITING WITH A STREET CHILD of Rio is Henrique Cesar of the Carioca Baptist Convention. Once a month such children are helped by Baptists who work all night to help the many homeless children.



A GIRL HOLDING a doll peers out of the window of a house in a slum or favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

### Workers needed for Rio revivals

Simultaneous revivals are set in Rio de Janeiro to support the new partnership with that metropolitan area. They are Aug. 9-17 and Sept. 27 - Oct. 6.

Volunteers will be working with churches in the revivals. The cost is \$1,900.

For more information, call the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team. ■

## Foundation workers minister in Costa Rica

By Barbara Cox  
Tennessee Baptist Foundation

Two Tennessee women volunteers with ties to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation based at the Baptist Center in Brentwood recently returned from a March 6-13 partnership mission trip to Costa Rica.

Barbara Cox, TBF administrative assistant, and Elizabeth Childs, wife of TBF president-treasurer W.L. "Bo" Childs Jr., taught Sunday School Leadership to Costa Rican preschool and children's leaders. For Cox who has also written Sunday School Board and WMU materials, it was a life-changing experience of viewing missions ministry in action and the use of ministry materials. Her personal account follows.

The plane was descending and preparing for landing on the beautiful country of Costa Rica. My heart pounded fast as I looked across those gorgeous mountains. It was beautiful.

Elizabeth Childs and I were arriving in the City of San Jose to teach Sunday School leadership to preschool and children's leaders. Our Costa Rican coordinator, Sue Smith, met us at the airport. Elizabeth had told Sue that we were bringing a lot of teaching supplies to the churches. Sue didn't realize just how much a lot meant.

We taught from early morning to midafternoon at the Trinidad Church. These people were so excited and eager to learn everything possible. It was a great experience to work with them. Elizabeth had people in her conference who taught adults, but felt as teachers that they could glean some insight from a children's conference.

Karen Hogue, an IMB language school student translated for me, and Laura Lane, an IMB missionary, translated for Elizabeth. They were both so understanding and helpful especially since Elizabeth and I weren't used to speaking through an interpreter.

We attended Sunday School and worship at the Trinidad Church. I went in with the preschool class, and Elizabeth went with the children's class. We witnessed teachers who had stayed at the church on Saturday afternoon and set up rooms according to what they had learned in our conferences.

An unforgettable experience for me was a five-year-old whose parents are in language school. "I will translate for you since you don't understand what is being said," Zack offered. He stayed right with me and helped me understand all that went on that morning.

After Sunday School, the whole church came together and each division shared something from their lesson that day. The preschoolers sang a song and invited me to sing with them.

Though I didn't understand a lot of the language, it was a worshipful experience to be at the church. The pastor of this church, Luis Martinez, who is only 26-years-old has a vision for the church.

On Sunday afternoon we visited with a group who had been having Bible study in a private home. This was the first worship service to be held in the area. We were in an open area with a canvas tent to protect us from the hot sun. Three people made professions of faith that afternoon.

To see how our missionaries minister and carry out their work brought tears to my eyes. We have so much to work with, and yet we take so little care in how we present God's Word. I will never again take the materials and supplies that I have available for granted.

These people were so thankful for every single item. My eyes were really opened to be more thankful and appreciative for all that I have, but I am now more willing to share.

The church at Heredia is where the pastor and his people have a vision to

establish a school in their church and later a seminary. The pastor was so appreciative of the materials and supplies that he wept. The pastor said, "Truly God has sent you, and the Holy Spirit has prepared us to receive your teaching and materials. Thank you, thank you!"

The people of the church were most gracious and would have stayed all night to learn as much as possible. We have opportunities for conferences all the time and take them for granted. The whole church turns out to learn in Costa Rica. I saw that with every piece of candy or sticker given to a child that the child always said "gracious!"

A prayerwalk with IMB missionary Mary Hendricks began in the pouring rain. Elizabeth, Mary, and I were not going to be defeated because of a little rain. Mary drove us to the spot where her church had purchased a piece of property. We sat in her car, and the three of us prayed diligently for the building that would be placed on that property.

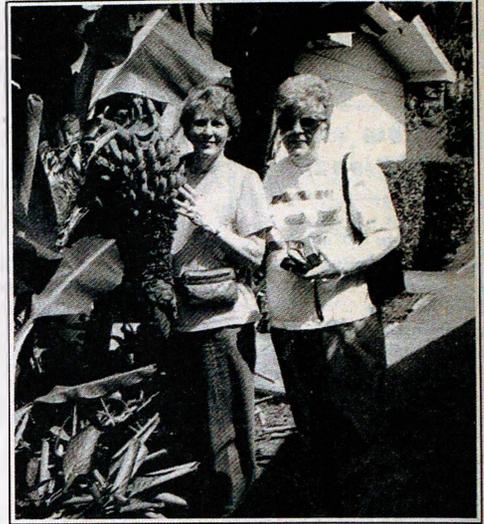
The house where the church is meeting is small, but it is adequate for the number they have attending. We went into each room and prayed for the study that goes on in each room. Elizabeth and I gave Mary some pointers for the preschool and children's rooms. This prayer time was one of the highlights of the trip.

I would like to express my appreciation to my team leader, Elizabeth. She traveled to Costa Rica last August so

she knew what we were going to do.

I will always treasure my memories and experiences with Elizabeth, the Costa Rican people, and the missionaries because God touched my life through them to be more thankful and giving. I will not only give of my resources, but also of myself. I thank God that the state convention and Tennessee Baptists have seen the vision to have partnerships that allow volunteers an opportunity to share Jesus and his love.

I will never be the same again. My husband, Belvin, and I often wanted to be called to international missions, yet we never felt the call. I decided on this trip that I knew why we weren't called to missions. I would never be able to bring all those people home with us to live. ■



STANDING BY a banana tree in Costa Rica is Elizabeth Childs, left, of Brentwood, and Barbara Cox of Nashville.

## State children's homes plan efforts in Rio de ...

— Continued from page 5  
istries under this committee which the TBCH hopes to relate to are rehabilitation programs for street kids, drug dependents, homeless and marginal dependents, and prostitutes. The TBCH also plans to relate to the Carioca Children's Homes and the adoption of slum areas by local churches.

"If we can just help in some way with these great needs in Rio, I believe God will bless our attempts," Sutton said. "I am so proud of what my Brazilian brothers and sisters in Christ are doing under such a multitude of social ills in this great city of Rio."

"They don't always back away from the problems because they don't have the means to take it all on in ministry. They just see the need,

and see no one else tackling the problems. They plan to take action, and start trusting the Lord to supply what it will take. Hopefully, we can be a part of God's supplying their needs."

It is estimated that in all Brazil, mainly in the many large cities, there are 13 million people who live in slums (favelas) and many of these slums are on the mountain slopes in the city of Rio. From the slums come many of the social ills that Rio Baptists are attempting to minister with the help of Jesus Christ.

Henrique Cesar is a Brazilian layman, burdened with the task of general secretary of the Social Action Committee. As administrator of each of the departments of the social ministry, he directs each aspect using many times only partially trained and educated people

as directors of each work.

"It is obvious that what was lacking in training was substituted with dedication as a result of the infilling of the Spirit in their lives," Sutton said. "Physical needs are many, and Brazilian Baptists are doing what they can do. Social skill needs are also many."

According to Sutton, the logistics of just getting around to administer the various ministries are great, but Cesar says, "God will provide."

Sutton asked several children and young people in the care of the Brazilian Baptists how the residents came to be at the homes. He reported that a young lady at one of the rehabilitation homes said, "These Baptist people told me about Jesus first, and then said they could help me make a living a better way." The

young lady added, "Here I'm learning more about the Jesus way every day. The director here is teaching me how to sew so I won't have to go back on the streets."

A young man that Sutton visited was at a halfway house for drug rehabilitation had a similar response. The boy said, "They told me about Jesus one night on the street, gave me food to eat and some clothes to wear."

The boy added, "I knew that they must care about me so I came here to get help. Now I study the Bible every day, but I'm hoping to learn a trade so I can get work when I leave here."

"Where there is a will, there is a way, and obviously in Rio through Brazilian Baptists, there is a will and surely we can help be a part of the way," Sutton said. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests April

- 15 — Pray organizers can get permits for the March for Jesus to be held May 30 in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.
- 16 — Pray for Helda Cowser of North Carolina, retired missionary to Rio de Janeiro, who had cataract surgery.
- 17 — Pray for the construction team of First Church, Nashville, serving April 13-27 in Costa Rica.
- 18 — Praise God for the team from University of Saskatchewan who helped Friendship Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- 19 — Pray for the April crusade in Rio de Janeiro.
- 20 — Pray for National Women with a Mission in Costa Rica.
- 21 — Pray for Teresa Bird of Community Church, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, who is ill.

# The Macedonian Call

## IMB missionaries to Costa Rica report on McMinnville team

By Sue Smith,  
IBM Missionary to Costa Rica  
For *The Macedonia Call*

"As we looked up and saw the people descending from their homes in the mountains we were reminded of Matthew 25:40," said Bill Egbert, IMB missionary in the South Zone of Costa Rica. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Egbert and his wife, Linda, who serve as missionaries in the town of Rio Claro, recently gave their impressions of the response of a Costa Rican Indian tribe to a three-person Tennessee volunteer medical team who worked Feb. 28 through March 7.

"The people came from every corner of the clearing to the schoolhouse where the clinic was to be held," Egbert said. "This was an important day because this volunteer medical team was providing for us the first step towards evangelizing this harvestable people group in Costa Rica."

The medical team, made up of volunteers physician Bryan Chastain, nurse practitioner Theresa Hill, and nurse Laura Barnes, all of McMinnville, had

arrived along with the local support team in the indigenous community of El Carmen de Montezuma in the mountains just along the Costa Rica/Panama border. The trip was made in 4-wheel-drive vehicles, and the team had traveled for over an hour on rough, rocky roads.

School was in session so the team began by giving the school children basic physical exams. The team then sent children home to tell their parents about the health clinic. The clinic had also been announced on the local radio in the Guaymi language. It took about two hours before the first people began arriving, and they kept arriving throughout the day.

The Guaymi are indigenous, living in the mountain range dividing Costa Rica and Panama, and total 10,000 to 20,000 in Costa Rica. They live in small villages. The Guaymi have traditionally been considered Panamanian citizens, and until recent years had very limited access to benefits which all Costa Rican citizens receive including healthcare and education.

In terms of religion, both Roman Catholics and evangelicals have worked with the Guaymi, but neither group has

had much lasting impact on the people. Many still practice a form of animism.

The organization of missionaries is beginning to plan to help indigenous groups in the country. This team provided an opportunity to gather information on this community while providing a much-needed service.

"The local healthcare team makes regular trips into the village, but only about every four to six months," said Walter Rodriguez, assistant volunteer coordinator for the partnership. There is a lot of need there because these folks don't go into town to see a doctor or dentist."

A Guaymi grandmother came looking for help for severe asthma. The medical team had medicine to help her which is not readily available in Costa Rica.

"For us it was wonderful to see how God used so many different people to help this woman," stated the Egberts.



PAUSING in Costa Rica are new friends, from left, Laura Barnes and Bryan Chastain of McMinnville; Bill Egbert, IMB missionary, and his daughter Jessica; and Theresa Hill of McMinnville.

"The medical team spoke English, we translated into Spanish, and the granddaughter translated into Guaymi for the grandmother to understand. We were able to see how giving the physical breath of life is a prelude to sharing the spiritual breath of life." ■

## Physician, nurses help Costa Ricans

For *The Macedonia Call*

A Tennessee volunteer medical team from McMinnville recently completed a partnership mission trip to Ciudad Neily in the South Zone of Costa Rica.

Led by Walter Rodriguez, assistant to Sue Smith, volunteer coordinator of the Costa Rica organization of missionaries, Feb. 28-March 7, the team was composed of nurse Laura Barnes, nurse practitioner Theresa Hill, and physician Bryan Chastain, all of McMinnville.

During the trip, the team performed four gastroscopies and saw approximately 215 patients, primarily Guaymi Indians, an indigenous tribe in Costa Rica. Also the medical group presented a gastroscope, donated by Riverpark Hospital, McMinnville, and a pulse oximeter, donated by St. Thomas Health Services of

McMinnville, to the hospital in Ciudad Neily.

Upon arrival, it was learned that the proper applications had been lost. This cast some doubt as to whether the medical group would be able to fulfill its goals. Feeling uncertainty the group decided to pray for God's guidance. It was at that point that the team began to feel God's intervention.

Within hours after a meeting with local medical authorities, the proper permission was obtained. Unable to work that day, the team was rather miraculously united with an American Seventh Day Adventist group of teenagers in "dire straits."

Despite the efforts of the organizers of the Adventist group, two of the students and one of their medical personnel were hospitalized with heat-related illnesses, some life-threatening.

"It was at that point that I knew it was God's will for me to come on this trip, Barnes said. "I had a connection with the group, and there was an immediate sense of relief on their part." During the remainder of the trip the medical team continued to monitor the Adventist group, both at the hospital and at their church construction site.

In the days that followed, the medical team worked in the mountains visiting the Guaymi people, who were very friendly, Chastain said. The women wore vivid native dresses.

Medical care is limited for these people primarily due to the distance they must travel on foot. Clinics were held in schools.

This medical team effort was the idea of IMB missionaries Bill and Linda Egbert over one year ago. Under their direction and with the assistance of a Costa Rican missionary, Herbert Matarrita, the team was quickly accepted by the Indian people. The Guaymi even provided meals for the team.

Hill said one blessing was using the Spanish language after studying it for two years. "I was able to witness and pray with patients and hospital personnel in the native tongue."

"For all of us, the bond of Christianity that reaches across racial and denominational boundaries was clearly demonstrated and strengthened," Chastain said. ■



NURSE practitioner Theresa Hill of McMinnville conversed with this patient and others in Spanish.

## Thanks from Polish Baptists

A Ul. Akcjowa 5  
35-113 Rzeszow  
Poland  
March 3, 1998

Dear Terry Sharp:

The winter jackets and caps were a big hit. We handed out 350 jackets before Christmas. A total of 150 lighter weight jackets are being distributed in the spring.

They really made an impact on the church and the families who received them.

One result has been that Daniel Trusiewicz, pastor of First Church of Wroclaw, has really opened up to partnership ministries. He visited with me a couple of days to talk about other partnership ministries. He has extended an invitation for a missionary couple to serve as church planters in Wroclaw.

He is also sending a youth evangelism team to Rzeszow to help out here. It was my suggestion, but I think partnership ministries ought to work both ways. Nationals should be involved in short-term mission trips, too.

A total of seven of our missionaries took part in the distribution. I think people in both Wroclaw and Tarnow are really happy with the flood relief help that they got from Tennessee Baptists.

Sincerely in Christ,

Doug Shaw  
IMB Missionary



CHILDREN in one household in Poland pause after receiving coats provided by Tennessee Baptists to help flood victims there.

# The Macedonian Call

## Costa Rica Projects

### Summer Missionaries

Project #: PM71998823  
Dates: May 15-Aug. 15  
Location: Central Valley  
Description: Summer Missionaries  
2 summer missionaries are needed to work with youth and children.

### Evangelism

Project #: PM71998810  
Dates: Sept. 1998  
Location: Heredia  
Description: Spiritual Renewal Revival  
4 volunteers are needed to teach personal witnessing and missions involvement.

Project #: PM71998808  
Dates: Sept. 1998  
Location: Heredia  
Description: Evangelistic Campaign  
4 volunteers are needed to lead a youth revival and children's activities.

### Medical

Project #: PM71998824  
Dates: Sept. 18-28  
Location: South Zone  
Description: Medical  
5 medical volunteers are needed to conduct medical and dental clinics.

## Michigan Projects

### Lifeguard

Project #: N-1  
Dates: June 1-Aug. 15  
Location: Roscommon  
Description: Lifeguard  
A team of 1-2 is needed to supervise a waterfront at a camp and do maintenance.

### Summer Missionary

Project #: W-1  
Dates: June 1-Aug. 7  
Location: Holland  
Description: Summer Missionary  
A team of 2 is needed to work with churches.

Project #: N-2  
Dates: June 1-Aug. 7  
Location: Roscommon  
Description: Summer Missionary  
A team of 2 is needed to work with churches.

Project #: GD-1  
Dates: June 1-Aug. 7  
Location: Detroit  
Description: Summer Missionary  
A team of 8 is needed to work in Baptist Center in the inner city.

### Construction

Project #: B-1  
Dates: June 1-8  
Location: Saginaw  
Description: Construction  
A team is needed to build a building for maintenance equipment.

Project #: GD-2a  
Dates: June 1-21  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to rough in a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2b  
Dates: June 1-21  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to roof a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2c  
Dates: June 22-July 5  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to do electrical work in a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2d  
Dates: June 22-July 5  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to do plumbing for a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2e  
Dates: July 17-26  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to do masonry for a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2f  
Dates: July 6-26  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction

3 teams are needed to dry wall a multifunctional building.

Project #: GD-2g  
Dates: July 6-26  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Construction  
3 teams are needed to paint a multifunctional building.

Project #: G-3A  
Dates: July 17-20  
Location: Durand  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to initially rough in a new building.

Project #: G-3C  
Dates: July 6-13  
Location: Durand  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to do electrical work on a new building.

Project #: N-6B  
Dates: Open  
Location: Oscoda  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to replace roof of 60,000 sq. ft., single story building and provide materials.

Project #: GD-3  
Dates: Open  
Location: Detroit  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to do repair work on an existing building.

Project #: GD-4  
Dates: Open  
Location: Detroit  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to build new restrooms.

Project #: SC-3  
Dates: Open  
Location: Battle Creek  
Description: Construction  
Volunteers are needed to repair block siding of church including chimney.

### Music Ministry

Project #: N-5  
Dates: Open  
Location: Prudenville  
Description: Music Ministry  
Song leader and pianist are needed.

### VBS/BYBC

Project #: G-1  
Dates: June  
Location: Linden  
Description: BYBC  
A team is needed to lead a BYBC and Block Party with outdoor concert.

Project #: GD-5  
Dates: June 29-July 31  
Location: Detroit  
Description: VBS, BYBC, Drama  
A team of 15 volunteers is needed to lead a VBS for H.O.P.E. Baptist Center.

Project #: N-6A  
Dates: July  
Location: Oscoda  
Description: VBS  
A team is needed to lead a VBS.

Project #: M-2  
Dates: July 17-24  
Location: Eastpointe  
Description: Evangelism/VBS/Block Party  
A team of 8-12 is needed to lead a Block Party and VBS.

### Evangelism

Project #: M-3  
Dates: Open  
Location: Hazel Park  
Description: Evangelism/Church Growth  
Revival teams and others are needed to help congregation.

Project #: M-4  
Dates: Open  
Location: Roseville  
Description: Sports Evangelism  
2 volunteers are needed to lead sports clinics for children and youth.

### Telephone Survey

Project #: H-1  
Dates: Open  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Description: Telephone Survey  
6-12 volunteers are needed to conduct a telephone survey.

Project #: H-2  
Dates: Open  
Location: Chelsea  
Description: Telephone Survey  
6-12 volunteers are needed to conduct a telephone survey.

Project #: H-3  
Dates: Open  
Location: Ann Arbor

Location: Dexter  
Description: Telephone Survey  
6-12 volunteers are needed to conduct a telephone survey.

Project #: H-4  
Dates: Open  
Location: Pinchney  
Description: Telephone Survey  
6-12 volunteers are needed to conduct a telephone survey.

## Canada Projects

### Camp

Project #: 97MIDO27  
Dates: July 19-24  
Location: Alberta  
Description: Camp Counselor  
1 volunteer is needed to serve as a camp lifeguard and work with children.

### Construction

Project #: 98CAPO14  
Dates: Open  
Location: Richmond, British Columbia  
Description: Construction/ESL/Music  
4-6 volunteers are needed to help build a church and house. Some are needed to teach English and music.

### Education

Project #: 98NOR025  
Dates: September 1998 - May 1999  
Location: Charlottetown  
Description: Education  
A team is needed to evaluate Christian Education.

### Evangelism

Project #: 98NOR030  
Dates: May 30-June 7  
Location: Calgary  
Description: Evangelism  
A team of 20-30 is needed to distribute information.

Project #: 97NOR021  
Dates: June 29-July 4  
Location: Saskatchewan  
Description: Evangelism/Camps/Music/Drama  
A team of 10-15 is needed to help with a family camp.

Project #: 97NOR018  
Dates: July 18-Aug. 1  
Location: North Battleford, Saskatchewan  
Description: Evangelism/VBS  
A team of 3 is needed to lead VBS, visitation, and other outreach activities.

Project #: 97NOR016  
Dates: Sept. 19-27  
Location: Prince Albert  
Description: Evangelism/Music  
A team of 10-12 is needed to hold nightly revival services.

### VBS/BYBC

Project #: 97MIDO26  
Dates: July 1-14  
Location: Evansburg, Alberta  
Description: VBS  
A team of 3 is needed to lead a VBS.

Project #: 98NOR024  
Dates: July 4-10  
Location: Charlottetown  
Description: VBS/Evangelism  
12 volunteers are needed to lead a VBS and visitation.

Project #: CA-18  
Dates: July 13-24  
Location: Northwest Edmonton  
Description: VBS/Community Survey  
A team of 4 is needed to lead a VBS and a survey.

Project #: 97NORO19B  
Dates: Open  
Location: Halifax  
Description: BYBC/Prayer Walk  
A team is needed to lead a BYBC, prayer walks, and opinion polls.

Project #: 97NORO22  
Dates: August 1998  
Location: Saskatchewan  
Description: VBS/BYBC  
A team of 10-12 is needed to lead a VBS/BYBC.

## Brazil Projects

### Evangelism

Project #: PM41998912  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro

Description: Evangelism/Construction  
A team of 10 is needed to do light construction.

Project #: PM41998907  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Construction/Evangelism  
A team of 12 is needed to do construction and repair at Centers for Social Work.

Project #: PM41998913  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism  
A team is needed to help churches.

Project #: PM41998926  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism  
A team of 11 is needed to help churches.

Project #: PM41998914  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism/Creative Ministries  
A team is needed to lead creative ministries.

Project #: PM41998917  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism/Construction  
A team is needed to do construction.

Project #: PM41998920  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism  
20 volunteers are needed to help a church.

Project #: PM41998919  
Dates: Sept. 27-Oct. 6  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism  
20 teams of 2 are needed to lead revivals and other activities.

Project #: PM41998904  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism/Drama/Music  
Creative ministries team is needed prior to a crusade.

### Summer Missionary

Project #: PM41998902  
Dates: June 1-Aug. 8  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Evangelism/Social Work  
Summer missionaries are needed to work in homes.

### Chaplain

Project #: PM41998931  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Children's Hospital Chaplain  
A volunteer is needed to upgrade training of a chaplain.

### Church Planting

Project #: PM41998924  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Church Planting  
20 volunteers are needed to help start a congregation.

### Construction

Project #: PM41998909  
Dates: Open  
Location: Rio de Janeiro  
Description: Construction/Evangelism  
12 volunteers are needed to repair Centers for Social Work and help churches.

## Tennessee Projects

### Construction

Project #: T-59  
Dates: May 24-Aug. 7  
Location: Jefferson City  
Description: Construction  
A team is needed to repair homes.  
Contact: Shannon Worsham, (423) 475-5611.

Project #: T-19  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
A team is needed to do interior/finishing work on a metal building.  
Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

Project #: T-29  
Dates: May-September  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
A team is needed to complete a metal frame building.

Project #: T-25  
Dates: June-August  
Location: Martin  
Description: Construction  
4-12 volunteers are needed to build an addition to a Baptist Student Center.

Project #: T-28  
Dates: June-August  
Location: Ripley  
Description: Construction  
A team is needed to brick a sanctuary and 40-foot addition.  
Contact: James Kinsey, (901) 885-8525

Project #: T-33  
Dates: June 22-July 31  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Painting  
10-30 volunteers are needed to repair homes.

Project #: T-43  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
4-10 volunteers are needed to frame and roof ministry center.

Project #: T-42  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
4-10 volunteers are needed to build a metal building.

Project #: T-41  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
2-10 volunteers are needed to do electrical and plumbing work.

Project #: T-37  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
5-15 volunteers are needed to do finish construction work.

Project #: T-46  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
4-10 volunteers are needed to pave a parking lot and driveway.

Project #: T-34  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
5-10 volunteers are needed to replace roof of a building.

Project #: T-32  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
5-20 volunteers are needed to pave a parking lot.

Project #: T-31  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
5-15 volunteers are needed to do plumbing and electrical work.

Project #: T-45  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
4-10 volunteers are needed to do dry-wall work.

Project #: T-44  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Construction  
4-10 volunteers are needed to do masonry work.

Project #: T-47  
Dates: Open  
Location: Dresden  
Description: Construction  
25-30 volunteers are needed to build a sanctuary.

### Camps

Project #: T-48  
Dates: July 26-31  
Location: Brighton  
Description: Camp  
5-10 volunteers are needed to conduct a camp.

Project #: T-35  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Sports Camps  
10-20 volunteers are needed to conduct sports evangelism.

Project #: T-11  
Dates: Aug. 2-8  
Location: Elizabethton  
Description: Camp Supervision  
15-20 volunteers are needed to lead children's camp for Big A Club members.

Project #: T-65  
Dates: June 21-28  
Location: Pikeville  
Description: Camp  
4-5 volunteers are needed to lead a youth camp.

### Revival

Project #: T-36  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Youth revival  
10-30 volunteers are needed to lead a youth revival.

### BYBC/VBS

Project #: T-8  
Dates: June 29-July 3  
Location: Elizabethton  
Description: BYBC/Community Improvement  
A team of 10-20 is needed to lead BYBC, VBS, or Big A Club.  
Contact: Rebecca Brumitt, (423) 547-0088

Project #: T-26  
Dates: June-August  
Location: Covington  
Description: BYBC  
A youth team is needed to lead a BYBC.

Project #: T-27  
Dates: July  
Location: Memphis  
Description: BYBC Revival  
14 volunteers are needed to lead a BYBC.

Project #: T-10  
Dates: July 19-25  
Location: Elizabethton  
Description: BYBC, Community Improvements  
10-20 volunteers are needed to lead several VBSs.

Project #: T-24  
Dates: July 27-31  
Location: Memphis  
Description: VBS  
12-15 volunteers are needed to lead a VBS.

### Summer Missionary

Project #: T-63  
Dates: June-August  
Location: Union City  
Description: Summer Missionary  
2 females are needed to lead a VBS, youth camp, and missions effort in Michigan

Project #: T-64  
Dates: June-Aug. 31  
Location: Pikeville  
Description: Summer Missionary  
A volunteer is needed to do work with youth and children.

### Crown Ministry

Project #: T-20  
Dates: Open  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Puppetry  
A team is needed to help develop a puppet ministry.  
Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 744-1643

### Mission Service Corps

Project: Brintley Heights Ministry Center  
Dates: Open for Long Term Missions - 4 Months  
Location: Memphis  
Description: Leadership Development  
Workers are needed, including minister of recreation, minister of youth, and worship and choir leader.  
Contact: Sam Wilson, director, or Tim Cox, pastor, (901) 458-0617

Project: Woodcock Center  
Dates: Open for Long Term Missions - 4 Months  
Location: Nashville  
Description: Relationships Development  
Workers are needed to help inner-city community.  
Contact: Tony Langton, pastor and director, (615) 254-9380

Project: Copper Basin Crisis Center  
Dates: Open for Long Term Missions - 4 Months  
Location: Ducktown  
Description: Distribution and Counseling  
Workers are needed to distribute food, clothing and used furniture, and to counsel and coordinate other teams.  
Contact: Al Patterson, director of missions for Copper Basin Association, (423) 496-7977 (office) or (423) 496-2826 (home)

Project: Appalachian Outreach  
Dates: Open for Long Term Missions - 4 Months  
Location: Jefferson City  
Description: Volunteer Coordinator  
A team is needed to coordinate home repair efforts.  
Contact: Shannon Washam, director, (423) 475-5611

## state event

■ Tennessee college students can learn more about a discipleship initiative that is gaining momentum across the country by attending a **Cross-Seekers Rally** April 22 at First Church, Murfreesboro at 8 p.m. or April 30 at Bellevue Church, Cordova, at 7 p.m. Dave Edwards, nationally-known Bible teacher and speaker to Generation X, will speak. Local coordinators are Bill Wade of First Church, Murfreesboro; Charles Nored at Middle Tennessee State University; Rob Mullins of Bellevue Church; and Kerry Smith at the University of Memphis.

## churches

■ **West View Church, Cookeville**, will hold revival May 10-13. Harold Hunter, evangelist of the Nashville area, will speak.

■ **First Church, Dover**, will hold an *Experiencing God* weekend April 17-19. For more information, contact the church at (931) 232-5496.

■ **Greenvale Church,**

**Church Hill**, will host the Good Neighbor Quartet April 26 at 7 p.m.

■ **Middlebrook Pike Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival April 19-24. Zeb McDaris will speak. For more information, contact the church at (423) 525-7425.

■ **First Church, Somerville**, recently held revival in which 23 people made professions of faith and two people responded to a spiritual call to preach the Gospel. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of McKenzie, spoke.

■ **First Church, Middleton**, will hold revival April 26-29. Jim Wright will speak.

■ **Pine Eden Church, Crossville**, will hold revival April 30 - May 3. David Miller of Heber Springs, Ark., will speak.

■ **New Bethlehem Church, Dyer**, will hold revival April 19-22. Brady Welton will speak and Bryan Powers will lead the music.

■ **Gallaher Memorial Church, Knoxville**, will hold a World Mission Conference April 26-29. Roy Wyatt, Dan Minnich, Tim Hill, Robert Nowlin, and Doris Hamilton will speak. For more informa-



**BREAKING GROUND** for a multipurpose building March 29 for New Middleton Church, Gordonsville, are leaders, from left, Pat Scudder; Claudine Bissinger; Jerry Baker; Campbell Baker; Wayne Long; Mike Scudder; Mark Stinnett, pastor; and Terry Thomas. The church also had a record attendance of 114 in Sunday School despite an enrollment of only 107. Received during activities was \$3,235 toward the building, including \$400 from children and youth of the church.

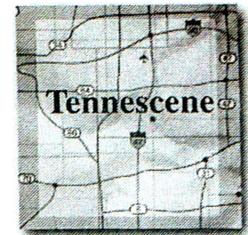
tion, call the church at (423) 691-2092.

## associations

■ **Shelby Association** is sponsoring "God With Us," which will be presented by a 1,000-voice choir and full orchestra April 28 at the Mid-South Coliseum, Memphis, at 7 p.m. For further information, call Rusty Eason at (901) 872-2264.

## leaders

■ **Cecil Gilliland** was called as pastor, First Church, McEwen, effective March 15. He has been pastor of Mount Horeb Church, Ethridge, for the past three years. He also has served as pastor of First Church, Waynesboro; Alpine Church, Chattanooga; and a church in Kentucky. Gilliland is a graduate Boyce Bible



School, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Miracle Church, LaVergne**, honored its pastor and wife, **Carl and Pauline Scarlett**, for 25 years of service March 15. Activities included a reception and several presentations.

■ **Gene Roberts** has been called as minister of music, First Church, LaFollette. He formerly served at Oakwood Church, Chattanooga, and in other churches in Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

## death

■ **Marjorie F. Ellis** died of cancer March 19 in a Rome, Ga., hospital. She was the wife of Wes Ellis, former pastor, Forest Hill Church, Germantown, from 1988-92. The funeral was at Pleasant Hope Church, Silver Creek, Ga.



# Disaster Relief Rally May 15-16 Camp Linden

(Geared to those who have already received Disaster Relief Training)

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, May 14

(No meals served)  
7 p.m. — Registration for First Aid/CPR Participants

#### Friday, May 15

7:30 a.m. — Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:30 a.m. — First Aid/CPR	Tabernacle
10 a.m. — Break	
10:30 a.m. — First Aid/CPR (cont.)	Tabernacle
Noon — Lunch	Dining Hall

3 p.m. — Rally Registration Opens	Tabernacle
6 p.m. — Meal	Dining Hall
7 p.m. — Session I	Tabernacle
Welcome, Introductions — Tim Bearden	
Message — Dr. James Porch	
8:30 p.m. — Break, Fellowship Time/Committee Mtgs.	

#### Saturday, May 16

6 a.m. — Coffee	Dining Hall
7 a.m. — Breakfast	Dining Hall
8 a.m. — Session II	Tabernacle
Business — Advisory Council	
Worship — Mickey Caison	
8:45-9:45 a.m. — Church Preparedness	Tabernacle
10:15-11:15 a.m. — New Madrid Update	Tabernacle
11:30 a.m. — Session III	Tabernacle
Prayer Time and Dismiss — Tim Bearden	
12:15 p.m. — Lunch	Tabernacle

Featuring: Mickey Caison, NAMB International Disaster Relief director  
James Porch, TBC Executive Director/Treasurer  
Tim Bearden, Tennessee Disaster Relief director

Cost is \$35 per person including meals  
Commuter cost is \$20 per person; Additional \$15 for First Aid/CPR Training  
Ladies housing is also available  
Registration Deadline — May 12

Call State Baptist Men's Ministries Team for more information at  
(615) 371-7926 or 1 (800) 558-2090

### Disaster Relief Rally Registration Form — May 15-16

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

- I/We plan to attend the Rally only (\$35 each)  
 I/We plan to commute (\$20 each)  
 I/We plan to participate in the First Aid/(Adult) CPR on Friday (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Rally (\$50 each)  
 I/We plan to participate in the First Aid/(Child) CPR on Friday (8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Rally (\$50 each)

Return form to:

Disaster Relief, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728,  
Brentwood, TN 37024-0728

To \$110 million

# WMU boosts 1998 LMCO goal

By Teresa Dickens  
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Due to the anticipated success of the 1997 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Woman's Missionary Union executive board has approved raising the 1998 LMCO goal from \$100 million to \$110 million.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials projected in March that receipts to the 1997 LMCO would reach \$102.6 million when the books close in May. The projection means that receipts to the annual offering for international missions will meet the goal for the first time since 1981 and will surpass \$100 million for the first time in history.

WMU began the offering for international missions in 1888. For many years, the organization's executive board set the goal and the budget for the offering. In the 1950s, WMU released the budgetary process to the then-Foreign Mission Board, but maintained the responsibility for setting the goal each year. The goal is set in consultation with mission board officials.

WMU has maintained the \$100 million goal for the Lottie Moon offering since 1995. The goal jumped from \$86 million in 1994 to \$100 million in 1995 in honor of the sesquicentennial of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions goal was \$50 million for that year.

"We knew when we set the 1995 goal that it was a significant challenge to Southern Baptists," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of WMU. "However, our board, along with International Mission Board staff, agreed that it was a worthy goal and have kept the goal since then as a constant challenge to Southern Baptists. I'm thrilled that it was reached in only three years."

The original 1998 goal was set by the WMU executive board in its June 1997 biannual meeting.

The revised goal was approved by a mail ballot. ■

## Baptists respond to Alabama tornadoes

Baptist Press

BESSEMER, Ala. — Tornadoes wreaked havoc in Alabama late last week. As of April 9 there were 43 known deaths and the number was expected to rise.

Alabama Baptists dispatched a mobile feeding unit to Concord Church here April 9 with 75 volunteers ready to

provide up to 1,000 meals per day to tornado victims at least through April 16.

"Other teams of Baptists will assist with cleanup recovery," said Reggie Quimby, director of disaster relief for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Several Baptist churches in the area received extensive damages. ■

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**FULL-TIME POSITION:** Financial/education secretary, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville. Bookkeeping and computer skills required. Send resume to Bob Karger, 3715 Colonial Heritage Drive, Nashville, TN 37217-4506.

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7th and Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203  
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## Right or wrong

By Mike Rogers

### Focal Passage — Genesis 3:1-6

As I turned off CNN News last night I realized that our national sense of morality is floating in a sea of relativism. Isn't it the least bit shocking that sexual immorality is no longer considered wrong, but rather a matter of choice? If the pollsters are accurate in their work, they indicate that the attitude of the majority of Americans is that they see no relationship between one's personal morality and his/her own job competency. It is as though we are comfortable with departmentalizing areas of our life and we are redefining what is right or wrong. You might say "right or wrong" is defined by what most politically and socially benefits one's self.

There is nothing new about this attitude of moral relativism. It has its origins in the heart of mankind. We have been writing our own agenda apart from God since the garden. In our focal passage this Sunday we find three compelling truths about the agenda of the world. These three truths will provide you and your class an excellent opportunity to examine your own daily agenda.

#### The world's agenda rejects God's rule and authority

The serpent questioned God when he said, "Did God really say, 'you must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" In a very subtle way the serpent was seeking to undermine the authority of God in Eve's life. He was leading her to the most critical point of rebellion in the human heart. It is that moment when we question whether God's will is the best for our life. It is the first step in rejecting God. We refuse to accept that God, who loves each of us, has offered the best plan for our life. We question his intentions and begin writing our own agenda. Sin always results from our rejecting God's rule and authority over our life.

#### The world's agenda is always focused on self

The serpent said to Eve, "You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Isn't it interesting that the serpent was encouraging Eve to look at things from her own perspective? He was encouraging her to think only of herself. God was not to be considered. The world's agenda is always focused on self and God's opinion doesn't really matter.

#### The world's agenda attempts to satisfy human needs apart from God

The serpent tempted Adam and Eve to try and meet their needs apart from God. Trying to meet our deepest needs apart from God always leads to sin. The serpent told Eve that she would "be like God" if she would eat from the tree in the middle of the garden even though it had been forbidden by God.

Many people try to meet needs, such as esteem, through their own efforts rather than experiencing God's acceptance. They reject God and his agenda, and trust in what they are able to accomplish themselves. God had provided for Adam and Eve and yet they believed that they could provide for themselves better than God. What about you?

Take time this Sunday and evaluate your own personal agenda in light of the world's agenda. I pray that God will reveal his will and your heart will be touched by him. — 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.

# The Son rejected

By Billy Murphy

### Focal Passage — Mark 12:1-12

Our focal passage this week was spoken by Jesus during the final week of his earthly ministry. It illustrated the meaning of Jesus' death. He spoke a parable of the wicked husbandmen or tenant farmers.

When dealing with the general principles of parable interpretation, it is common to note that a parable must never be treated as an allegory or that a meaning must be sought for every detail. This parable is a mixture between an allegory and a parable. Not all details in this parable have an inner meaning. Jesus was talking in word pictures which were part and parcel of Jewish thought and imagery.

## Family Bible Lesson

A vineyard owner hired keepers (sharecroppers) to care for his vineyard while he went on an extended journey. When the owner sent servants to collect his portion of the vineyard production, they were greatly mistreated. The story of the vineyard owner is told by Jesus on a visit to the Temple during his last week. He had entered Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple, and refused to answer the religious leaders' question about his authority. This parable was directed primarily at these religious leaders. By the time Jesus was finished relating the story, the meaning of the parable was very clear to his hearers. The owner of the vineyard in this story is God. Jesus' mention of the vineyard parable no doubt brought to the minds of his hearers Isaiah 5. The vine and the vineyard in both Isaiah 5 and Jesus' parable represented Israel, God's chosen people. In reality, God had done everything to help them fulfill their intended and expected goal as a nation. God had repeatedly sent prophets to call his erring people back to their covenant relationship. Rather than heeding the call of these prophets, Israel rejected the prophets and their mes-

sages. Often the prophets were ignored, mistreated, or killed.

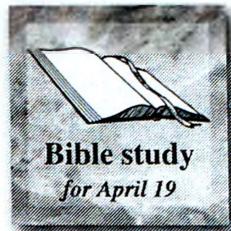
These leaders, who had questioned Jesus, knew the history of Israel; although they claimed to honor the prophets. Their treatment of John the Baptist and Jesus illustrated it was easier to honor the dead prophets than it was to heed the warnings of the living ones.

Why the actions of the husbandmen in the Jesus parable? How could they rationalize their actions? These actions reveal several facts about human sin. Sin is against God, the owner; it claims for ourselves what belongs to God; and is irrational because sinners somehow think they can get by with it.

In this parable, we see not only the persistence of sin in the actions of the vineyard keepers, but the patient love of God reflected in the long-suffering owner. He kept sending servants and ultimately sent his only Son to the erring husbandmen. The parable illustrates the triumph of the eventual justice of God. Men might take advantage of God's patience and long suffering. In the end, God acts with judgment and justice against man's disobedience.

This parable tells us something about the Son. He regarded himself as more than a servant. He deliberately removed himself from the succession of the prophets — servants. He was Son. In him, God's final word was being spoken. This was a deliberate challenge to the Jewish authorities because it contained the unmistakable claim of Jesus to be Messiah.

The privileges and responsibilities of a nation will be passed on to others if they are not utilized. This parable contained the whole germ of what was to come — the rejection of Jesus by the nation of Israel and the passing of their privileges and responsibilities to the Gentiles. This passage closed with the Psalmist's reference, "The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner" (Psalm 118:22). The keystone of the arch bound together the corners of the building. It was, indeed, the most important stone of all. — Murphy is Computer Consultant for West Carroll Special School District and a bivocational pastor, Howse Church, Atwood.



# Spirit-filled witness

By James Growden

### Focal Passage — Acts 2:4, 14-17, 32-33, 36-38, 41, 46-47

This is one of my favorite Bible passages because I love the local church so very much. I like to think of this chapter as the inception of the church. Let's get into this exciting study.

In Acts 2:4, the "other tongues" mean foreign languages from what I can gather. The disciples were supernaturally witnessing and preaching in the languages of the different nationalities gathered together. God made his presence known to the group of believers in a spectacular way — roaring wind, fire, and his Holy Spirit. All the nationalities represented recognized their own language being spoken. They saw the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Starting with verse 14, Peter tells the crowd why they should listen to the apostles, because the Old Testament prophecies had been entirely fulfilled in Jesus, because Jesus is the Messiah, and because the risen Christ could change their lives.

The major theme of Peter's sermon is: Jesus is the Messiah and Lord. Peter's discourse may be outlined as follows:

(1) This is the fulfillment of prophecy — a defense, an explanation; (2) Jesus is the Messiah — his works attest that he is the Messiah

## Explore the Bible Lesson

and his resurrection attests that he is the Messiah; (3) Jesus, the glorified Messiah, poured forth the Holy Spirit; (4) Application.

That will preach or teach. The breakdown comes very naturally. Peter did such a great job because God empowered him.

Let's look at Peter. He had been an unstable leader during Jesus' ministry, letting his bravado be his downfall, even denying that he knew Jesus. However, Christ forgave and restored him after his denial. This is a new Peter, humble but bold. His confidence comes from the Holy Spirit, who makes him a powerful and dynamic speaker.

Have you ever felt as if you have made such bad mistakes that God could never forgive and use you? No matter what sins you have committed, God promises to forgive them and make you useful for his kingdom. Allow him to forgive you and use you effectively to serve him and others.

Look at verses 32-33 with me now. In courts of the day two or more witnesses were necessary and Peter told the crowd that God raised Jesus from the dead. The eleven disciples and many others saw the resurrected Je-

sus. They were all witnesses, and their unanimous testimony assured the truth of Peter's words about Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus was now exalted and seated at the right hand of God. There he poured out the Holy Spirit as promised in Joel 2:28-29. The wind, fire, and tongues that the crowd could both see and hear proved Peter's words. In verse 36 Jesus is seen as the resurrected and exalted son who sits at the right hand of Jehovah. He sits in the position of glory and majesty, dominion and power, praise and honor. He is the sovereign majesty of the universe, the supreme being, who possesses the very nature of God. He is addressed as the Lord God.

A quick look at verse 41 tells us that three thousand people who believed were baptized, thus displaying their identification with Christ. How would you like to see 3,000 people saved as your pastor preached one sermon?

The activities described in verses 42-47 would tend to separate the church from traditional Judaism even though every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

A healthy, loving church will grow. What you are doing to make your church grow? — Growden is a teacher and a bivocational pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville.

April 3-4 to First Church, Clarksville

## Conference draws 300 college students, parents

By Ircel Harrison  
For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — "Tear Down the Walls!" was the theme for the Tennessee Collegiate Spring Conference held at First Church, Clarksville, on April 3-4. Over 300 students, parents, and conference leaders participated in the event.

David Benjamin, pastor, King's Cross Church, Tullahoma, reminded the students "God is no respecter of persons." This approach of God to humans reflects who he is, identifies his purpose for our lives, reminds humans who we are, and challenges us to remember who everyone else is — "They are people for whom Christ died," Benjamin stated.

John Nance, national leader of collegiate ministries for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, challenged students to realize "all Christ wants is everything we have!" Nance also presented opportunities for missionary service in Canada, to support the Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership.

Sam Mizell and Keith Felton, Union University alumni who perform as "Partners in Christ," provided music in all sessions. Student groups from

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; Roane State Community College, Harriman; Tennessee State University, Nashville; Fisk University, Nashville; Motlow State Community College, McMinnville; and the University of Memphis assisted in worship leadership.

Presiding at the meeting were Jeff Gibson, the state Baptist Student Union president from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; and Jeannette Grace, state BSU vice president from APSU.

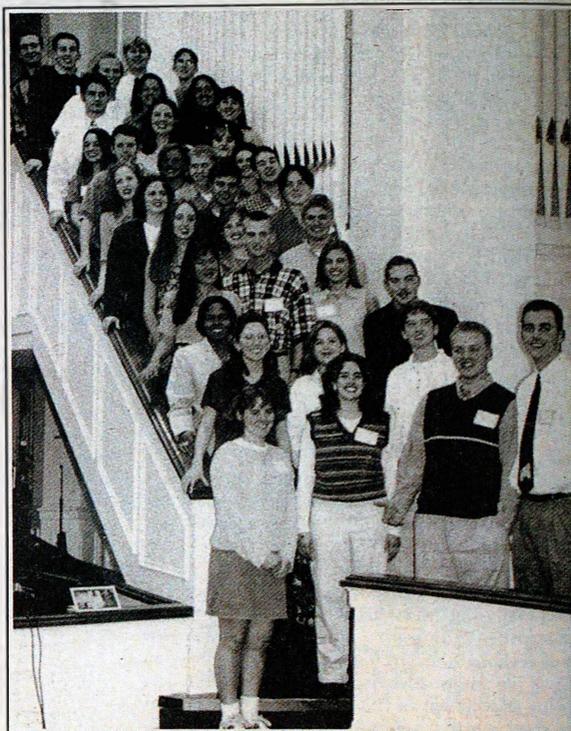
Thirty-seven students were commissioned as BSU collegiate summer missionaries. They will serve in North Africa, Brazil, South Africa,

Canada, Puerto Rico, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Fifty parents and family members of the missionaries attended a special orientation led by Rodney Wilson and Bernie Baker of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

Ivy Dixon, a senior at the University of Tennessee — Martin and member of First Church, Martin, was elected as state BSU president for 1998-99. Malcolm Eller, a senior at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and member, Antioch Church, Johnson City, was elected state BSU vice president.

The annual meeting is

planned by the State BSU Council, campus BSU presidents, and Collegiate Ministries of TBC Executive Board ministries. ■



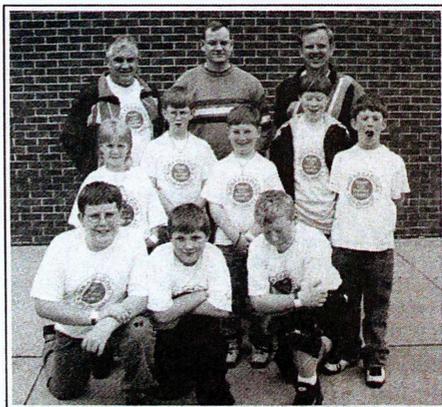
GETTING TO know each other during the conference are John Nance, left, of Canada and Bob Hall, collegiate ministry specialist at the University of Tennessee — Knoxville.



PAUSING DURING the conference in which they were commissioned for service are the 37 BSU collegiate summer missionaries who will serve in five countries.

## RA Congress at Union University provides missions education, fun

ENJOYING THE RA CONGRESS were this group from Round Lick Church, Watertown. From left, are, first row, Duane Goff, Steven Tarpley, Billy Bates; second row, Jacob Lynn, Shaun Williams, Blake Finkley, George Willard, Jared Midgett; third row, Wayne Hearn, Nathan Wilkerson, and Pastor Terry Wilkerson.



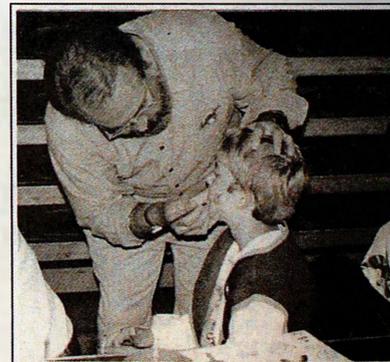
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Approximately 800 Royal Ambassadors and their leaders attended the 44th annual RA Congress held April 9-11 at Union University here.

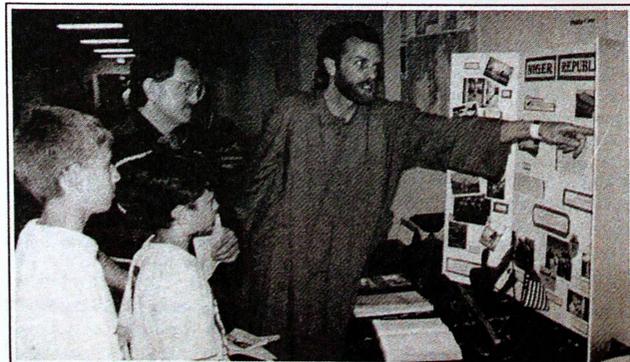
Boys had the opportunity to meet and talk with missionaries and others involved in missions both in the United States and abroad.

The Kid's Touring Company of Roanoke, Texas, was the special guest for the worship services.

See page 1 for another Congress-related story. ■



TBC EXECUTIVE BOARD staffer Gene Williams paints the face of Justin Gervasi of Harpeth Heights Church, Nashville, during the Missions Carnival.



MISSIONARY PHILLIP CAIN of the Niger Republic points out some facts about the country to, from left, Andy Ledbetter, Coy Leach, and Jim Blackford of Smoky View Church, Maryville.



JACK ADKISSON of Big Spring Church, Cleveland, informs RAs Zachary Walker, left, Dawson Memorial Church, Maryville, and Ryan Towater, center, of North Jackson Church, Jackson, how fast their RA racers were.