

MAY 05 1998

REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 17

Statewide Edition

April 29, 1998

this week's news

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Tennesseans explore partnership in Portugal

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — If ultimately approved by messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Portugal could be the site of Tennessee Baptists' next international partnership.

A five-member team comprised of James Porch, Tim Bearden, and Terry Sharp of TBC Executive Board ministries, along with Michael Smith, president of the TBC Executive Board, and Doug Sager, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, returned from Portugal in early April after a week-long fact-finding mission.

The team will recommend a partnership to the Executive Board's Convention Ministries Committee, said Terry Sharp, partnership ministries specialist.

If accepted by the committee and then the Executive Board, the proposal would



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, front center, holds a Portugal flag presented by International Mission Board missionaries. With him are, from left, Terry Sharp, missionary Steve Ford, Doug Sager, missionary Steve Smith, Tim Bearden, and Michael Smith.

go to messengers at the TBC annual meeting in November for final approval.

This partnership proposal is different from recent partnerships, Sharp said.

If approved by messengers the partnership will not officially begin until Jan. 1, 2000, he noted.

This will give a year to prepare and plan for the partnership, Sharp said.

ship, Sharp said, noting that a few projects may be done during 1999.

Sharp said the team visited Portugal at the request of Portuguese missionaries and the SBC International Mission Board.

Portugal has 11 million people and is the poorest country in the European community, Sharp said.

The country is primarily Roman Catholic in culture with evangelical Christians comprising less than 1 percent of the population, Sharp related.

The Portugal Baptist Convention is comprised of 63 churches with three others awaiting church status, Sharp said. Their membership totals about 5,000 people, he added.

Sharp is optimistic Tennessee Baptists can help Portuguese Baptists because of their recent involvement in Poland, another European country.

— See Tennesseans, page 6

Disaster relief work continues across state

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Groups of about 25 Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers serving on the parking lot of Two Rivers Church here continue to prepare from 6,000-11,000 meals a day for tornado victims.

They have worked 20-hour days in cool rain and hot sun since April 17.

As of press time on Monday, the volunteers had prepared 80,721 meals which have been delivered by American Red Cross workers to victims and relief workers in four counties. The volunteers will continue to serve until Thursday, estimat-

ed Tim Bearden, state Baptist Disaster Relief director for Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

And in Wayne County last Saturday, 25 Baptist Disaster Relief workers from West Tennessee joined other volunteers to help victims clear debris. Led by Gene Wil-

— See Disaster, page 3

Baptist and Reflector search committee seeks nominations

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The search committee for the editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* will be receiving nominations and/or resumes for the position throughout May. The deadline for sending in nominations is May 31.

The committee is focusing on several concerns which will receive significant attention in the selection of an editor. They include:

(1) Maintaining and continuing the heritage of a clear and free voice to Tennessee Baptists and into the world.

(2) Honoring the essentials

of being a friend to all the Tennessee Baptist family.

(3) Commitment to focus on Tennessee Baptist news.

(4) Understanding the efficient business administration as mandatory.

The committee is comprised of Herbert Higdon, Jackson, chairman; Don Edwards, Murfreesboro; John Holland, Knoxville; Ken Hubbard, Smyrna; Mattie Mullins, Johnson City; Bill Northcott, Covington; and Michael Smith, Memphis.

Recommendations should be mailed to: Search Committee, *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

899 boxes collected for N. Korea

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A total of 899 boxes of food for North Korea were collected by the Missions and Awareness Involvement Group through Baptist Men's Ministries and Woman's Missionary Union groups, associations, churches, and individuals.

The 899 boxes from Tennessee resulted in 33 pallets for shipment through Feed the Hungry, a Christian relief organization, which became two tractor trailer loads totaling 61,132 pounds of food.

Two trucks loaded with food boxes were shipped to New Orleans on April 21 to be placed on a ship bound for Korea. The food is scheduled to arrive in Korea for distribution in about four weeks.

"This North Korea project or a similar one will be done again, but we will have better organization and more time notice," said Bob Davison, Baptist Men's Ministries Children's Missions Awareness specialist.

Special thanks is given to Steve York, Brotherhood director at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, and owner of ABC Moving and Storage Co., Nashville, who drove his trucks across the state to collect boxes in many locations, used his storage facility and his employees to palletize the boxes for shipment, Davison added.

A total of 9,000 boxes were collected by SBC state conventions for North Korea, with Tennessee Baptist churches providing one-ninth of the total. ■ — Marcia Knox

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

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about your newsjournal

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Outlook for lottery fades as session nears end

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A bill to hold a constitutional convention to remove the ban on lotteries in Tennessee suffered a major defeat in committee last week as the sponsor attempted to place an amendment on the bill that would have shifted the cost of the convention into future fiscal years after the 1998-99 budget that is now before the General Assembly.

The budget should be up for a vote this Thursday.

The amendment to SB 3103 failed by a 4-5 vote in the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. Without the amendment the full \$235,000 cost for a 99-member convention remains unaccounted for in the budget.

At press time Monday the bill had been placed on the committee's Monday calendar. Negotiations continued late last week to find an amenable amendment.

"Tennessee doesn't need the evils of a lottery or any type of legal gambling," said

Sen. David Fowler of Signal Mountain.

"Lotteries were legal in this country until people found out how corruptive an influence they could be not only on society, but also on government itself. That is the reason that every state in the nation ultimately found it necessary in the last century to put in place a constitutional prohibition against lotteries.

"Our sister states are already beginning to see the problems that gambling causes, especially among the youth. Reports of serious problems among college students have begun surfacing of late. We don't need to repeat the same mistake that these other states have made. Remember the words of George Santayana that those who ignore the past are condemned to repeat it. Let's read and heed history on this issue," Fowler said.

Meanwhile, SJR 52, which proposes a referendum to amend Article XI, Section 5 of the state constitution to authorize a state lottery if the net proceeds are allotted to a scholarship fund to pay tuition

costs for post-secondary education and training of Tennessee students, failed twice last week to pass in the Senate. The bill received 16 favorable votes each time.

Another reading was to have taken place on Monday. It needed 22 votes to be approved.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives have approved the key bills relating to the state lottery, including a call for a constitutional convention.

"The Senate still holds the key to the lottery issue," said Bill Bates, TBC public affairs consultant.

"Continue to pray that the senators who are standing firm in their opposition to a state lottery will continue to do so. There are many out there trying to convince them to change their votes," he said.

The 100th General Assembly is expected to end Thursday or Friday. — Interim Editor Lonnie Wilkey compiled this story with information from a news release provided by the State Republican Caucus of Tennessee.

'Salt and Light' kids day camp planned for SBC

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Special activities are planned again this year for children of parents attending the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention meeting here.

"Salt and Light" Missions Day Camp activities are for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June of this year. Duane Ortego, an Atlanta-area childhood education consultant and former missionary to South Korea, will direct the camp in conjunction with the North American Mission Board's volunteer mobilization team.

In addition to the regular missions education emphasis, career missionaries will be on hand to share their testimonies with the children. The day camp also will feature trips to

Wheeler Heritage Farm, Children's Museum, Liberty Park, and Tracey Aviary.

Registration is open to the first 150 children, and pre-registration is available by calling 1-800-254-2022.

A change to the fee structure for the day camp this year will entail a \$60 flat rate per child.

The schedule is Tuesday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. with drop off as early as 7:45 a.m. and pick up no later than 5:15 p.m. The schedule for Wednesday and Thursday is 8-11:50 a.m. with drop off at 7:45 a.m. and pick up no later than noon. Parents will be required to sign a medical release form for their children.

Volunteers staff SBC Missions Day Camp and anyone interested in volunteering should call Ortego at (770) 704-0267.

Day campers should dress comfortably. ■

Nashville churches celebrate merger

For Baptist and Reflector



CO-PASTORS Jess Love, right, and John Burke, sign merger papers for Concord-Grandview Church.

NASHVILLE — Members of Concord-Grandview Church officially recognized their merger in late March with a special celebration service.

The two churches began holding joint services in October 1997.

The new church is the result of Grandview Church, formerly located at 2635 Nolensville Road, joining with Concord Church, located on Concord Road, near Nolensville Road.

Both churches are descendants of historic Mill Creek Church. Concord, established

in 1804 was the first mission from Mill Creek, while Grandview, established in 1908, was the last mission formed from Mill Creek Church, which no longer exists.

Discussions for the merger began last summer. The pastors of the respective churches — Jess Love at Grandview and John Burke at Concord — are co-pastors of the merged congregation.

In the resolution of merger the two congregations pledged "their loyalty to the combined ministry" and resolved to give "glory and honor for this new venture, solely and completely" to Jesus Christ. ■

In Tennessee

SSB contributes to disaster relief

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — To assist in relief to Nashvillians rebuilding their lives and homes after the April 16 tornadoes which struck the city, the Baptist Sunday School Board is contributing \$10,000 to the Disaster Relief ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"We are grateful to God that our downtown Nashville facilities were largely spared, and we wanted to do something to help our neighbors who have sustained damage," said SSB President James T. Draper Jr.

"The Tennessee Baptist Convention disaster relief unit has worked tirelessly with the American Red Cross to provide meals to victims

and those helping with cleanup and rebuilding.

"We are glad to join forces with Nashville organizations contributing to rebuilding efforts and want to challenge others to participate," Draper said.

TBC Disaster Relief Director Tim Bearden noted more than 90 Tennessee Baptist volunteers have prepared meals distributed by the ARC to storm victims in Nashville and four other Tennessee counties.

Bearden said the SSB contribution "will be used in response to this disaster to assist with needs that otherwise would go unmet. It also will be used to repair and upgrade our equipment in preparation for the next disaster." ■

Burroughs to speak to ministers' wives

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Esther Burroughs of the North American Mission Board staff will address this year's Ministers' Wives Conference to be held at noon on Tuesday, June 9. Tickets requested before May 19 are only \$12 each. Those requested after May 19 and those purchased at the SBC annual meeting are \$14 each.

To order the tickets, send a check and self-addressed stamped envelope before May 19 to Jane Sanders, 1301 Colorado Dr., Benbrook, TX 76126. ■

Disaster relief work continues across state

— Continued from page 1
liams of TBC Executive Board ministries, the group worked to help residents of the Chalk Creek area south of Waynesboro. Three residents were killed, 30 homes were destroyed, 30 homes damaged, and several businesses were damaged, Williams reported.

Disaster Relief workers "did a fantastic job," he said. Follow-up work may be done after damage assessments have

been conducted by federal relief agencies, he said. David Miller, director of missions, Indian Creek Association, reported local Baptists also have been helping families in Wayne County.

The April 16 storms also brought floods to East Tennessee.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief has been in contact with Baptists in Claiborne County. Three churches there were

damaged by flooding, reported Frank Hickman, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Association. They are Mount Gilead Church, Harrogate; Leatherwood Church, New Tazewell; and Young's Chapel, Tazewell.

To respond, TBC Executive Board ministries has sent children's materials to replace those damaged at Mount Gilead. Anyone interested in helping the churches should contact Hickman at (423) 869-8716.

In Knoxville, Ball Camp Church received \$50,000 worth of water damage, reported Bill Daniel, pastor. The congregation has responded well to the disaster, offsetting about half of damage costs through their volunteer efforts, he added.

In Nashville

Several Baptist entities here were severely damaged. Edgefield Church only held Sunday morning worship services this past week, but was able to do so with electricity, which was restored eight days after the storm, reported Terry Carver, pastor. A team from Brentwood Church, Brentwood, helped members set up for the service.

The church roof will be repaired by construction crews to arrive this week, but Carver is worried about the roof of the sanctuary. Rains this week may damage it further. Also, floors need clean-up to protect them.

The church doesn't have replacement cost insurance, but it doesn't know the cost of damages yet. Carver said several gifts of money have been received to assist the church, which is the oldest in Nashville.

Damages at the Nashville Association office also are yet to be estimated, but should be covered mostly by insurance, reported Jim Freedman, director of missions. Although Freedman hoped to remain in the building, that was not possible. The office has relocated to Dalewood Church here for four to six weeks. The association's phone number, (615) 259-3034, remains the same.

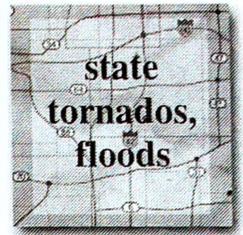
In addition, the Southern Baptist Convention building and Baptist Sunday School Board were damaged. (See page 10.)

Numerous Disaster Relief volunteers have served in Nashville, in addition to the many people who have served unofficially, reported Bearden. The feeding program has drawn 95 workers, many from across the state.

And about 400 Disaster Relief workers have served in other capacities. Don Davis of Two Rivers Church has coordinated these workers and reported volunteers, mostly from his church, have served on chain saw crews, clean-up teams, and as workers on the American Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs) which delivered meals.

Nashville churches respond

Two East Nashville church-



es near the hardest hit area became centers for relief.

Riverside and Lockeland churches served meals to almost 2,000 tornado victims and provided other kinds of help. Both congregations reported they received more than they gave because of contacts made with people in their communities and because of generous donations from churches, individuals, and companies.

Lockeland Church served meals for eight days, including four without electricity. Gas stoves at the church still operated. Members and others served about 900 meals, reported John Langlois, pastor. His house, a church parsonage, was damaged, but it was minor.

Members also provided cleaning items and food and worked in the community. They will follow up on needs.

Riverside Church had electricity to serve by when it came on unexpectedly Sunday morning prior to the first planned meal for victims, said Edith McCoy of the church.

Since then the church has fed 1,050 people in seven days, reported Conyer Walker, pastor. And members have distributed an amazing amount of goods and food with help from many volunteers. In fact, the church received so many donations, members will distribute the remaining items to victims by delivering them to homes, said Walker.

Feeding program

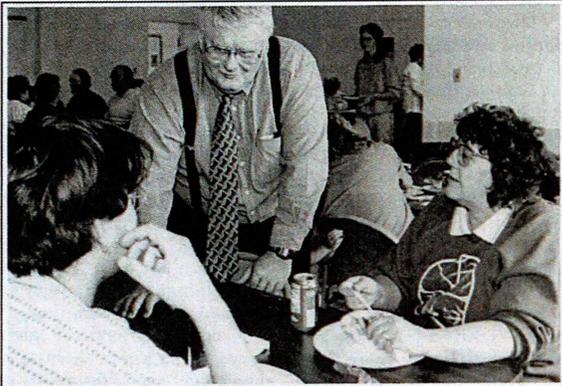
The feeding effort by Baptist Disaster Relief is the largest ever conducted in the state, reported Bearden. The largest operation in the U.S. was in Florida following Hurricane Andrew in 1994.

Two Rivers Church is one of the key elements to the success of the feeding program, said Bearden. The church has provided electricity, water, and sleeping quarters for the workers in addition to serving as an American Red Cross shelter for victims. The ARC is providing food for the feeding program.

Bearden said the quality of the workers is top notch. One day they loaded 4,700 meals on 17 ERVs in just nine minutes.

Their sacrifices include accepting sparse sleeping quarters and loss of vacation time to do the work, in addition to the long hours and outdoor setting, said Bearden.

The benefits, said the volunteers, are the camaraderie they share and the blessings received like seeing hungry children in devastated areas fed. **B&R**



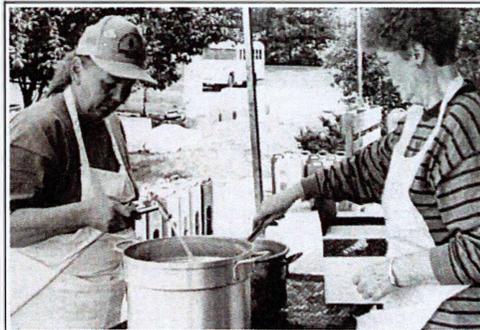
VISITING with some women who were taking advantage of the Lockeland Church feeding program is John Langlois, pastor. The women didn't have electricity in their home. — Photos by Connie Davis



GETTING TO KNOW policemen as they eat a meal at Riverside Church are members Edith McCoy, who directed the meal program, and Walker Smith, a worker. The policemen were assigned to the disaster area in Nashville.



PREPARING MASHED potatoes are, from left, Bill Curington of Roseberry Church, Mascot; Keith Lyle, First Church, Erwin; and James R. Todd, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville.



MIXING ingredients for punch are Virginia Cole, left, First Church, Huntingdon, and Wanda Henry, First Church, Dunlap.



WORKING UNDER covered structures which protect workers, a crew heats two portions of a meal in large heating units. Stirring one item are, from left, Ollie Stewman and Don Byrd, both of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville.



letters from readers

about letters

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

Praises volunteers

I can't remember it ever being so hot. The newscaster said it was the hottest weather Rio had experienced in 20 years.

The week the volunteers from Sweetwater Association came to work in Campo Grande, Brazil, the temperature hit 118 degrees.

We were working in three different congregations, so I spent most of my day moving translators and volunteers from one place to another and making sure everyone had plenty of cold water. I watched the volunteers walking the hot cobblestone streets going door to door sharing their faith. I prayed that the Lord of the harvest would move in the hearts of the ones hearing the Gospel and that he would provide the strength and endurance as we faced day after day of unbelievable heat.

I talked with our van driver who listened to the volunteers' testimonies each night. He asked Christ into his heart one hot, hot night in a parking lot. He told me later he had never been with a group of people who were so happy and really cared about each other.

God blessed in a mighty way that week as 139 people came to know Christ.

Sharon Fairchild
IMB missionary
Campo Grande, Brazil

Thanks for prayers

On Jan. 18 of this year I received a heart transplant at the Cleveland Health Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to that time I lingered near death for several weeks. During that time my good Baptist friends all across Tennessee prayed for my recovery and for this I am extremely grateful.

I feel my renewed life is a miracle of God's grace in which many participated through prayer. Thank you Tennessee Baptists for your love and encouragement during some of the darkest hours of my life.

Calvin S. Metcalf
Knoxville 37918

Affirms action

On Friday, April 17, Carson-Newman College took an important step to assure that the historic Baptist principles of the school will be maintained in the future.

By electing to return to their original practice of selecting their own trustees, the school removed itself from the political battles which Baptists are prone to fight these days.

This allows the school to concentrate on its primary mission, that of educating our young men and women in the context of a Christian institution of higher education.

I applaud this decision by the college. Carson-Newman has indicated its desire to remain Baptist in identity and a partner in serving the Baptists of our state.

Now I hope that Tennessee Baptists will respond with a willingness to extend this wonderful partnership in higher education for many years to come. Such a decision would be mutually beneficial for Carson-Newman and for all Tennessee Baptists.

David W. Hull, pastor
First Church
Knoxville 37902

Deafening silence

The silence out of Brentwood was deafening. The interim editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* ... did not think a matter of this magnitude (the called trustee meeting at Carson-Newman College to consider the trustee selection process) was newsworthy. He apparently felt no moral mandate to inform the person in the pews of our Tennessee Baptist churches that one of our institutions was about to be stolen.

A majority of the men and women who make up the board of trustees have betrayed the trust we the people placed in them. Does God act under the cover of darkness? Does he perform his mighty deeds covertly, surreptitiously, fur-

tively? Why were we the people of Tennessee Baptist churches given no opportunity to express our opinions to the men and women who sit on this board of trust? Why did we the people of Tennessee Baptist churches not even receive the courtesy of being informed that our institution was about to be taken?

Perhaps it would have made no difference if we the people had been informed. Our motto has been "Tell the people and trust the Lord." Perhaps a few trustees with spiritually sensitive consciences would have seen their actions in a different light had we the people had an opportunity to voice our hopes and dreams for maintaining a united Tennessee Baptist Convention. Perhaps; perhaps not. Now we will never know.

Yes, indeed, the silence out of Brentwood was deafening.

Roger S. Oldham, pastor
First Church
Martin 38237

NOTE: The *B&R's* policy is to report information when all the facts are in hand. Unfortunately, when the April 15 issue went to press we did not have complete information. Knowledge of an event and having the facts to write a responsible news story are two different things. — Lonnie Wilkey

Appreciates viewpoint

My heart rejoiced when I read the article by Billy Kemp, a preteen/youth minister from Crossville, in the April 8 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

I actually leaped for joy and ran to read the article out loud to my husband. The article was such an encouragement to us, knowing someone else out there feels the same way we do.

We are just an average family struggling to serve God in all possible avenues he makes available to us, but feel very alone when it comes to struggling to be holy as he (God) is holy. For us this involves guarding our hearts against those things found in movies like "Titanic."

Shouldn't it be obvious to those of us who call ourselves Christians that paying money to see and hear those types of things cannot be pleasing to God?

I have spoken to other Christians about the content of "Titanic," only to be told things like "You can't just become a hermit." These are well-seasoned Christians who know God's Word and should be spurring newer Christians on in their walk of righteousness. We can either strive to please God in every area of our lives or make excuses and reason out all of our actions.

Three cheers for Mr. Kemp for standing up for Jesus in what seems to be a world where so many choose to be conformed instead of being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Janice Henington
Hohenwald 38483

Association acts

The following motion passed at the 212th bi-annual meeting of Holston Association in session April 21 at Cherry Grove Church, Jonesborough.

"Messengers of the Holston Baptist Association convened in this spring bi-annual meeting express their extreme disappointment with the April 17 action of the board of trustees of Carson-Newman College which distances the college from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist churches sprinkled across our state.

"We are grieved that the board of trustees, in a 29-5 vote, violated their sacred trust by declaring their right to choose their own board members. We believe this action violates the spirit of several years of careful TBC work attempting to broaden the basis of trustee involvement.

"The cloak of secrecy prior to the April 17 meeting is an affront to Baptist life and work. The perception of a self-perpetuating board is an offense.

"We call upon individuals, churches, and sister associations to urge the board of trustees of Carson-Newman College to reconsider their action and solidify the 147-year-old relationship that has existed between the college and the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

Tal Thompson, DOM
Holston Association
Johnson City 37604

Important decision

By now many Tennessee Baptists are aware of an important recent decision made by the Carson-Newman College board of trustees to amend the institution's charter and bylaws so as to authorize the board to nominate and select 100 percent of its membership. What does this action mean for the college, its students, and Tennessee Baptists?

First, continuing to be all Baptist, the board will have the latitude to select the best qualified and most effective trustees without geographical, associational, or service (on other convention boards or agencies) limitations.

Second, this action, while keeping Carson-Newman rooted in its Baptist heritage and

Christian identity will free the school from the burden and stress of denominational controversy. Carson-Newman will continue, as it has done so effectively for 147 years, to partner with all Tennessee Baptists to provide the very best academic program based on Baptist/Christian principles.

Third, a new day is already here for small, church-related universities. Let me be very direct — denominational financial support, while continuing to play an essential role in school economics, is not adequate for our schools to maintain competitive physical structures, qualified administrative and teaching personnel, and students' fees at a reasonable rate. The level of financial support from the Cooperative Program for our schools has remained static for a decade (a decrease via inflation). For this reason, C-N and other Baptist colleges must have trustees with a unique combination of spiritual maturity and economic wisdom and resourcefulness to creatively guide them to a sound and hopeful future.

In this decision, C-N is not pulling away from its Tennessee Baptist family. As a Tennessee Baptist pastor and parent of a C-N student, I affirm that decision.

Frank Hawkins, pastor
First Church
Kingsport 37660

Offers proposal

How sad that as Tennessee Southern Baptists we have lost one of our schools. The actions by the trustees of Carson-Newman College effectively mean that they no longer want to be a part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

I'm sure there will be much debate about what to do with the \$2.4 million that C-N trustees still want but have thumbed their nose at.

I would like to propose that for this year we divide that money between Belmont and Union and ask them to use the money for scholarships and for continuing education of bivocational pastors. This money has already been earmarked for education.

Our bivocational pastors sacrifice time and finances to serve thousands of churches across our convention. Perhaps regional weekend seminars for pastors could be funded by this money. The biblical studies departments at Belmont and Union already do a great job with "Preaching Schools" and similar events. Let's give them the means to do more for the great men who serve us so faithfully week after week.

Lyndel Littleton
minister of music/adm.
Central Church
Martin 38237

Will we let the wound heal, or do we amputate?

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

There is an open wound in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. How Tennessee Baptists take care of that wound in the days ahead is critical.

Will we try to help the wound heal, or will we aggravate the wound with anger and hostility?

On April 17 trustees of Carson-Newman College voted to change their charter to allow them to elect their successors, thus taking the trustee selection process out of the hands of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

This action has upset and angered some Tennessee Baptists. They say the college has betrayed the trust of Tennessee Baptists.

Critics say the action was done secretly with little notice to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board leadership. Others are upset that Carson-Newman acted unilaterally without working through established processes to bring about the changes they sought.

On the other hand, there are Tennessee Baptists who agree with the college's action. The TBC provides only 6 percent of Carson-Newman's budget, yet elects 100

percent of their trustees. The entire \$2.4 million from the TBC — plus about \$1 million more from the college — goes directly to Tennessee Baptist students in the form of scholarships.

Supporters of the action also feel the current trustee selection process is too restrictive on the institution.

The TBC Executive Board's Education Committee made a gallant effort to attempt to solve the problem. They proposed that Carson-Newman delay their action until at least Aug. 1 so there could be time for negotiation and discussion.

It would have been good if Carson-Newman could have waited until they had at least exhausted the processes that are in place. But the trustees, using the information and knowledge they had, made the decision they felt was in the best interests of Carson-Newman College. In essence, that is what they are entrusted to do. Not everyone will agree with them or see the need for what they did, but those trustees made the decision they thought was best for the future of Carson-Newman College.

That brings us to the bottom line. The action has legally been taken. Unfortunately, though it was not the intent, that action has left an open wound.

Can the wound be healed? Yes, but it

will take weeks of prayer and people on both sides of the issue willing to negotiate a new relationship. There must be give and take by all involved.

When a wound is left untended, infection sets in and sometimes the infected body part must be amputated.

There will undoubtedly be some within our family who will keep the wound infected with angry and bitter words and accusations. They would want to eventually "amputate" the college from the convention by cutting off its funding. Ultimately, this would hurt Tennessee Baptist students, who had nothing to do with the decision, more than it would hurt anyone else. It also would hurt the entire convention because Carson-Newman is an integral part of our history.

Do I have a solution? No. But I know who does. Tennessee Baptists pride themselves in believing in the authority of the Scripture — God's Holy Word.

In the New Testament we would do well to look at the example of Jesus Christ. He went about healing people. He also preached love, compassion, and, yes, forgiveness.

What happens to the wound depends solely on the actions of Tennessee Baptists. I pray the wound heals. *B&R*



just for
today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Mother to Bobby: "I want you to apologize to Johnny for calling him a stupid jerk." Bobby to Johnny: "I'm sorry you're a stupid jerk."

Take this truth

You can't force anyone to say "I'm sorry" until that person is ready to do it. Remember the old cliché, "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still."

Memorize this Scripture

"Whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell" (Matthew 5:22 TEV).

Pray this prayer

Lord, help us to be cautious about saying unkind things. May we constantly remember the contrast between the merits of our life and those of our friends and acquaintances are insignificant — especially when placed beside our lives and our Savior. ■

Baptist response to tornados is heartening

another
word

by Connie Davis
assistant editor



Tornados remind me of the 1960s in Oklahoma when I spent time in dark, damp cellars filled with spider webs and jars of vegetables as winds blew above us.

I've endured tornados since then, but not as personally as the April 16 storms which hit Nashville.

The morning after I arrived at work in what seemed to be an unmarked city. Then I went out to start checking on other Baptist entities. I experienced the devastation.

It was like I remembered from the storms of my childhood. An eerie silence remained. It may be the lack of sounds emitting from the many machines which run our lives.

That silence was combined with shock on people's faces. When I arrived at Edgefield Church here that morning, Terry Carver, pastor, was in shock.

The silence in the gorgeous structure contrasted with the activity on the street. But the activity wasn't people cleaning up the damaged trees and roofing materials or working on the damaged church. Secret service agents milled about. It was apparent from their appearance they had not been in-

convenienced by the tornados. Vice President Al Gore was expected to tour the damage.

When I got back in my car and started the route home around fallen tree limbs and power poles, I prayed for Edgefield. And when I got back to the office, I contacted Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director.

No, he didn't know about Edgefield Church, he said. Communication by regular telephones was impossible. Yes, said Tim, as he left the office to begin a feeding program in just a few hours, he would try to help the church.

And in hours a Disaster Relief team was doing just that.

When I worshiped with Edgefield Church in a darkened foyer on April 19, Carver

reported on the help provided by the team. Their timing was providential, he said, because he had no way to do what was needed to protect the building from upcoming rains.

So thanks to the following who served on that team. Team members were Archie King, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood director of Murfreesboro; Don Davis of Nashville; Darrell Whaley of Walter Hill; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moore, Gabriel Moore, and Gerold Sullivan of Murfreesboro.

And thanks to the other Baptists who will help the church, which has many needs, and other storm victims.

Tennessee Baptists, together we're much more than any one of us is alone. *B&R*

How many kinds of 'furniture' are in your church?

from the church

by Martin Babb,
associate pastor/education,
Springfield Church,
Springfield

Part of being a dutiful husband is acknowledging the superiority of the female when it comes to picking out household furniture for its aesthetic value rather than its practicality. It works perfectly in my marriage because I was born without the furniture-placement chromosome. Fortunately, this requirement was not very high on Beverly's list

when she was searching for a husband ... although I did qualify for number 4 — breathing. But, enough about my good points.

I need to visit with you a few minutes about a serious and dangerous capitalist concept that is making its way into our living rooms ... a concept so heinous and barbaric it could soon become an HBO special, or be a topic on the *Jerry Springer Show*. Yes, I'm talking about inflatable furniture.

I know what you are thinking — California. Wrong. This time they are innocent. One of the main U.S. distributors is in Illinois (the "s" is silent). In-

flatable items now available include sofas, chairs, pillows, clocks, tulips, and ottomans.

Call me old-fashioned, but I draw the line at blow-up plastic furniture ... well, maybe if it has a can holder and a slot for the remote. I have enough trouble trying to fit my body on one of those water rafts in the pool without having to wrestle with one in the living room. I don't want to sit on any piece of furniture that when I make contact it sounds like someone squeezed a moose.

It takes all kinds, doesn't it? Look at your own home and see how many different styles of furniture are there. That's exactly the way it is in God's

house. Each person is different, each with a different function, some of us with inflated opinions of ourselves, but all coming together under the motif of Christianity.

It is similar to Paul's analogy about us being the body of Christ — he just did not have access to a lot of furniture choices. Either way, we all need each other to make God's house what he would have it to be.

One more thing. Like the plastic furniture must be filled with air to serve its purpose, we must be filled with the breath of God to fulfill ours. If we are filled with anything else, we are headed for deflation. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

April - May

- 29 — Pray for new missionaries Mark and Linda Creech, Paul and Elaine Lambach, and Rex and Becky Hunter as they await visas to enter Brazil for language study.
- 30 — Pray for a search committee seeking a Baptist Center director in Michigan.
- 1 — Pray for nine summer missionaries who will work with children in Rio de Janeiro.
- 2 — Pray for the state Bible Drill/Speakers Tournament today in Burton, Mich.
- 3 — Pray for the Nong Khammountry family of the Laotian church in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. Family members were killed and injured in a car accident.
- 4 — Pray for the training conference for association leaders in Michigan May 16.
- 5 — Pray for the Baptist seminary in Costa Rica and its leaders and students.

Tennesseans explore partnership ...

— Continued from page 1

"The missionaries in Portugal feel it is a strategic time in their country," he observed. "Doors are open and there are needs Tennessee Baptists can meet," he added.

Among the needs are evangelism and church planting. Portugal missionaries also said volunteers talented in music and creative ministries would be welcome as would individuals who could teach conversational English.

Sharp noted that like Poland there will not be as many projects in Portugal as there will be in Costa Rica and Brazil, two of Tennessee Baptists current partnerships.

Yet, the partnership will provide Tennessee Baptists another option to serve while helping the Baptists of Portugal, Sharp noted, adding they are eager for the prayer support and relationships they will build from partnering with Tennessee Baptists.

Tim Bearden, leader of the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group of the Executive Board ministries, agreed the volunteer opportunities in Portugal are great.

What's more, Bearden said Tennessee and Portugal Baptists have the opportunity to "reach beyond the boundaries of both countries to touch the lives of unreached people groups."

The southern part of Portugal is a resort area where many Europeans come for vacations, Bearden and Sharp reported.

In addition there are old Portuguese colonies in northern Africa and Portuguese Baptists have a deep concern for those people, Bearden added.

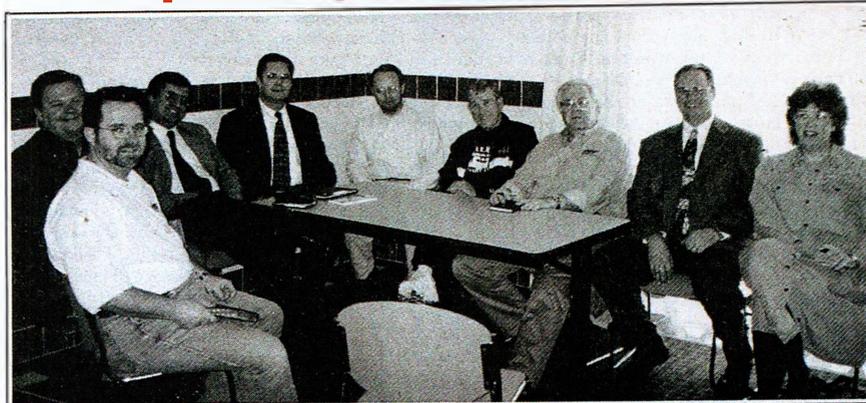
Michael Smith, president of the Executive Board and pastor of Second Church, Memphis, noted the team had a very positive experience in Portugal.

"There is an enormous need in Portugal for some of the things we might be able to offer through a partnership," he observed.

He is convinced Portuguese Baptists would "welcome Tennessee Baptists with open arms and work with us to advance the cause of Christ" in the country.

TBC President Doug Sager, pastor of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, said the visit to Portugal was very encouraging.

"The enthusiasm of our missionaries was contagious. They see a great potential for ministry there."



DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED Tennessee/Portugal partnership are, from left, Terry Sharp, missionary Glenn Watson, Paulo Pascoal, Portugal pastor and missions director for the Portugal Baptist Convention; missionary Steve Ford, Michael Smith, Doug Sager, James Porch, and missionaries Steve and Tammie Smith. — Photos by Tim Bearden

The team attended a church service in Lisbon the Sunday they were there and TBC Executive Director James Porch preached.

"The church we visited was very much alive and into praise and worship," Sager observed.

"The Baptists there are warm and friendly. We felt right at home from the very beginning. As Dr. Porch preached in the evening service, a missionary enthusiastically translated the message and the people responded openly and sincerely."

Sager was impressed with the meeting with Portuguese Baptist leaders. "They want to see more people reached for Christ and their churches strengthened.

"As we walked together, we found our desire for spiritual renewal a strong bond that pulled our hearts together. Portugal is a beautiful country filled with warm, friendly people who desperately need to know Jesus.

"My prayer is that we will be able to work out the part-



MISSIONARY STEVE FORD, second from right, welcomes Tennessee Baptists, from left, Michael Smith, James Porch, and Doug Sager to Igreja Evangelica Baptista in Lisbon.

nership and I believe that Tennessee Baptists can be part of a spiritual awakening in Portugal," Sager said.

Porch noted that "once again Tennessee Baptists will have the opportunity to expand their mission effort upon the whole world through the Portugal mission.

"I believe we can join with the Portuguese Baptists and our missionaries there to touch many lives with the message of Christ," Porch said. **B&R**



TBC PRESIDENT Doug Sager, right, visits with Portugal missionaries Norman and Gunita Harrell in the city of Portimao.

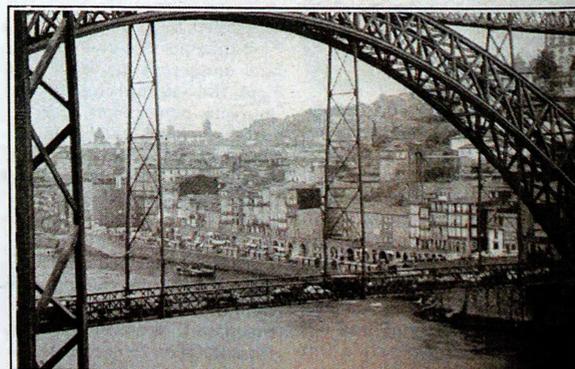


Portugal at a glance

- 11 million people in the country
- 316 counties in Portugal, 73 of which has no evangelical congregation of any kind
- Less than 1 percent of Portugal is evangelical
- Poorest country in the European community
- Predominantly Roman Catholic in culture
- 63 Baptist churches in country with about 5,000 Baptists
- Evangelical missionaries are half as numerous as the 600 Mormon missionaries
- About 40 Southern Baptist missionaries



ABOVE, this church illustrates the strong Catholic influence in Portugal. It is located at a site where people there believe Mary appeared. People still trek there annually to pray and light candles. **BELOW**, the city of Porto on the north central coast of Portugal.



In his life, for congregation

Pastor sees miracles as he begins rural church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — About 10 years ago Mike Eady of Smyrna was a broken man. Though a former pastor, he wasn't attending church. He had been through some "difficult times personally," he told participants of a "Reaching People Through Church Planting Conference" April 16-17 at the Baptist Center here.

But one day he spent some time reading his Bible. That day Eady wrote his desires in the back of his Bible. One of them was to serve once again as pastor of a church.

Several years later Eady was driving in a rural area of Smyrna and saw a for sale sign on some land which included a double-wide trailer. He immediately thought the site would be a good one for a church although he still wasn't regularly attending a church.

Eady felt so strongly that he contacted the owner and started making plans to buy the property.

He changed his mind, however, after talking with his family.

Today, almost 10 years later, Living Springs Mission is located on that site. The congregation, which was started by Eady, has grown to about 100 members in three years. And on a recent Sunday about 140 people were drawn to the church. Naturally, the congregation has outgrown the trailer, but it also has outgrown a new building which is being constructed on the land.

All of this has occurred because of a series of God-directed miracles, claimed Eady.

For instance, God kept working in his life despite his actions, which for several years didn't acknowledge God.

God not only forgave him, but directed him to Christian work. For four years, Eady operated a Christian radio station.

During this period, he felt led to hold prayer meetings at the station. Eady didn't know it then, but that prayer group was the beginning of Living Springs Mission.

God also kept the land available for six years.

And God has led the congregation in phenomenal ways, said Eady.

When Eady and the prayer group felt led to try to start a congregation, God led Eady to Concord Association and Jim Powers, director of missions.

The association gave the beginning congregation \$10,000 toward land and helped Eady access a salary supplement provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Powers also has been supportive personally, said Eady.

"When you're starting a church you'd better have somebody that you can go to with your problems," Eady said, referring to Powers. Powers was quick to respond to the praise. "We think God is the



VISITING during the conference are, from left, Mark Hobafcovici, language missions director, Nashville Association; Bill George, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries; and Mike Eady, pastor, Living Springs Mission, Smyrna.

one who is directing all of this," he said.

Powers and Eady also began thinking about a sponsoring church. They contacted Stones River Church, Smyrna.

The congregation and Ross Maroney, pastor, were very helpful, said Eady. And although the two congregations were located about five miles from each other, Stones River Church agreed to sponsor Living Springs Mission.

Eady praised Stones River for supporting Living Springs financially and spiritually.

Stones River has chosen to be a "Kingdom church" rather than a self-centered one, Eady told conferees. Because of its actions, God continues to bless it and it continues to grow, he added.



When Living Springs was ready to build a new facility, Powers helped the congregation tap into resources at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation based here.

In response to the support by Southern Baptists, Living Springs is giving 7 percent to the Cooperative Program and 3 percent to the association.

The church planting effort hasn't been easy, admitted Eady. The congregation is located in a rural area. It's initial

core was senior adults. And the congregation comes from a blue-collar economic strata.

But soon the congregation plans to begin a day care ministry. And last year the congregation baptized 30 people who became Christians. However, Eady told conference participants, "We can't be satisfied.

"If we're going to reach communities for Christ, we're going to have to build churches."

He's a "sold out Southern Baptist," said Eady, because the cooperative efforts of the denomination's churches allow small churches to accomplish great things.

"I just stand amazed at what God does," Eady said. ■

Army National Guard member gives Bibles to Hondurans

For Baptist and Reflector

LOS POZOS, Honduras — Second Lt. Mark Perkins of Humboldt humbly calls himself "just a paperboy for God."

In fact, the 37-year-old Tennessee Army National Guard chaplain candidate led his fellow citizen-soldiers in an effort that obtained nearly 2,600 copies of the New Testament in Spanish and arranged for their distribution throughout West-Central Honduras to residents unable to afford them.

The Honduras Bible Mission, as the self-employed carpet cleaner named it, involved numerous West Tennessee churches as well as nearly every soldier of the Huntington-based 230th Engineer (Combat) Battalion.

Perkins believes in the project. He is an active member of Northbrook Church, Humboldt. During his last four years as an enlisted man, he organized chapel services on Sundays for his unit and counseled fellow soldiers. Now a second lieutenant, he got his commission in 1996 so he could become a chaplain.

He said the project began in May 1997 when he learned that elements of the 230th

would do their two-week annual training in Honduras supporting New Horizons 1998, an ongoing military-training, humanitarian, and civic action exercise between U.S. Army South and Central American governments.

National Guard engineers from throughout the U.S. have been deploying to Honduras for their two-week annual training. While there they are building several schools and medical clinics and drilling fresh-water wells.

Prior to deployment to Central America, Perkins called Honduran missionaries to ask whether they needed any Bibles.

"The Lord gave me the idea," he said. "I found out in June they needed all the Bibles we could get — the Reina Valera 1960 version read there."

So the hunt was on but he had to move double-time: The huge container carrying the 230th's equipment and supplies was due to be shipped in October.

In short order, he enlisted help by sending letters explaining the opportunity to the battalion's three companies and three detachments, and

the 194th Engineer Brigade headquarters in Jackson.

Guardsmen there rallied to the cause.

First sergeants read the letter to their morning formation and passed out forms for soldiers to take to their churches.

Many churches sponsored a case of Bibles, Perkins said. Others sponsored two or three, while individuals gave up to \$100.

Through the Tennessee churches and Weakley County Association's Women's Missionary Union, Perkins raised nearly \$3,500. And the 230th contributed a case.

In all, Perkins bought or received 2,560 Bibles. He used late contributions to buy 42 full study Bibles; 100 copies of a book on Christ; 20 children's study Bibles; and 20 copies of a tract on marriage and family issues. He credited a religious book store for selling him many items at cost.

When the battalion arrived in Honduras, another job faced Perkins. With only five weeks of service time, Perkins said he got help that was truly divine.

"Every time we've gone into an area or remote site, God has sent key people to distrib-

ute the Bibles and to teach the Word — mayors, city councilmen, case workers, prison ministers, pastors," he said. Three cases went to the base chaplain at Soto Cano Air Base, which is a Honduran and U.S. military base about two hours from the exercise site.

Civil-military authorities arranged for him to make deliveries to churches, whether Catholic or evangelical, as well as schools and orphanages in several cities.

Because Hondurans pass along books to their children and grandchildren "until the books are worn out," the project's impact could go on from generation to generation, Perkins said.

And he does not want to see the project end when the building and drilling work is finished. His goal is to network churches in Tennessee with churches and schools in Honduras to keep the supply of Bibles going.

"My prayer is that they (the Bibles) impact the Honduran people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. "I want to connect them with the living God through Jesus Christ, whatever their background," said Perkins. ■

Ceremony held to mark addition to BSU Center

For Baptist and Reflector

MARTIN — A groundbreaking ceremony for an addition to the Baptist Student Union Center at the University of Tennessee — Martin was held April 19.

Speakers were from Beulah Association and its member churches and Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

The BSU center was built in 1960 when the enrollment of University of Tennessee — Martin was 965 students. The school has a current enrollment of 6,000 students.

The new addition to the center will include a 3,200-square-foot building added to the back of the student center. The area will be used for worship and other activities.

Four Mississippi River Ministry teams will be leading the construction. Plans are for the addition to be completed in time for the fall semester. ■

TLW message goes to Washington, state capitol

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Three True Love Waits officials from the Baptist Sunday School Board and two Virginia teenagers peddled the advantages of sexual abstinence until marriage to some of the nation's power elite, April 21-22.

In Washington, the group, which included Richard Ross, Jimmy Hester, and Clyde Hall of the BSSB, made rounds visiting Surgeon General David Satcher, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississipi,

and 11 other U.S. senators and members of the House of Representatives to educate them about the successes of the five-year-old True Love Waits movement.

True Love Waits is an international campaign that challenges teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The movement was created in 1993 by a group at the BSSB in response to perceived teenage willingness to be sexually abstinent, but an uncertainty about how they would be perceived by their peers.

In addition Baptist leaders from state conventions are carrying the same message to their own legislators.

Don Mauldin of the TBC Executive Board's Church Growth Development Group left a True Love Waits report with several key Tennessee

legislators earlier this month. The report indicated that 5,425 TLW commitments were made in Tennessee in 1997 and early 1998. ■



True Love Waits presentation

Don Mauldin, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Christian Growth Development Group, and Bill Bates, center, TBC public affairs consultant, present Tennessee Lt. Gov. John Wilder a copy of the 1998 True Love Waits report. Mauldin left information with other legislators to educate them on the successes of the True Love Waits program nationwide and in Tennessee.



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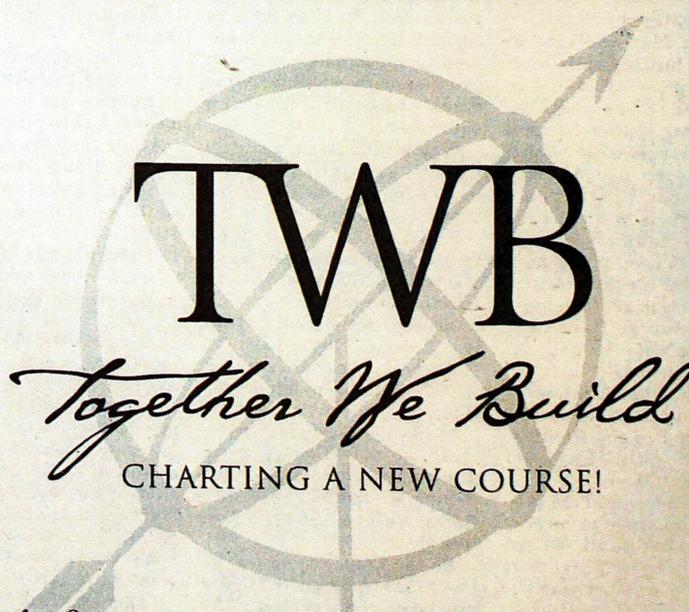


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Tennesseans named to SBC committees, boards



Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Appointments to the SBC Committee on Committees to serve during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Salt Lake City, Utah, have been announced by SBC President Tom Elliff.

Also, nominees to serve on the SBC Executive Committee, the four denominational boards (International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and Annuity Board), the six SBC seminaries, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and the Resolutions, Credentials, and Tellers committees have been announced by the Committee on Nominations.

Appointments to the Committee on Committees must be announced "at least 45 days" in advance of the SBC meeting. The committee has 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities.

SBC Bylaw 21 says the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the

sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." The usual responsibility of the committee is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the various national SBC entities.

Nominated from Tennessee are Ernie Owens, layperson, First Church, Millington, and Richard Holden, pastor, First Church, Alcoa.

Nominees were announced by the Committee on Nominations for the following entities.

Executive Committee: Jerry Tidwell, pastor, West Jackson Church, Jackson, replacing Bob Sorrell of Cordova who declined to serve a second term.

Annuity Board: Wayne M. Rodgers, Collierville, nominated to second term.

IMB: Randy C. Davis, senior pastor, First Church, Morristown, replacing Bill Blanchard, Soddy-Daisy.

SSB: Kenneth W. Jones, member, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, replaced Robert C. Pitman, Memphis; Bruce Robinson, Knoxville, nominated for second term.

Southern Seminary: Bruce Benton, member, Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, replacing

Fred A. Steelman, Chattanooga, who resigned.

New Orleans Seminary: Glen R. Putman, pastor, Ellendale Church, Ellendale, replacing Morris L. Anderson, who moved out of state.

Credentials Committee: Brad Whitt, Brighton.

Tellers Committee: Danny Sinqueville, Bartlett.

Those nominated will serve if elected by messengers in Salt Lake City. ■

Watertown organist celebrates 55 years of ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

WATERTOWN — At the age of 11 Jean Dibrell Jennings began playing the organ at First Church, Sparta.

Fifty-five years later, she is still playing, now at First Church, here, where she has been since 1950. For several years she alternated with another organist before settling in full time about 30 years ago.

The Watertown congregation honored Jennings for her 55 years of music ministry on April 26.

Looking back, Jennings says she knew nothing about the organ when she started. "The feet threw me," she laughed.

But a persistent grandmother made her practice and it paid off despite the fact she never had a lesson.

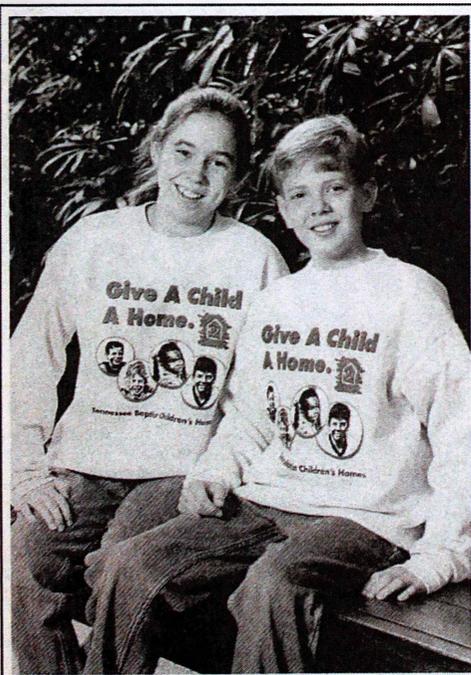
When she began the only hymn she knew was "Glory to His Name." "We played that for about four weeks before the song leader asked if I could learn another song," she laughed.

In addition to her regular duties Jennings estimates she has played at about 450 funerals.

Her music ministry has been rewarding, she says. "It's been a great experience." ■



MIKE OVERCASH, right, presents a certificate from Julian Suggs, TBC church music specialist, to church organist Jean Jennings as Tim Crosby, pastor of First Church, Watertown, looks on. Overcash, a TBC Executive Board Ministries staffer, ended a year's stay as interim director of music at the church. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



This Mother's Day, remember the special mothers in your life by helping us give children in crisis a safe, loving home like she gave you.

Your gifts to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Mother's Day Offering give over 450 children in Tennessee each year a warm, secure home where hurts can be healed and lives changed for eternity.

Our 1998 Mother's Day Offering goal of \$1,375,000 will continue this ministry of hope and healing. Use the Mother's Day Offering envelopes provided by your church to **designate your gift in honor or memory of a special mother.** Or mail your gift to TBCH at the address below.

We are thankful to Tennessee Baptists for entrusting us with this ministry to children through our residential, foster, family preservation, alternative care for unwed mothers and counseling programs. Please come visit any of our 11 locations and see for yourself the difference your gifts are making. Just like your mom, we'd love to tell you about our children.

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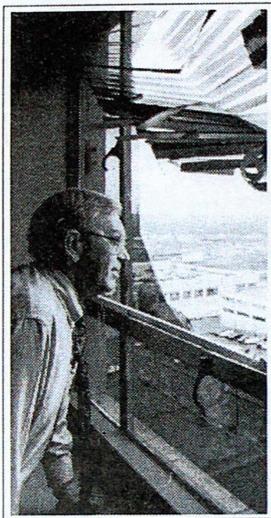


Dr. Gerald L. Stow, TBCH
President/Treasurer

SBC facilities damaged

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention building and Sunday School Board complex were damaged by tornados which ravaged an esti-



DAVID CARTER of the church stewardship services department at the Baptist Sunday School Board assesses damage in downtown Nashville from his ninth floor office building which was damaged minutes earlier when tornados ripped through the city April 16. — Photo by Jim Veneman

mated 300 buildings in the downtown area here on April 16.

One BSSB employee was reported injured after a tornado hit the facilities around 3:30 p.m., forcing several hundred employees to take shelter in their respective buildings. A second tornado struck another part of the downtown area.

The Sunday School Board closed April 17, in response to emergency officials' pleas that offices in the debris-laden downtown close for safety reasons; the SBC Building across the street operated on limited staffing.

More than 20 windows were damaged at the SBC facility.

At the BSSB complex, preliminary estimates showed minor damage to each building, with broken and damaged windows, antennas down, and two parking lot security booths destroyed.

On the parking lots, several cars of employees had windows blown out. One car was picked up and moved several feet.

"Overall, we were greatly spared," said Jim Shull, director of the corporate services department. ■

Classified

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Church seeks full-time minister of music with some church staff experience to oversee age-graded choirs from preschool through college age. Send resumes with references to Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Attn: David Rankin or fax to (423) 523-6658.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: General secretarial, desktop publishing skills; PC computer with win95 experience. Must be self-motivated with good people skills. Send resume to 3475 Lebanon Road, Hermitage, TN 37076.

FOR SALE: 9 foot Baldwin artist series grand piano, mint condition, call (615) 327-0800.

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Minister of Music/Worship

Part-time position at Contemporary Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet. Direct and grow our present music/worship ministry including leading: a worship band, choir, and congregational worship. Must have desire, experience and ability to carry out a creative approach in both traditional and contemporary musical styles. Must be Spiritually mature and willing to help develop this new "type" of church. Call Pastor John Ledford at (615) 754-2939 to discuss if you may be God's person for this job. Or, pass this information on to someone who might "fit" this ministry.

RA Congress at Union University nets decisions for Jesus Christ

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 44th annual Royal Ambassador Congress held April 9-11 at Union University, Jackson, resulted in 15 decisions for Christ, according to Bob Davison, Baptist Men's Ministries Children's Missions Awareness specialist.

"There were 13 decisions made during the Friday night worship session," Davison reported. Of those decisions, one was for salvation, nine were for rededication, and three were for prayer/other items, he said.

"Since Congress, we have received calls stating that two others made salvation decisions, which were related to the Congress," he added.

Congress attendance totaled 806. Partici-

pants collected a missions offering totaling \$2,321.53 through the Missions Carnival, 5K Walk/Run for Missions, and the Friday night offering.



DAVISON

This year's special guest at the Congress was Kid's Touring Company of Roanoke, Texas, who presented a multi-media interactive stage show with popular Christian Saturday morning cartoon characters.

"We have received many good comments and feel that the Congress was a great success due to the RA workers, leaders, and participants," Davison said.

Next year's Congress is scheduled for Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, on April 1-3. ■ — Marcia Knox

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Right decisions

By Mike Rogers

Focal Passage — 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31

The world in which we live is complex and at times just plain overwhelming. We are in the midst of an information revolution. Computer systems, technology, and the knowledge of mankind is growing and changing at such a rate that it is almost beyond our comprehension. We face complex issues and decisions that sometimes seem far removed from the issues addressed in the Bible. Yet, human nature has remained the same, sin continues to plague us, and our most viable solution to life is Jesus Christ. Many people question whether the Bible is even relevant in our times. Nothing could be further from the truth. Careful study produces the answers we search for, when the Holy Spirit is our teacher. God's Kingdom principles are timeless and relevant to every aspect of life.

This week we are identifying several key principles that God may use to guide us when we are in the midst of making decisions in situations where right vs. wrong is not easily determined. The longer I live, the more I realize the complexity of life situations and the need for understanding God's will. Learning some guiding principles from the Bible can help us recognize God at work around us.

Making decisions that edify

The first key principle is found in verses 23-24. In this passage Paul points out three key considerations when you find yourself in the "gray areas" between right and wrong. He says that not all things are advantageous or helpful. It is not that some things might be wrong within themselves, but rather they might hinder another's faith if you choose to do them. He also said that not all things "build up" or "edify" one another. Therefore, we would choose wisely to not do them.

Making decisions that honor God

The second key principle is found in verse 31. Here Paul encourages us to do all that we do for the glory of God. It is important for us to ask: Will our decision exalt God? Will our action honor God? Will our action cause others to be drawn to him or repelled from him? We must consider our actions in terms of their consequences. How will they impact God's Kingdom, the people around us, and our relationship with God?

Making decisions that do not cause other believers to stumble

The third key principle is found in chapter 8:9. In this verse Paul tells his brothers and sisters in Christ to be careful not to do something that might cause another brother to stumble. Each of us are at a different place in our walk with Christ. Often young believers are caught up in many dos and don'ts that may not have any biblical origin. They may be easily shaped by cultural Christianity. Older believers can also be caught up in cultural Christianity. We must always consider the influence of our actions upon those around us. It is important that we abstain from things that might confuse or cause others to fall.

Prayer and daily Bible study provide great opportunities for God to develop within us a greater sensitivity to others. Grace and self-control are the fruit God gives as his Holy Spirit develops greater sensitivity within us. — 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.

Teaching in word pictures

By Billy Murphy

Focal Passage — Mark 4:1-10, 26-34

In the Gospels, we find Jesus as Messiah, Savior, Great Physician, miracle worker, and preacher. In this lesson, he is teacher. He was most effective because he "put the manna down where the people could get it." That is, he taught his way and explained his Kingdom in language that the untrained mind could understand. Jesus, says Mark, "taught them many things by parables."

A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a meaning deeper than is at first apparent. The lowliest peasant in Palestine knew what he meant. Jesus did not drown his hearers in doctrine; he gave them illustrations out of their own lives. Jesus was anxious that his hearers know what his Kingdom was. In a way, the illustrations for this lesson are more "sayings" (short pithy sayings that give forth a great light) than parables.

Family Bible Lesson

Although Jesus sometimes taught in the temple or synagogues, he most often taught in the "out of doors." On the occasion of our first short story, Jesus entered into a fishing boat and taught the crowds on the shore. The word "hearken" in verse 3 is a key to the parables as a whole and to this parable in particular. The word means to hear or to listen with the expectation of heeding or acting upon what was heard.

The parable of the sower (soils) is especially a parable of hearing because it shows how the hearers can respond in a variety of ways to the same message. All of Galilee was rural country, and the figure of a farmer sowing seed was very familiar to Jesus' hearers.

This parable reflects a distinctive first-century procedure. The seed was sown before the ground was ever tilled or

plowed leaving the seeds very close to the surface. There were various soil conditions depicted in Jesus' story, which is demonstrative of the types of responses to the message of God. What kind of hearer are we?

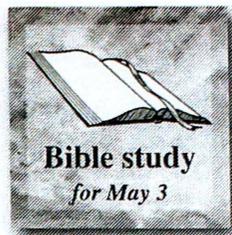
The next story calls attention to a light. When one brings a candle into a dark room, one does not hide it under a bushel or under a bed, but places it where it can throw its light through the darkness in all directions. Think of Christ's truth as that light that comes into the world to dispel the darkness in which men stumble.

He refused to hide that truth. At the risk of his life, he defied those who wanted him to hide it; he took it out into the highways and the hedges; he held the truth high on a candlestick of courage. The Gospel is to be heard not hidden.

Jesus asked his hearers to listen carefully, for the measure you get in listening depends on what you give in undivided attention. If one studies the words of Jesus a little, then one will receive a little in return; study them deeply and "deep will call unto deep." Worship half-heartedly, and one will live with half a heart. Half-hearted Christians usually lose the half they have (v. 25); full-hearted Christians get more, more, and more from Christ. This is the law of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom is as a seed, growing — not a sudden miracle, nor the product of human hands. Man cannot create the Kingdom. That is what God does. We can help or hinder its growth, but, ultimately, the power of development is in the power and will of God. We cannot see the Kingdom grow any more than we can see a seed grow — but it grows.

In Palestine, the seed of the mustard plant was the smallest of all seeds, yet it grew into bushes as big as trees. The Kingdom is like that; it grows from silent, humble, small beginnings to something magnificent. Jesus said, "If you have faith as (small as) a grain of mustard seed ..." you can move mountains. It is not the quantity of the seed that produces the miracle, but the quality of the faith. — Murphy is Computer Consultant for West Carroll Special School District and a bivocational pastor, Howse Church, Atwood.



Salvation and fellowship

By James Growden

Focal Passage — Galatians 2:11-21

The title of this lesson is of great importance to all of us. Peter came to visit Antioch. The city was the third largest in the Roman Empire, and Paul and Barnabas ministered extensively there. Many believe Paul wrote Galatians from Antioch. Perhaps Peter wanted to witness first hand the many Gentile conversions that were occurring in Antioch.

Upon Peter's arrival, Paul confronted him for his inconsistent behavior among the Gentile converts. Regardless of the Judaizer's claim, Paul did not feel inferior to Peter. He saw himself as having equal authority with the apostle.

The Judaizers accused Paul of watering down the Gospel to make it easier for Gentiles to accept, while Paul accused the Judaizers of nullifying the truth of the Gospel by adding to it certain conditions. The basis of salvation was the issue — is salvation through Christ alone, or does it come through Christ and adherence to the law? The argument came to a head when Peter, Paul, the Judaizers, and some Gentile Christians all gathered together in Antioch to share a meal.

Peter probably thought that by staying aloof from the Gentiles he was promoting harmony — he did not want to offend the friends of James.

Explore the Bible Lesson

But Paul charged that Peter's actions violated the Gospel. By joining the Judaizers, Peter implicitly supported their claim that Christ was not sufficient for salvation.

Compromise is an important element in getting along with others, but we should never compromise the truth of God's Word. If we feel we have to change our Christian beliefs to match those of our friends, we are on very dangerous ground. It can only lead to more trouble than we need as Christians. The devil will give us all the trouble we can handle. The devil leads us to compromise. Do not do it.

Verse 16 tells us the law could never make a person right before God. Justification is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. This verse is the heart of Galatians — justification through faith. The word "justification" refers to God's action of declaring sinners righteous on the basis of Christ's death on the cross.

The law has an important role to play in the life of a Christian. The law: (1) guards us from sin by giving us standards for behavior; (2) convicts us of sin, leaving us the opportunity to "get in tune" with God by asking his forgiveness; (3) drives us to true suffi-

ciency of Christ because we can never keep the commandments perfectly. This gives a Christian a valuable guide for living a life pleasing to God.

Examination of verses 17-19 tells us God's plan of salvation did not/does not rest upon keeping the law (works). God has provided a way of salvation that depends on Jesus and his action on our behalf. We are acceptable to God only by trusting Christ to take away our sin. Praise the Lord.

In what sense have we (Christians) been crucified with Christ? Legally, God looks at us as if we died with Christ. Relationally, we have become one with him. In our daily life, we have had to crucify sinful desires that have tried to keep us from following him.

Verse 21 has a real message for Christians today. We are in danger of treating Christ's death as meaningless. How? By having our own brand of legalism, giving people extra laws to obey before accepting them into fellowship, by believing they can "earn" salvation by works, by focusing on only God's power to change us rather than giving equal time to God's power to save us.

If we could be saved by being good, then Christ did not need to die. However, the cross and resurrection are the events which secure our salvation and fellowship with Christ. — Growden is a teacher and a bivocational pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville.



■ **Trinity Church, Cookeville**, will hold revival May 11-15.

■ **Tony Evans**, nationally-known author and speaker, will bring his "Victorious Christian Life Conference" to **First Church, Morristown**, May 15-16. Evans blends practical biblical insight with music and humor to help people of all ages improve their Christian walk along with helping their families, churches, and communities. For more information, contact the church at (423) 586-0522.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will hold revival May 3-6. Speakers include Bobby Sanders of First Church, Corona; Glenn Denton, pastor, Hillcrest Church, Lebanon; Kevin Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Church, Nashville; and Harold Carman of Gallatin. Several meals also are provided. For more information, call (615) 754-2575.

■ **Poplar Corner Church, Bells**, will hold revival May 10-15. Johnny Rushing of Franklin will speak and Bill McCage of Jackson will lead the music.

■ **Meridian Church, Knoxville**, will hold a Spring Renewal Revival May 1-3. Jack Smith of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., will speak.

■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will hold revival May 1-13. Winston Wagner, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, will speak.

■ **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, will hold a "Women's Weekend" May 15-17. Mamie McCullough, author and speaker, will speak. Miss Tennessee Lana Keck and Mary McDonald, composer, will perform. Contact the church at (423) 688-2421, for more information.

■ **Blessed Hope Church, Troy**, will hold a revival for people with hearing limitations and ministry training May 30-31. Jim Booth of Jackson, Miss., will lead revival sessions. Training will include Introduction to Sign Language, Basic Church Interpreting Skills, and Bible Study for the Deaf.

■ **Lakeview Church, Tip-topville**, will hold homecoming activities May 3.

■ **First Church, Lawrenceburg**, is holding a "Go Tell Lawrenceburg" crusade April 26 - May 3. Carey Miller is speaking. For more informa-

tion, call the church at (931) 762-9296.

■ **Rocky Hill Church, Knoxville**, will hold a Family Enrichment Conference May 1-3. Bob Taylor who was with the Baptist Sunday School Board will speak.

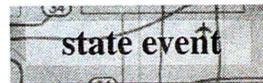


■ **McMinn-Meigs Association** will hold a Youth Rally May 8 at Central Church, Athens. Part of the activities will include True Love Waits, the program which promotes sexual abstinence. For more information, contact the association at (423) 745-2248.

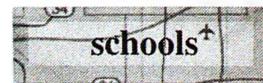
■ **Knox County Association** will train Vacation Bible School workers May 4, June 1 and 22. For more information, call the association at (423) 693-9097.

■ A team from **Beulah Association** will serve in Iowa July 18-25. For more information, contact the office at (901) 885-2151.

■ **Concord Association** will hold a World Missions Conference May 2-3. Activities include a Missions Fair and Rally at Third Church, Murfreesboro, on May 2 and visits by 37 missionaries to churches on May 3.



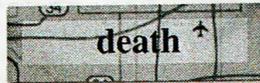
■ **Camp Linden** near Linden, is celebrating its 50th anniversary during 1998. An open house will be held May 23-24 for former campers and employees. The staff also is asking people to write letters about their experiences at the camp, which will be used in anniversary activities. Send letters to the camp at Route 4, Box 131, Linden, TN 37096.



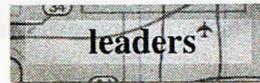
■ A commentary by Karen Mulder of **Union University, Jackson**, was featured on the cover of *Christianity Today* in its April 6 edition. Mulder's commentary focuses on seven contemporary artists and their artwork on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Mulder is assistant professor of art and art history at the school.

■ **Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, will hold Alumni Day May 2. Activities include a golf tournament, class reunions, a silent auction, and evening banquet. For more information, contact the

academy at (423) 573-8321.



■ **Doug McPherson**, 57, pastor, Cedar Grove Church, Maryville, died March 5. He was a member of Tennessee Baptist Convention Committee on Boards. McPherson also had served as pastor of several churches in Texas. He was a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, and mother. Memorials may be made to the church's renovation fund at 5302 Nails Creek Road, Maryville, TN 37804 or the American Heart Association.



■ **Pleasant Hill Church, Martin**, has licensed **J. Andrew Blackwell** to the ministry. Blackwell is minister of youth.

■ **Eastside Church, Burns**, has called **Kent Travis Robbins** as associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Formerly he was minister of music and youth, First Church, Damascus, Md. Robbins is a gradu-

ate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Louisiana College, Pineville. He also has served a church in Kentucky and Louisiana, as a two-year journeyman with the International Mission Board in the Caribbean, and as a summer music missionary in Louisiana.

■ **Guy Farris**, pastor, Woodcliff Church, Monterrey, recently celebrated his 40th year in the ministry.

■ **Stacy Michael**, missionary serving in Indonesia, will be welcomed home by Mount Calvary Church, Whitwell June 28.

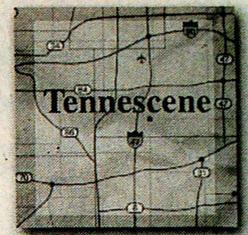
■ **Byron Barnes** has been called as minister of music, Rome Church, Lebanon.

■ **Hickman Church, Hickman**, has called **Terry Meithe**, a teacher at Belmont University, Nashville, as interim pastor.

■ **Dillard Mynatt**, retired pastor, First Church, Oak Ridge, has been called as interim pastor, First Church, Maryville.

■ **Russell Liles**, minister of youth/children/activities, First Church, Lawrenceburg, has resigned, effective May 4.

■ **First Church, Gordonsville**, has called **Jim Carr** of



Oliver Springs as pastor.

■ **Tim Galyon** has been called as minister of music and senior adults, Concord Church, Chattanooga, effective May 10.

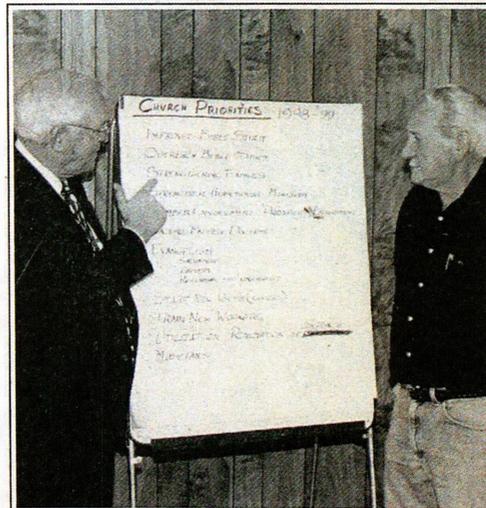
■ **First Church, Livingston**, has called **Scott Thornhill** as associate pastor, music, and education, effective May 31. He will graduate in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Rick McDonald has been serving as interim minister of music.

■ **Chris Fischer** has been called as associate minister of music, Hermitage Hills Church, Nashville.



■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, ordained **Robert Brasfield** as a deacon April 19.

■ **Columbia Hill Church, Clarkrange**, ordained **Jerry Phillips** as a deacon recently.



RITTERTOWN CHURCH, RITTERTOWN, is in the process of working through a church growth plan with Greer Ruble, church growth consultant with Watauga Association. The process includes evaluation of the church, discovering church and community needs, and determining church priorities for a year. The church will then adopt goals. In photo to left, Pastor Frank Proffitt looks over priorities with Sunday School director Ted Smith. Below, is Rittertown's church council which is helping with the process. From left, Polly Proffitt, Betty DeLoach, Sean Brown, Joe Smith, Spurgeon Smith, Tony Little, Greer Ruble, church growth consultant, Pastor Frank Proffitt, Shonette Tolley, Ted Smith, Debra Williams, and Nancy Street.

