

REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

May 6, 1998

this week's news

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Tennessee gambling opponents earn victory

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — At least for now Tennessee is free of legal gambling.

The gambling industry received a major blow May 1 as Tennessee legislators voted against a lottery and an effort to reinstate the state Racing Commission, which was established 11 years ago to license and regulate pari-mutuel horse racing.

Senators voted 16-14 to end the Racing Commission. Proponents needed 17 votes to reinstate the commission which is set to close June 30.

Without the commission a planned \$15 million horse track and simulcast facility in Memphis cannot take place.

Two efforts to remove the word "lottery" from the state constitution failed to materialize on the last day of the 100th General Assembly.

A resolution that would have put the lottery question on the November ballot died on the Senate floor by failing to gain the 22 votes needed to pass. The vote on Sen. Steve Cohen's bill failed 16-15.

Another effort launched by Sen. Ward Crutchfield of Chattanooga also failed.

Crutchfield had proposed a constitutional convention to remove the lottery ban from the

state constitution, but the bill failed to come out of the Senate Finance Committee where five members consistently voted against it.

Prior to the last day Crutchfield considered using a discharge petition which would free the bill from the committee for full Senate vote.

Crutchfield needed only 17 votes to bring the bill to the Senate floor, but *The Chattanooga Times* reported May 2 that Crutchfield's Senate colleagues "fearing that skipping past the committee process would set a bad precedent, declined to support him."

Crutchfield vowed, however, he would be back next year to try again.

Bill Bates, TBC Public Affairs consultant, expressed appreciation to everyone who made phone calls, wrote letters, or contacted legislators in any way. "I believe we had more people involved throughout the state than we ever had before," Bates said.

Bates also cited the efforts of Bobbie Patray and the Eagle Forum and Ann Bennett of Sullivan Association for their efforts against gambling in the state. "Special thanks goes to Dr. James Porch and the staff of the *Baptist and Reflector* who did a good job of covering the story all the way through," Bates added.

Ann Bennett, chairman of the Christian Life Department of Sullivan Association and member of Indian Springs Church, Kingsport, also thanked everyone who worked against the effort to legalize gambling in the state. "For the first time in 11 years, Tennessee is legal gambling free," she said.

Both Bates and Bennett warned, however, gambling opponents cannot rest now.

"We must not go to sleep and think the victories this year have settled it," Bates said. "Sen. Crutchfield has said he will be back and we need to make our people more aware of the dangers of the lottery, horse racing, and all of those things that can destroy our families," he added.

Bates also encouraged education in churches. "We need our churches to begin having sessions regarding gambling and how it can affect all of our lives," he observed.

Bennett noted that "as we thank God we cannot let this victory be lost. We must hold the legislators who voted for gambling accountable for their votes in the primaries in August and the November elections."

And, she continued, it is important to support those legislators who "were God's ministers for the good. ...

"As Christian citizens we must not turn our backs on those who withstood political pressure and voted with us on this issue. "Sen. Crutchfield has promised he'll be back — See Tennessee, page 2

TBC CP gifts jump in April

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Cooperative Program gifts from Tennessee Baptist churches increased significantly during the month of April.

For the month Tennessee Baptists gave \$3,013,011, compared to \$1,919,925 given during the month of March.

After six months of the 1997-98 fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$15,512,376, up 1.43 percent over the same period last year. The year-to-date budget need is \$15,052,757.

"Our giving during the first half of the fiscal year once again is a testimony to the ongoing commitment of Tennessee Baptists to our state, national, and worldwide mission endeavor," said James Porch, TBC executive director. *B&R*



Secretary organization elects leaders

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference was held recently at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. About 150 secretaries attended. New officers of the TBC Secretaries Association include, from left, Betti Owens, First Church, Millington, West Tenn. representative; Susan Gamble, Indian Springs Church, Kingsport, vice president; Cathy Williams, Hickory Hollow Church, Antioch, Nashville, Middle Tenn. representative; and Sarah Farmer, Southwestern Church, Johnson City, president. Not pictured are Sue Belcher, Kingsport, and Ann Beasley, Nashville.

Volunteers prepare 100,000 meals

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Baptist Disaster Relief workers based at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, served 15 days and prepared about 100,000 meals, reported Tim Bearden, state Baptist Disaster Relief director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. The effort shut down last Friday.

Groups of about 25 worked at a time on the parking lot of the church, which was the American Red Cross headquarters for Middle Tennessee victims of April 16 tornados.

A total of 125 Disaster Relief workers prepared from 6,000-11,000 meals a day. The meals were served to victims on site, especially during the first days after the storm because victims stayed in the ARC shelter at the church. Most meals were delivered to victims and helpers working on homes by Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs). Disaster Relief workers also served on the ERVs.

Clean-up, which was coordinated by Don Davis of Two Rivers Church, also drew Baptist Disaster Relief workers.

The feeding effort was the largest in the state. The largest in the U.S. was in 1994 in Florida following Hurricane Andrew.

"I'm grateful for the response of Tennessee volunteers," said Bearden. "Once again they proved their love for Christ by serving others." *B&R*

about your newsjournal

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Tennessee gambling opponents ...

— Continued from page 1 with a gambling bill in January, and we better believe the gamblers know how to count votes.

"They will be involved in the elections. Will church people who care about this issue be in the voting booths for the primaries and general elections?"

She noted the November elections will be very important. We must make gambling an issue," she said, adding that the "gambling industry would like to change a few seats for their benefit too."

Bates urged Tennessee Baptists "to remember in prayer constantly our legislators and staffs, many of whom were dedicated in helping to achieve these successes this year."

According to Bennett the following leg-

islators voted for not reinstating the Racing Commission: Ben Atchley, Knoxville; Tommy Burks, Monterey; Bobby Carter, Jackson; Bill Clabough, Maryville; Rusty Crowe, Johnson City; Gene Elsea, Spring City; David Fowler, Chattanooga; Bud Gilbert, Knoxville; Douglas Henry, Nashville; Roy Herron, Dresden; Tom Leatherwood, Memphis; Randy McNally, Oak Ridge; Jeff Miller, Cleveland; Curtis Person, Memphis; Ronald Ramsey, Blountville; and Micheal Williams, Maynardville.

Voting against the lottery resolution were Atchley, Burks, Carter, Clabough, Elsea, Fowler, Henry, Herron, Keith Jordan, Franklin; Leatherwood, McNally, Person, Ramsey, Williams, and Andy Womack, Murfreesboro. ■



Baptists join struggle in Michigan

Baptist Press

DETROIT — Southern Baptists in Michigan have joined the struggle to keep Detroit from becoming the nation's largest city with casino gambling.

Petitions calling for a statewide referendum in November have been circulating for several months through the state's 261 Southern Baptist churches and 56 missions, said Michael Collins, executive director of the Michigan Baptist Convention. There are about 43,000 Southern Baptists in the state.

Officials say 247,127 signatures of registered voters are needed on the petitions by May 27 for the measure to appear on the ballot. The referendum is necessary to overturn a 1996 statewide vote that approved casino gambling in the state by a 51-49 percent margin.

"We're praying there will be enough signatures to get this back on the ballot," Collins said. "Once that is accomplished, we feel there will be enough time to educate the public so we can win in November." ■

Campbell takes stand against Sunday competition

Baptist Press

BUIES CREEK, N.C. — A North Carolina Baptist college

once again is taking a stand against competing on Sundays.

Campbell University President Norman A. Wiggins is requesting an override vote of NCAA Proposal 989-32 approved by the NCAA Division 1 board of directors April 23 to eliminate the requirement that NCAA championship schedules be adjusted to accommodate a school's policy against Sunday competition.

Campbell left the Big South Conference several years ago over the issue of Sunday competition.

Wiggins said that from its beginnings "it was decided that our athletic programs would be conducted within the week, and that Sunday would be reserved for worship, family, visiting, study, and rest." ■

OBU names Brister president

Baptist Press

SHAWNEE, Okla. — The Oklahoma Baptist University trustees, in a special called meeting April 27, elected Mark A. Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., as OBU's 14th president.

Brister will become president-elect Aug. 1 and will assume the presidency when Tennessee native and former Union University administrator Bob R. Agee retires Sept. 1.

Brister was the unanimous choice of the presidential search committee. He was chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Program and Structure Study Committee which developed a reorganization of the convention's agency structure from 1994-96.

Brister is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. ■

National Day of Prayer is May 7

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The 47th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed May 7 across the country.

Theme of the prayer effort is "America, Return to God," based on Joel 2: 12-13.

In Nashville, observance of the Day of Prayer will be held at noon in the Bicentennial Mall downtown. A 45-minute assembly planned by a committee from various denominations and groups across the city will be conducted. ■

Baptisms increase across convention

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Baptisms in Southern Baptist churches in 1997 topped 400,000 for the first time since 1982, according to figures from the 1997 Annual Church Profile.

The 412,027 baptisms represented an increase of 8.6 or 32,683 over 1996 baptisms. ■

Utah leader underscores need for prayer

Baptist Press

DRAPER, Utah — No, it wasn't a printing error, but a call to prayer.

A big blank space comprised much of Jim Harding's column in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Witness' April edition.

Harding, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, suggested readers "spend the time praying instead of having to read my article" — praying for the SBC's June 9-11 annual meeting in Salt Lake City and the array of evangelistic initiatives to accompany it in the headquarters city of the Mormon Church. ■

SSB children's music curriculum gets major redesign

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The first major redesign of Southern Baptist children's music curriculum in almost 30 years will be unveiled with the Fall 1998 publications for pupils and their leaders.

Rhonda Edge Buescher, preschool/music team leader for the SSB's music ministries department, said an emphasis on spiritual objectives, along with music education goals, will be paired with a more user-friendly approach in the Children's Music Series for churches using traditional or blended music. She described the new approach as "a work in progress that will continue to be refined and improved with each quarter."

The last major changes for traditional children's music curriculum came in 1970. A new curriculum for praise and worship, *Made for Praise*, was introduced in 1996. ■

Hundreds saved through 'Faith'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It's been only four months since leaders from 28 Southern Baptist churches were trained in how to carry out a new strategy that "marries" Sunday School and evangelism. But early reports from the "FAITH Originator Churches" indicates hundreds are already coming to Christ as a result of the initiative.

"It's going phenomenally well, beyond what any of us really expected," said Steve Cretin, director of the leadership and evangelism department in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division.

He noted churches are not only reporting high numbers of decisions but "they're also having the highest attendance in Sunday School they've ever had."

"That tells us we're not only reaching people for Christ, but we're getting them involved in Bible study, too. And, that's what this is all about." ■

Baptists help Wayne County storm victims

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

WAYNE COUNTY — After a tornado cut a swath one mile wide and 23 miles long here April 16, Baptists began to help the victims.

Local Baptists responded, reported David Miller, director of missions, Indian Creek As-

sociation. And a Baptist Disaster Relief team of 25 from West Tennessee worked April 25. Led by Gene Williams of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, they joined other volunteers working with emergency management officials.

The tornado killed three people, destroyed 30 homes,

damaged 30 others, and damaged several businesses, according to reports.

Many needs remain, Cal Hampton, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro, said. Victims are just beginning to "be able to think straight and tell you what they need," he observed.

Houston Church, Collinwood, just escaped the damage, according to Carrol Littrell, pastor.

Three mobile homes were destroyed just two miles from the church. Members began helping the residents hours after the storm, he said.

Several members formed chain saw crews and have worked many hours, Littrell said, often into the night.

To raise funds for the three families who lost homes near the church, Houston Church will hold a benefit musical program May 9, said Littrell.

Green River Church began getting telephone calls from members soon after the storm about needy people, said Hampton.

To respond, needy families were assigned to Sunday School classes. Eight families have been adopted by classes, he said.

Also, Hampton and several other members drove to Nashville to pick up materials provided by Second Harvest Food Bank. They delivered a van full of cleaning supplies and two trucks full of food.

And the church's Baptist Men worked May 3 doing clean-up.

To help victims financially, Green River members have given \$1,600 which will be distributed by the association.

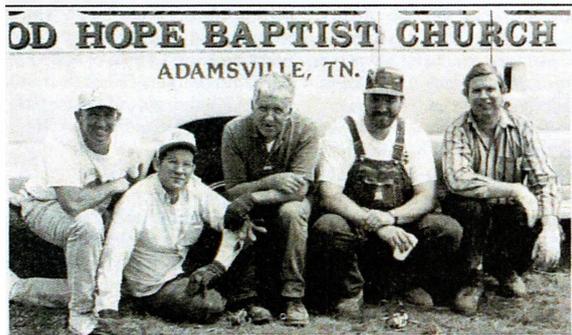
One good result of the disaster is the ecumenical effort, said Hampton, as members from all churches in the area have worked together.

First Church, Waynesboro, helped two families with ties to the church and did general relief work.

The two families lost their homes. Meals were provided immediately, reported Frank Samuels, pastor. He washed clothes for about a day and a



FOUR WORKERS participating in Baptist Disaster Relief efforts are, from left, Jerry Roberts and Keith Willhite of Truett Association; John Dial of First Church, Collinwood; and Dennis Sherer of Florence, Ala. — Photos by Gene Williams



MEMBERS of Good Hope Church, Adamsville, who served in the Disaster Relief effort are, from left, Dudley Clark, Bill Young, Larry Murry, Steve Killingsworth, and Thomas McCormick.



A HOME left with outside walls, a few other walls, and a chimney sits amid debris south of Waynesboro.

half to help them. Church members housed them. A house was provided for one family. And members collected \$1,000 for them, reported Samuels.

In general relief work, Samuels and Larry Matthews, a member, delivered about 85 meals a day for four days last week. The meals were prepared by American Red Cross volunteers.

And the evening after the storm, Samuels served at the hospital, where he ministered to those injured and one family who lost a member through death. He also encouraged health care workers.

One church member has rededicated her life to God because of her storm experiences, he added.

"I'm real pleased and proud of the effort that our people have made," Samuels said.

Upper Green River Church also had a church family who lost a home. Members have helped the family, Miller said.

All of the churches had members who worked with the ARC.

David Miller also cited the work of Carl Fred Daniel, a member of First Church, Collinwood, who served food April 17 in front of the grocery store he owns there.

Miller said the association will continue to distribute money and clothes to disaster victims. B&R

Volunteers tell experiences from Disaster Relief ministries

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Why do Baptists have a Disaster Relief program with trained workers, feeding equipment, and agreements with such relief agencies as the American Red Cross?

Why do the workers do menial and often dangerous labor for long hours in adverse conditions in response to disasters?

Following April 16 storms in Tennessee, Baptist Disaster Relief workers once again responded. The volunteers tell the story.

The sanctuary of Edgefield Church here was dark when the seven-member team stopped their work April 17. They had removed furniture from rooms which had been stripped of a roof.

The roof also had been damaged in the 130-year-old sanctuary, so they had carried pew cushions and hymnals to undamaged rooms. And they had covered pews, the piano, and the organ with plastic.

Without electricity on that overcast day, it was hard to tell the time. The

only illumination was a Coleman lantern, said Don Davis, coordinator of Baptist Disaster Relief clean-up efforts for Middle Tennessee. The mood was somewhat dark also.

As they got ready to go, said Davis, they and the pastor stood visiting in a circle. Spontaneously the eight people grabbed hands and had prayer.

"There wasn't a dry eye there," said Davis. "It was a good experience because Terry (Carver, pastor) was still in shock and he was so grateful that we had helped," said Davis, who is a member of Two Rivers Church.

Bill Curington is a "blue-capper," which in Baptist Disaster Relief lingo means the crew chief of the feeding unit. He wears a Disaster Relief cap which is blue.

To do such volunteer work, he agrees to respond with just hours of notice, to pay his own travel expenses, to stay an undefined number of days, and to take vacation time to do it.

Curington, a member of Roseberry Church, Mascot, has been doing this work for 10 years.

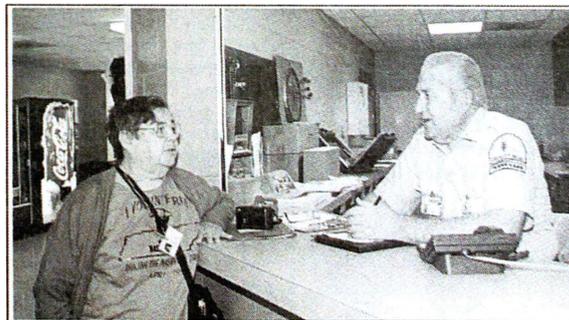
Curington explained, "We make more an hour than anybody on this earth can pay. We get our pay from the Lord."

Curington is quick to give credit for his service to his company, Rohm and Haas of Knoxville, where he is an electrician, and his boss, who is a Christian.

Curington also credits his family for making his service possible.

His job as "blue-capper" involves being a resource person rather than a boss, he said. He never assigns a job, because the workers are so willing.

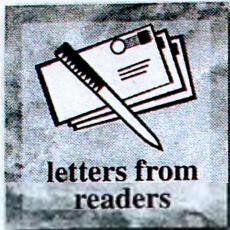
And the volunteers have a lot of



SAYING GOODBYE are American Red Cross volunteer Margaret Pride of Evansville, Ind., and Don Davis, Baptist Disaster Relief worker at Two Rivers Church, which was headquarters for the Middle Tennessee relief efforts of both groups. Pride was returning home last Friday. She and Davis have worked together on several other efforts in the United States.

fun, he said.

Vivian Lyle served for seven days on the feeding unit based at Two Rivers Church here. One day she traveled to the area of the disaster on one of the — See Volunteers, page 6



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.

Appreciates C-N

As a ministerial student at Carson-Newman College, I was already impressed with the zeal, maturity, and biblical witness of the faculty and administration. They demonstrated such a winsome relation with Jesus, a love for the Bible, and a high calling to Christian education. Then in January of 1974, the tragic burning of Henderson Hall, consumed all the humanity departments. Entire libraries, lectures, research, correspondence, momentos, and even manuscripts were lost.

L. Dan Taylor came in two days later to teach our "baby" Greek class. He put his head down to pray with us as he so often did and he wept. Closing with hope and fervent prayer, he began to teach again with no need for books or notes, for the Word, of course, lived in his heart.

Most Tennessee Baptists have always known that passionate devotion to Christ is not isolated but is through and through the heart of Carson-Newman. Her alumni are deeply grateful to Tennessee Baptists for providing such a remarkable Christian school. We also have given sacrificially to keep our alma mater a bright and shining influence for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. Many of us have had the great privilege of meeting new faculty and administration through the years who have continued C-N's excellence and witness.

In light of the recent trustee action to preserve the heart of

C-N, my prayer is for trust to flourish in the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Jack C. Bishop Jr., pastor
First Church
Waynesville, N.C. 28786

Saddened

As an alumnus of Carson-Newman College I was saddened, but not really surprised, to read of the decision by the trustees of Carson-Newman to remove themselves from the accountability of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The board's action was done under the cloak of secrecy. They met in a special called meeting on April 17, even though there was a regular board meeting scheduled for May. They excluded all media and other participants and did not even inform TBC leadership of their intentions until one week before the trustee meeting.

Why the secrecy? Why the rush? Were they afraid their decision would not stand an examination by all Tennessee Baptists? Whatever happened to integrity?

The trustees claim that it is not their intent to sever relations with Tennessee Baptists. What they mean is that they want Tennessee Baptists' money, but they don't want Tennessee Baptists to have any control of that money. They want Tennessee Baptists to continue to give them over \$2 million every year, but no longer want to be accountable to Tennessee Baptists.

The trustees have asserted their independence from Ten-

nessee Baptists. Let them go. Let them walk in the liberal footsteps of former Baptist colleges in other states that have pursued a worldly agenda. But let them go alone. As Tennessee Baptists, let's not give Carson-Newman one more dime.

Michael S. Pineda
Red Bank 37415

Movie changed life

Guilty as charged! How I have become so desensitized to sin. Every night, starting with the news, we see partial nudity, hear profanity and sexual innuendo, and the list goes on and on.

I agree with my brother, Billy Kemp, a youth minister from Crossville, that we should praise our Lord's name and not misuse it as was done in the movie "Titanic." And I agree with him that the movie should have been rated "R" and that it promotes sexual lust. But the truth of the matter is that the movie "Titanic" changed my life forever.

When I saw that ship sink and over 1,500 souls (God's children) go overboard, my heart broke. Many of those people are in hell because someone did not tell them about Jesus Christ. The reality is that we live in a world of sin and we have become desensitized to sin and its consequences, but worse yet, we have become desensitized to winning people to Christ.

The reality is that we live in a world of sin. My sin is that I fail to tell them about our Savior. I point a finger at them

and say too bad. Jesus died for all and commissioned his saints to tell a dying world about him. Sometimes, in fact most of the time, the only way to do it is to go outside of our comfort zone, to go where the sinner is and boldly stand on the Word of God. I'm a sinner saved by grace but some are not saved and they need to hear that they can be.

Jerry Harwell, pastor
Calvary Church
Smithville 37166

Thanks to all

I would like to thank all the television stations for their good job in supplying the public with weather reports of the recent storms.

I would also like to thank the Red Cross that came from all over our state and other states, as well as the area stores that provided food for the Red Cross.

One area of help I would like to point out is that provided by Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers. They were not given much recognition for their work by the secular media. They did the cleanup and cooking for the Red Cross at Two Rivers Baptist Church. Tim Bearden and Curtis Fowler did a terrific job in organizing the Disaster Relief group.

A big thanks also goes to our law enforcement officials who kept things under control.

Thanks also to our Lord God for his help in keeping serious injuries to a minimum.

Gerald Sullivan
Murfreesboro 37129

Partnership Prayer Requests May

- 6 — Pray for Dewey Dunn and a volunteer medical team working in Costa Rica this week. Also pray for members of Westhaven Church, Memphis, who need workers for a clothes closet ministry and a chaplain to minister in their two Hope Centers.
- 7 — Pray for Tennessee volunteers Bill Wilson and Gary Hines of Brentwood Church who are visiting the Pau Ferro community in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this week. A new church is needed there.
- 8 — Pray for William "Bo" Childs and trustees from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation who will be building a chapel June 21-30 in Brazil.
- 9 — Praise God for Todd and Lisa Jones, seminary students in Canada.
- 10 — Pray for a new Baptist group in Siquirres, Costa Rica, begun by missionary Keith Travis.
- 11 — Pray for the Baptist Center director search committee in Michigan.
- 12 — Pray for Residential Cartago in Costa Rica where a new praise and worship group has formed to reach the community for Christ.

PowerSource conference to explore different styles of worship

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "PowerSource: The Heart of Worship" will be presented May 18-19 at Brentwood Church here.

The two-day conference is sponsored by Church Staff Leadership Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Headlining the meeting are Calvin Miller, well-known pastor and author, as well as a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

"Calvin Miller is joining us for this meeting because of a personal deep commitment to worship and leading our people to the source of our power," said Ev Robertson, worship/drama/music specialist for the CSL Group.



BELL



BEST



LEWIS



MILLER



RAINER



WINFIELD

Miller will preach during the Monday evening worship service and speak two other times, Robertson said.

Rainer is the author of several popular books, including his most recent release this spring, *Closing the Back Door*. One of his breakout sessions at the conference will address issues covered in the book. Rainer also will speak at one of the plenary sessions.

Other program leaders include Benjamin Harlan, dean of the School of Music at Southwestern Seminary; Todd Bell, minister of music at Prestonwood Church, Dallas;

Harold Best, adjunct professor, Southern Seminary; Frank Lewis, pastor, First Church, Nashville; Dennis and Nan Allen, music/drama artists, Nashville; Jerry Winfield, pastor, Forest Hills Church, Nashville; Marty Hennis, praise and worship leader, Brentwood; Scott Shepherd, First Church, Franklin; and Wayne Causey, minister of music, Forest Hills Church, Nashville.

"This event has the strongest leadership we have ever assembled for a worship conference in Tennessee," Robertson said. "This meeting focuses on

'spiritual foundations' for worship leaders. We want to focus on the 'heart of worship,' " he added.

The conference will feature more than 30 seminars and explore major forms of worship. It begins at 2 p.m. on May 18 and concludes at 4 p.m. the next day. Registration fee is \$40 for a pastor or minister of music; \$30 each if both from same church register. Additional participants from the same church are \$20 each. Registration fee includes two meals, resource materials, and breaks.

For more information, call 1-800-558-2090. ■

Good things are happening in the TBC

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

Tennessee Baptists are still digesting what happened recently at Carson-Newman College. Trustees voted April 17 to begin electing their own successors, taking the process out of the hands of the convention. People are forming their own opinions about that action. Meanwhile, leaders from both sides are discussing the matter and are trying to find an amenable solution.

Lest we forget, that is not the only thing that has happened across our convention in recent weeks. There are many good, positive things happening among Tennessee Baptists. Let's look at a few:

Disaster Relief Efforts

It has been almost three weeks since tornados and flooding devastated portions of our state. Response of Tennessee Baptists and others to needs caused by the natural disasters has been overwhelming. Our state Brotherhood leaders — Tim Bearden, Bob Davison, and Gene Williams — have worked tirelessly coordinating relief efforts across the state. They have been assisted by numerous volunteers who have given freely of their own time and energy to assist those affected by the tornados and flooding. Here in the Middle Tennessee area several churches helped in relief efforts. They are to be commended for allowing their facilities to be used and for coming to the aid of victims not just in their area, but from all over.

We can usually tell what people are "made of" by the way they respond to crises. Tennessee Baptists have stood tall in recent weeks.

North Korean Food Effort

Almost lost in the news has been the effort Tennessee Baptists put forth in col-

lecting food for starving people in North Korea. With just a few weeks notice, Tennessee Baptists collected 899 boxes or about 54,000 pounds of food. Overall, Southern Baptists sent about 9,000 boxes to North Korea, so Tennessee supplied about one-tenth of that total. So many people worked hard to make that happen. Sunday School classes, WMU and Brotherhood groups, and other church organizations pulled together to collect food for people they have never met and will never meet unless it is in heaven. One layman who owns a trucking company — Steve York of Old Hickory — used his trucks and facilities to collect and store the food until it was shipped. Undoubtedly, some of these North Koreans will learn about Jesus and make a decision for Christ because Southern Baptists cared enough to feed them when they were hungry. Once again, Tennessee Baptists came through when a need was brought to their attention.

Lottery Defeated

On page 1 of this issue is the good news that efforts to allow Tennessee to have a state lottery and eventually other forms of gambling failed. Legislators who kept our state gambling-free are to be commended. They received enormous pressure from their peers and gambling lobbyists to change their minds and vote to allow gambling in Tennessee. We cannot rest on our accomplishments this year. A new legislative session begins next year and at least one senator has vowed to be back and start the process over again. People who want gambling in Tennessee will not give up until they have accomplished that task. Tennessee Baptists and other Christians must constantly be on guard.

Partnerships

Tennessee Baptists are continuing to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to oth-

er countries where we have partnerships. Last week's issue carried news about a possible new partnership in Portugal. Tennessee Baptists will decide in the months ahead if we will add this European country to our growing list of partners.

TBCH Ministry

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. Churches from all across the state will collect a special Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. This TBC institution is meeting some important needs across our state. On page 7 of this issue are stories about its newest ministry in northeast Tennessee. It is one more way TBCH ministers to children and hurting families in Tennessee.

The List Goes On

There are so many good things going on in Tennessee that it is impossible to list them all here.

TBC Executive Board Ministry groups are in the process of conducting and planning events and programs which assist Tennessee Baptists and churches in ministry.

Each week churches send us news of what they are doing. Revivals are being conducted and souls are being saved. We encourage Tennessee Baptists to share what is going on in their congregations. We especially want to know of exceptional people and unusual events in your church that can be shared with our readers.

The staff of the *Baptist and Reflector* is proud of what is happening in our state. Our goal is to continue to share all the news — particularly the good things — with our readers. We need your help. We want more and more people to know what is going on among Tennessee Baptists. Be an advocate for the *Baptist and Reflector*. Encourage others to read and subscribe.

We are all in this together. ■



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Math teacher to former not so bright student: "Well, you've certainly made lots of money. You're wealthy. To what or whom do you give credit?" Former student: "You teacher. I made a little gadget for \$3 and sold it for \$30. That 10 percent mark up you taught me sure gave me lots of profit."

Take this truth

How far we have traveled at the close of a day depends to a large extent on where we were when we started.

Memorize this Scripture

"Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same and made them five other talents." — Matthew 25:16

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to use wisely what you have given me, recognizing it is a trust, not a donation for personal hoarding." ■

for children

By Art Webb
pastoral counselor
Watauga Association

Discipline

It is very important for parents to discipline their children! However, we must keep in mind the meaning of the world discipline.

Discipline comes from the same root word as disciple. In fact it is derived from disciple, which refers to a learner or follower.

The 12 followed Jesus to learn from him and observe his ways so they might learn firsthand how to live a life in fellowship with God.

Parents are to teach their children God's Word and guide them in the way they are to go by living a Christian lifestyle before them.

Parents, if you want to know more about discipling your children, refer to *Parenting by Grace*, which is based on the concept that parents ought to relate to their children in the same way God relates to his children. The best word to describe that is grace. ■

Good relationships require communication with the heart

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive director



A missionary friend remarked to me, "Following language school, you begin to learn the heart of the people you serve." Indeed, there exists a dynamic difference be-

tween head talk and heart talk. Many years of schol pursuit of several degrees rewarded me with an appreciation for head talk. On a day-to-day basis, though, I minister best through the heart talk of others. Whether reading through the Gospels or focusing specifically on a passage, I hear the heart of Jesus coming through very strongly. He expected to be heard, and recognized the need to communicate through words the

people understood.

Since the late 1960s, our ways of talking have been enhanced. The CB radio fad, development of cellular telephones, and rapid growth of voice and E-mail attest to this fact. Nevertheless, a question remains. Have these electronic innovations enabled us to hear the heart talk of each other?

The mere multiplicity of spoken words does not mean that we are listening to each other. A family, a church, an

association, or a state convention exists primarily because of relationships. In the early stage of any relationship an exchange of words occur. These words are spoken and heard. This means that it is essential to communicate with each other. Those Tennessee Baptists who are talking to each other and hearing the heart of each other provide a healthy hope for us.

Whose heart have you heard today? ■

Mothers give traditions and values to guide families

from the church

By Paul Durham
pastor, Radnor Church
Nashville

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and He praises her," Proverbs 31:28.

On Sunday, May 10, let us set aside this day to honor our mothers.

Let's ask the Lord to bless them always, give them grace to set a good example to their household, to hold his protecting hand over them, to give them strength for every task, and courage for each trial. We pray for God's guidance on each footstep that they may walk in the love of Jesus who set an example by His love for His mother.

Mothers are to be cherished and loved for the rare beauty and care they bring into our lives. I'm sure that as adults

you have many fond memories of your mother, some of her sayings, and of the much needed advice she has given you.

Sometimes you probably just pretended to listen, just to be nice. But through the years, as we've grown older and with children of our own, we've found out mom's rules still apply. We've heard ourselves giving the same advice to our children and they probably just listen to be nice!

I'm sure that our children, like us, will say someday that

they never knew that their mother was so smart and should have listened more.

Let us each remember our mothers on this day and the memories they have left behind for many of us to remember. They have given us traditions and values to lead and guide our families and have shown much love and honor to the Almighty God.

May God bless you as you undertake the job of raising your children in a Godly way. ■

Volunteers tell experiences from Disaster ...



— Continued from page 3
Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) delivering meals prepared by her team. The unit workers are encouraged to work on the ERVs so they can see the fruits of their labor.

She had seen pictures of the devastation, but it was "unbelievable," said Lyle, who is a member of First Church, Erwin.

The ERV on which she was working entered a poor area. People immediately stopped working on homes and moved to the ERV. Soon all 300 meals had been distributed.

Then two boys, both preschoolers, approached Lyle and asked her for food. The older boy told her they were hungry because they hadn't eaten that day.

Lyle had to tell them they didn't have any more meals, but to look for another ERV. Thankfully, a few minutes later another ERV arrived. Another crowd approached the truck and the boys approached too, but Lyle feared they were too small to be seen by the relief workers.

Lyle helped the boys get meals. On that same day, Lyle met a mother who asked for help after all of the meals on her ERV had been distributed. The woman explained she had children to feed but hadn't received her food stamps. A neighbor had given her food the day before, but she had none that day.

The volunteers gathered up snacks they had brought for themselves and gave them to the lady, said Lyle. A young man came up to the ERV and when he learned it had no meals, he said that was OK. He also came to thank them for their efforts.

"It made all of this work here worthwhile. We get tired, but that doesn't matter," she said.

◆ ◆ ◆
Don Byrd, another "blue-capper" for the feeding unit, said he missed contact with victims. But as a 20-year veteran of Baptist Disaster Relief work, he knows the impact on people from past experiences.

Byrd recalled the team's work in Florida following Hurricane Andrew in 1994 when the feeding unit fed 25,000 a day as contrasted with the high of 11,000 meals in this effort.

In Florida, he saw God lead people to give exactly the items needed by victims and workers at exactly the right time, said Byrd, who is a mem-

ber of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville.

"The Lord has to be in it. He really does. We couldn't work as many hours as we do without him."

Another reason the crew, which includes many retirees like Byrd, has such endurance



is their camaraderie, he said.

"We love each other. We get together and we have a good time in the Lord. We just laugh a lot," said Byrd.

◆ ◆ ◆
As Conyer Walker, pastor, Riverside Church, Nashville, described the activity at his church after the storm, he didn't seem like a man facing serious surgery.

Riverside members served 1,050 meals in seven days. The church also served as a source of food staples and cleaning supplies. And members distributed meals and did clean up in the neighborhood.

"Everything we needed has come through that front door when we needed it," said Walker. One day a woman called to offer a freezer. A few hours later a meat company gave frozen sausage which filled it.

For Walker, any manual labor was against his doctor's orders. And probably the long hours and organizing work were against the orders also.

Walker underwent surgery April 29 to repair a weakened aorta and all of the valves of his heart. He also had an unscheduled second procedure. The operations were successful and as of press time, Walker was recovering at St. Thomas Hospital here.

The disaster relief work has "gotten us in contact with our community in a big way," said Walker, which was a goal of members.

"God is just working in so many different ways," said Edith McCoy of the church. "We feel so blessed ... and people have responded," she said.

◆ ◆ ◆
Jay Victory, minister of youth, Riverside Church,

Nashville, went to Haiti with several other members of the church April 26.

He went despite the fact his home was severely damaged in the April 16 storm.

He joined several other members of the church in missions work in the poor country.

◆ ◆ ◆
Phil Terry, a volunteer with the feeding unit here, made a profession of faith after doing Disaster Relief work in Camp Girardeau, Mo., in 1993.

Terry, a member of Natchez Trace Church, Camden, said other volunteers and the pastor encouraged him to become involved although he wasn't a member of the church. He decided to serve, and did so even though he lost his job a few days before he was to leave.

Then during the experience he realized "his life was a disaster," he said.

Before his experience in Disaster Relief, Terry said he hadn't met Christians he wanted to imitate. But during his first service, he worked with many he wanted to imitate.

"I thought the goodness in those people's hearts has got to be coming from somewhere," he said.

"You just have to be there," he said.

◆ ◆ ◆
Grace Church and Ivy Memorial Church, both in Nashville, helped victims.

The Sunday after the storm, Grace Church members and visitors attending the morning worship service gave \$4,100 for victims.

Then about 40 members, including Andre Dugger, pastor,

worked that afternoon and through the evening service. Another minister conducted the service to allow Dugger to work.

And during the week following the storm, about 13 members helped victims. Many of those took time off from work to join the effort, said Dugger.

As the workers got to know the people they were helping, they shared their faith. As a result, three people made professions of faith, the pastor added.

And Ivy Memorial members prepared and delivered 200 meals for victims and helped people in other ways.

◆ ◆ ◆
Among volunteers with the food unit, L.O. Miller of First Church, Erwin, is widely known. Some say he's known for his teasing of other workers. Some say he's known for his way with children. Several workers have brought their children so they can share the experience.

Most volunteers know he is constantly vying, some say facetiously, for the position of "blue capper." All say he's known for his unusual nickname — "bird dog."

◆ ◆ ◆
Lockeland Church, Nashville, had a revival scheduled during the week following the storms. Instead members prepared 900 meals in eight days, four without electricity.

"We probably touched more lives than in a traditional revival meeting," said John Langlois, pastor.

Revival speaker Keith Cameron, pastor, Lakewood Church, Donelson, attended the evening meals although he only spoke on Wednesday

evening, leading a short service.

Langlois recalled meeting many people who reported they hadn't had hot food for several days. He wasn't surprised by the response of the members. They brought thawing food from freezers without electricity and worked long hours to prepare the meals.

What astounded Langlois was the response of the community. For example, when a woman who already was serving food to victims at another site learned of the feeding program, she brought food and returned to help. And she wasn't a member of the church, he said.

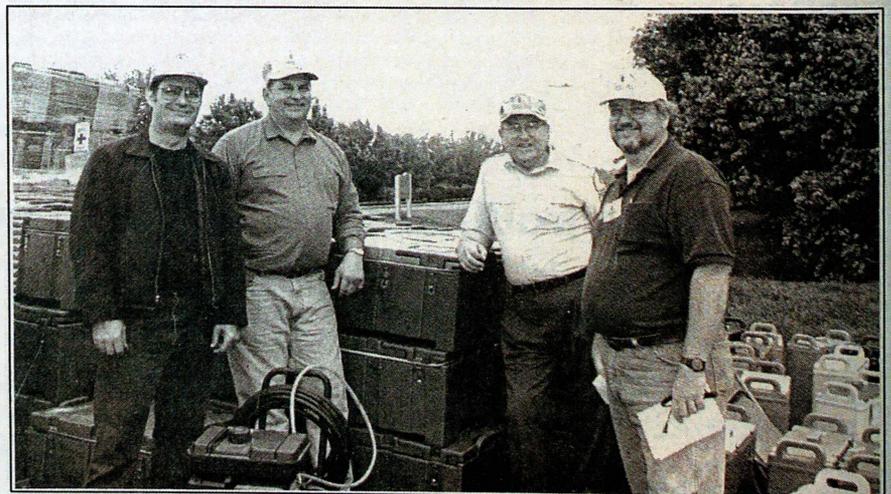
He also was impressed by the thanks extended by those who received help.

"It's been a real delight to do this," he said.

◆ ◆ ◆
Don Davis said the effort was the hardest work he has ever done. He does the work because of his faith.

"I could not not do it, as long as there's somebody who needs help. It's out of gratitude for what the Lord's done for me," said Davis, who is retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He also serves because he enjoys the volunteers, he said.

"We have a real family situation that you can't understand unless you are a part of it." — Connie Davis



PAUSING LAST FRIDAY by insulated containers filled with the final meal to be prepared for storm victims and workers are Baptist Disaster Relief workers, from left, Phil Terry and Dwight Baldwin, Natchez Trace Church, Camden; Don Davis, coordinator of clean-up volunteers for the Nashville area and a member of Two Rivers Church; and Tim Bearden, state Baptist Disaster Relief director. — Photo by Connie Davis

Living Waters provides help to mothers, babies

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — For several years the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has ministered to girls in northeast Tennessee during crisis pregnancies at their Alternative Home in Greeneville.

Once the babies were born, the girls had nowhere to go unless they were taken back in by their families. Unfortunately, however, that did not always happen.

Enter Living Waters Ministries, a nonprofit corporation incorporated for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of unwed teenager mothers and their infants under the age of two years within the upper East Tennessee area, primarily Watauga Association.

Living Waters is administered by TBCH with Watauga Association coordinating and cooperating in the services provided through the ministry.

"Living Waters is a dream of folks who wanted to minister to single moms with no support system," said Danny West, northeast regional vice president for TBCH.

"This is a continuation of our Alternative Home ministry," West continued.

"We wanted to help the girl beyond her crisis pregnancy. Before we did not have anywhere for them to go. We saw the need to expand and the Lord opened doors for us to begin the ministry here Jan. 1," he said.

The Living Waters facility has seven apartments, plus one for Ed and Mary Salassi, the residential directors or houseparents (see story below). Currently, three girls live there with their babies and two more are expected to move in soon, West said. When at full occupancy the ministry can accommo-



STANDING OUTSIDE the home that houses Living Waters Ministries in Elizabethton are, from left, Danny West, northeast regional vice president, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and Mary and Ed Salassi, residential directors.

date seven girls and their babies. The house was provided by a local resident who saw the need for such a ministry.

The ministry is designed to help the mother finish her education, West noted, adding the mother is responsible for enrolling her child in a local day care. The TBCH provides a van for transportation needs, West said.

He noted the goal is to help the girls learn to be independent, to take care of their child, and to try to prepare them to be parents through counseling and mentoring.

The girls must learn to budget their own monies and are responsible for paying rent and utilities. "They learn real life concepts," West said.

"The girls are basically on their own. We are here to look over their shoulders to make sure things are done in the proper way," he added.

All the girls in the home are in local churches, and the churches have been very supportive of the girls and their babies, West said.

Ron Owens, pastor of Grace Church, Elizabethton, and moderator of Watauga Association, said Living Waters Ministry has already made a difference in the lives of the girls. Owens, as moderator, is on the organization's board of directors.

Both Owens and West noted churches in Watauga Association have responded overwhelmingly to the girls

and children. They have helped furnish the apartments and provide numerous items such as paper and cleaning products, baby supplies, furniture, diapers, formula, and other baby products to the ministry.

In addition, members of the churches also have taken on a mentoring relationship with the girls as well as just being their friends, West said. They take the girls shopping and help them with their babies.

"We envisioned when we came that this would be an opportunity for local Baptists who want to be involved in practical ministry," West added.

"We have seen our people respond passionately well," Owens concurred, noting the ministry "is a heartbeat for me."

Ed Salassi agreed. "People are constantly bringing things by. Their generosity is overwhelming," he said. "This association is on fire," Salassi added.

"The goal of the ministry is to get the girls to the point they can take charge of their own lives," Owens said.

"God uses us to provide a substitute family system for these girls and their babies," he added.

So far, leaders agree, it is working. ■

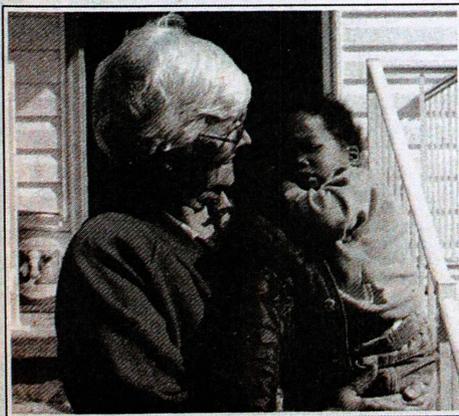


OWENS

Baptist and Reflector ad leads Cloverport couple to new ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — One day early last fall Ed Salassi went out to his



MARY SALASSI enjoys time with Asia, one of the babies, along with her mother, who is ministered to through Living Waters Ministry in Elizabethton.

mailbox at his home in Cloverport in West Tennessee and picked up his copy of the *Baptist and Reflector* as he has done for many years. The couple were members of Grace Church in Toone. They are now members of Living Waters Ministry in northeast Tennessee.

Salassi, who is a retired state worker and a licensed minister, thumbed through the paper and saw an ad from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes seeking houseparents for a new ministry in northeast Tennessee.

Salassi noted that just before he received the paper he learned that the daughter of a long-time friend had become pregnant.

"The Lord got hold of me," Salassi recounted, noting that when he

learned of this ministry to unwed mothers and their babies he felt led to call Danny West, northeast regional vice president for TBCH.

Salassi conferred with his wife, Mary, who immediately agreed it was something they should consider.

"We felt called of God to pack up and move here," the couple agreed.

"The Lord worked it all out," said Mary Salassi, who took early retirement from the state.

Their house sold in just five days, she noted. The couple also sold many of their personal belongings.

"We had no doubt this is where the Lord wanted us to be," she said.

They moved to Elizabethton in November to get the Living Waters Ministry started by mid-December. It officially began Jan. 1.

The Salassies stress they are not babysitters, but they are there to help the girls with their children when needed.

"Basically, we are trying to teach them their responsibility. When they go out they take their babies with them,"

Mary Salassi said.

She noted they talk with the girls about their faith and about living a Christian life. "We want to help them understand what a Christian family is about," she said.

The couple also help with teaching independent living skills as well as how to care for the babies.

But, Salassi noted, "our ultimate goal is to get them involved in a local church so they can grow spiritually."

Salassi believes Living Waters Ministry is definitely needed. "We are pro-life," he said. "There needs to be alternatives for pregnant girls other than abortion," he said.

"Living Waters Ministry gives them another option so they can stay here with their babies."

His wife agreed. "This gives the mothers an opportunity to bond with their babies in a safe, Christian atmosphere. I pray this will motivate them to go on to improve themselves so they can take care of their child and to provide a Christian home for them." ■

First-person account

Jackson couple experiences suffering in Sudan

By Ivy Scarborough
For Baptist and Reflector

KHARTOUM, Sudan — To even be in Sudan is to suffer. Death and misery are on every hand. Worse still, Sudan is regarded by most experts as the most hostile environment for Christians anywhere on earth.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa, one-third the size of the United States. As uninviting and adverse as it is to a Western mindset, it is all the more so to many of its inhabitants due to an unending civil war between the fundamentalist Islamic government in power in Khartoum and the predominantly Christian and animist southern Sudanese.

Since Khartoum is hostile to any aid to the southern Sudanese from Christian sources, entry must be made secretly. To reach a mission hospital operated by the Samaritan's Purse, my wife, Ramona, and I were flown into Sudan by light plane to a remote dirt landing strip.

Scattered at random across the vastness of Sudan are clusters of grass huts, called tukuls, which are homes to thousands

of Sudanese caught between near Stone Age primitivism on the one hand and 20th century weapons of war on the other.

Ramona and I had been warned about the remoteness and the heat, but the cautions had done neither justice. From the moment our feet hit the ground an oppressive wave of 100 plus degree heat enveloped us.

As a nurse, Ramona had medical skills to offer the beleaguered mission hospital staff. My contribution would be to observe and write about the mission effort and the civil war. Because of the danger of retaliation by the Khartoum government against this remarkable group of volunteers, we were asked to keep our exact location secret.

The mission hospital was established in late 1997 by the Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief group headed by Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham. The organization has a reputation for tackling tough jobs in dangerous places regarded by other aid groups, secular or Christian, as risky.

After arriving at the airport



IVY AND RAMONA SCARBOROUGH, standing, were joined in the Sudan by, from left, Etta Cooper, Marian Gibbon, Helen Liko, Doug Crockett, Maria Rantanen, and Bill Greiser.

we were loaded into Land Rovers and drove between mine fields to reach the mission.

The adversity faced by the medical staff was apparent. There was no electricity, no running water. Refrigeration and lights were powered by batteries kept charged by solar power cells. The implications for the staff in simply trying to keep patients alive were daunting, not to mention their own physical discomfort. But each was a volunteer, committed to serve at least three months or

longer.

Ramona spent much of her time at the hospital, an old masonry building accommodating 65 patients. We saw patient after patient without limbs, the result of bombing or mine fields. Many war wounds and the lethal diseases common to equatorial Africa made it painfully clear what the mission staff faced.

In 1994 the UN Human Rights Commission released a report on Sudan documenting indiscriminate killings and torture as well as the kidnapping

of children for sale as slaves. Sudan is rated by international monitors of human rights as one of the five countries with the worst scores on the "human suffering index."

We saw an eight-month old baby girl who had been shot in the back. Her only hope was surgery to reroute her bowel to a colostomy.

The child's experience was a metaphor for Sudan. The victim of religious hatred and intolerance, her life was saved by Christian faith and love. But her continued survival, certainly with any prospect of a meaningful, fulfilling life, is bound up in an end to the former and far more of the latter.

Such too is the future of Sudan. Christ is their one hope, but it will only be realized if we Christians make that hope our sacrificial cause. ■ — Scarborough is a Jackson attorney and member of West Jackson Church.



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE

Continuing a Heritage of Service to Tennessee Baptists

Founded 147 years ago to provide educational opportunities to the Baptists of the region, we remain strong in our commitment to our heritage. Names of Carson-Newman alumni like missionary Kathleen Manley, educator T.B. Maston, and pastor Ralph Norton resound with the rich legacy of Baptist service. Today's students, about half of whom are Tennessee Baptists, continue to follow Christ's call, carrying out the Great Commission as they work through local Baptist congregations to touch hearts in need, share God's love, and prepare for ministry-related vocations. *As we approach our 150th anniversary, Carson-Newman reaffirms its commitment to Tennessee Baptists by providing a high quality, Christian college experience.*



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE
Baptist Through and Through



churches

■ **Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory**, is sponsoring a four-man golf scramble on May 15 beginning at 8 a.m. at Pine Creek Golf Course. The cost is \$60 and proceeds will benefit the inner-city ministry of

Woodcock Church, Nashville. Call Dan Ellis at (615) 847-0491 or Stacy Bell at (615) 754-5499 for more details.

■ **First Church, Winchester**, will host John Jacobs and the Power Team May 27-31.

■ **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, will host a Women's Weekend May 15-16 led by Mamie McCullough. For more information, call the church office at (423) 688-2421.

■ **Eastland Church, Ripley**, will host Squire Parsons and the Squire Parsons Trio on May 14 at 7 p.m.

Classified

FOR SALE: 34 nice solid oak, cushioned pews, will seat approx. 175 people; a double entrance baptistry; for more information, call FBC, Loretto at (931) 853-7171.

BUS FOR SALE: 1991 Blue Bird International 7.3 Diesel; Capacity: 25+ driver; Mileage: 31,000; Recent D.O.T. inspection & service; Runs great; \$15,000; call Pastor Roach at (423) 462-2524 or 462-2980.

FOR SALE: 31 maroon velvet pew cushions, 14 feet each. Reasonably priced. Call (901) 658-2545 or 658-3849 for more details.

SENIOR PASTOR: Sought for Kingwood Church, Chattanooga with resident membership of 200. Send resume to Kingwood Baptist Church, 3522 Ringgold Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37412.

Classified

PART-TIME: Nashville church seeks part-time youth minister. Contact Pastor Andre' Dugger at (615) 865-6262 or send resume to Grace Baptist Church, 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207.

FULL-TIME: Church located 20 miles west of Jackson is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music and youth. The SS monthly average is 155. Send resumes to Mark Mangrum, Holly Grove Baptist Church, 8488 Poplar Corner Road, Bells, TN 38006.

■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, will conduct revival services May 10-13, not May 1-13 as reported in last week's issue.

leaders

■ **Tommy Hefner** has resigned as minister of music and youth at Rialto Church, Covington.

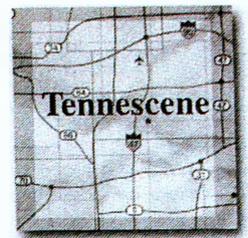
■ **Conyer Walker**, pastor, Riverside Church, Nashville, had surgery to repair his heart April 29. The surgery was successful and he is recuperating at St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville.

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, has filled three part-time ministerial positions: **John Whisenant**, associate pastor of outreach and discipleship; **Chris Fischer**, associate minister of music; and **Cindy Beason**, associate minister of families (preschool and children).

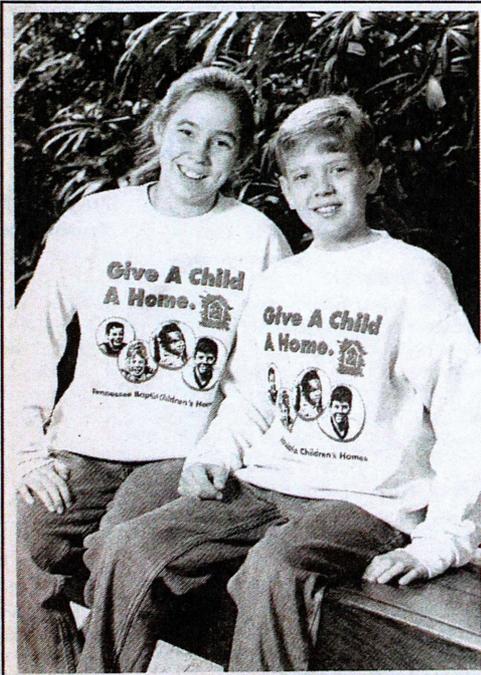
■ **Central Church, Spring City**, has called **Charles Campbell** as pastor. Campbell and his wife, Vita, were missionaries for 14 years in the Philippines.

■ **South Knoxville Church, Knoxville**, held a reception May 3 in honor of **Gordon Greenwell**, who ended his tenure that day as interim pastor.

■ **Richard F. Hart** is the new pastor of Reservoir Road Church, Kingsport. A native of Michigan Hart is retired from the U.S. Navy.



MEMBERS OF THE Building and Steering committees of the Baptist Student Union recently participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new worship center in Martin near the University of Tennessee-Martin. The project, which will cost between \$70,000-\$80,000 because of volunteer labor, is being funded locally. Taking part in the ceremony were, from left, Raymond Carneal, Bennie Castleman, Richard Skidmore, Larry Essary, Fady Al Hagal, Philip Brown, Dale Royster, Adam Hall, BSU director, Roger Oldham and Karen Campbell.



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.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
Serving children in crisis at a location near you.

P. O. Box 2206, 1310 Franklin Road
Brentwood, TN 37024
Phone: 1-800-624-8591



*Dr. Gerald L. Stow, TBCH
President/Treasurer*

SBC Peace Committee minutes, sealed for 10 years, available June 1

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The collection of minutes and materials of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee, sealed since June 1988, will be available to the public beginning June 1, according to Charles G. Fuller, the committee's chairman.

Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., said the collection includes minutes of the many meetings of the committees, plus reports, attachments, 366 letters from Southern Baptists, and about 135 cassette audio tapes.

One June 1, the collection is available at the Historical Li-

brary and Archives on the fourth floor of the SBC Building here.

The 22-member special committee, labeled early by media as the Peace Committee, was established by the SBC meeting in Dallas in 1985 to "determine the sources of the controversies in our convention, and make findings and recommendations regarding these controversies, so that Southern Baptists might effect reconciliation and effectively discharge their responsi-

bilities to God by cooperating together to accomplish evangelism, missions, Christian education, and other causes authorized by our constitution, all to the Glory of God." The controversy is generally accepted to have begun in 1979 with the conservative resurgence in the

Southern Baptist Convention.

The committee dissolved in 1988 after presenting its findings and recommendations to the 1987 SBC meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

An agreement by the committee and the then-Historical Commission sealed the collec-

tion of minutes and materials for 10 years. ■

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Family album

By Mike Rogers

Focal Passage — Ephesians 5:21; 6:1-4

You can learn a lot about people by looking through their family photo albums. Thumbing through the pages you can see snapshots that capture significant moments in time. It is a visual history of relationships, change, events, and memories. When I look at family albums, I know there are unique and living stories behind the pictures. Wouldn't it be great to know that the story that unfolds from our own family albums would reveal God's love and our cooperation with him? God has given us some important insights in his Word that reveal ways in which we might cooperate with him as he writes the story of our lives. In this lesson, let's look at a few of these insights and allow God to speak to us personally.

Experiencing God in family relationships

God is the architect of the family. His design takes into account the uniqueness of man, woman, and child. It also reflects his desire to be in a relationship with each member. God created the family in such a way that its members might know his peace, love, intimacy, grace, joy, and hope in the midst of their relationships. The family would find all of these things as they lived in a right relationship with God and each other. The question for fallen man is this: What must we do to experience family life as God intended? God revealed, through the apostle Paul, some insight into what each member of the family must do to rightly relate to one another and to God.

Husband to wife

God inspired Paul to write the following instructions for husbands and wives. He said, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Following this insight, Paul began to describe in very practical ways that a husband and woman may live out their relationship with one another with reverence for Christ. A deeper love for God and each other develops as they begin to experience this relational strategy. As each one seeks to live in submission to one another, a God-given balance becomes reality.

Children to parents

After addressing the husband and wife, he then spoke to the children. He told them to "obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother — which is the first commandment with a promise." God gave children the responsibility to live under their parent's authority. This is an essential teaching for children as God seeks to develop an attitude of respect and reverence for others. Without this attitude, children will have great difficulty in relating rightly to God. This relational strategy will also serve to create greater harmony in family relationships.

Parents to children

God also inspired Paul to write the following instructions to parents about how they might best relate to their children. He told them, "fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Human nature often drives one to take advantage of one's position of authority in relationships, but God encourages parents to exercise their position of authority with his grace and mercy. The key to experiencing God in our families rests in our ability to rightly relate to him as we rightly relate to one another. Does your family album reveal God's love and your cooperation with 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.

Traditions or God

By Billy Murphy

Focal Passage — Mark 7:1-13

The work and ministry of Jesus in Galilee may be divided into three periods. In the first period, there was a quick rising of popularity among the people and some opposition from the religious leaders. The second period is characterized by the spreading opposition among the people, evidenced by his rejection in Nazareth. In the third period, which we consider in this lesson, there came a bitter, all-out attack on him from the Pharisees and the scribes, who now realized they must destroy him if their popularity was to survive.

In the first five books of the Old Testament, we find a large number of instructions concerning the practice of religious faith. But four or five hundred centuries before Christ came a group of legal experts who added a great mass of rules and definitions to this body of written law and tradition. This addition came to be known as the Oral Law, or "the traditions of the elders." These legal experts were referred to as scribes. In their zeal for regulations, they created a maze of complicated and confusing rules.

Family Bible Lesson

One ceremony had to do with the washing of hands before eating. There was an elaborate ritual to be observed, intricate regulations of how the fingertips were to be pointed as they were washed. If a Jew failed to perform the washing exactly, he was guilty of irreverence and bad conduct in the eyes of God (and the scribes). Jesus and his disciples objected; they refused to recognize the ritual. Religion, they said, was not a matter of ceremonial washing; it was a matter of offering a clean heart to God. One could worship in the gestures of ritual, and still deny God in the secret places of one's heart.

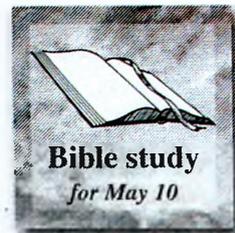
The response of Jesus was a sharp countercharge against these religious leaders. He called them "hypocrites" — the

word used by the Greeks to describe actors who played a part of some kind. As used by Jesus, the word meant people whose religion was not genuine. Jesus supported his charge by applying Isaiah 29:13. Jesus accused them of the hypocrisy of making outward claims of devotion to God while their hearts were actually far from God. You will notice that Jesus called the tradition of the elders "the commandments of men" (v. 7) and "the tradition of men" (v. 8). Thus Jesus clearly did not consider the tradition of the elders as sent from God to Moses. He considered these oral laws to be only the interpretations of human minds.

A more serious charge concerning their devotion to human traditions is evidenced in verse 9. Jesus uses the time-honored Commandment of "honor thy father and thy mother" to illustrate his point. Moses said to honor our parents. All Jews believed that. But the law had been corrupted. A tradition had been established called "Corban." This is the Greek translation of a Hebrew word that meant "a gift dedicated to God." By declaring one's personal property (wealth) to be "Corban," a person made a vow or oath to dedicate his personal property to God. The property was to be used for no other purpose.

This process sounds good but there was a catch to it. The tradition further provided that, while the property could not then be given to any other person, it could be used by its owner for personal gratification and delight. If one's aging parents needed assistance for survival, and the declaration of "Corban" had been made, the tradition forbade the use of the dedicated property even to help his destitute parents.

What a hypocrisy in the name of religion! What blasphemy to use the gesture of a religious act and call it goodness! What greater proof could God have that "this people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." One can go through the motions of attending every worship service in any church and still deny God a prominent place in one's heart. — Murphy is Computer Consultant for West Carroll Special School District and a bivocational pastor, Howse Church, Atwood.



Problems in the church

By James Growden

Focal Passage — I Corinthians 1:1-2, 10-13, 18, 26-31

Problems in the church!

How many times have you heard that statement? All of us have. Some problems which the church encounters are small while others are major and cause splits in the congregation. Most church problems could be avoided if the parties involved would sit down with a third party and "talk about what Christ would do." In many cases the local Director of Missions would be a person to turn to at this time.

Paul wrote I Corinthians for three reasons: (1) to draw the Christians back together in a spirit of unity as one body in Christ; (2) to deal with moral laxity in the church; and (3) to answer certain questions the church had requested him to answer.

How many of us have heard "our church" just doesn't do this or that? I have been guilty of saying that. Verse two informs us that the church belongs to God, not man. Had the Corinthians recognized this, their problem might not have existed. Those who compose the church have been sanctified, set apart by God as his possession. Christ Jesus is our Lord and we are to obey him.

In chapter 1:10 through 4:21, Paul addressed the problems in the church at Corinth. Notice how in verse 10 he appealed to brothers (Christians) in

Explore the Bible Lesson

the most authoritative fashion, "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." This is the tenth reference to Christ in the first 10 verses, leaving no doubt as to the One Paul believed should be the focus of the church. If Christ is our focus, there is no problem with unity. Instead of unity in the church, the fabric was coming apart at the seam, according to Chloe's servants.

Harmony is what we all need to be working toward. There is a difference between having opposing viewpoints and being divisive. A church will not completely agree on every issue, but they can work together harmoniously if they agree on Christ and his Word. In your church, talk and behave in a way that will reduce arguments and increase harmony.

In verses 12-13 Paul brings four groups to light. It seems there are four "parties" in the church conflict. Some seem to follow Paul, some Apollos, some Cephas, and others Christ. The three questions (v. 13) were rhetorical, however, the answer was a resounding "no" to all three. The body of Christ is not divided and neither should be its local expression. All Christians owe their alle-

giance only to Christ.

The message of Christ's death (ch. 1:18-25) for sins sounds foolish to those who do not believe. Jesus did not stay in the grave. His resurrection shows his power over death and he has saved us from eternal death giving us eternal life if we trust him as Savior and Lord. The lost person who simply accepts Christ's offer is actually the wisest of all, because he alone will live eternally with God.

The good news still sounds foolish to many. Our society worships power, influence, and wealth. Christ came as a humble, poor servant, and he offers his Kingdom to those with faith enough to accept his offer. Eternal life is not gained by works of man.

Through the end of this chapter, Paul continues to emphasize that the way to receive salvation is so ordinary and simple that any person who wants to can understand. Skill doesn't get you into God's Kingdom — simple faith does. There is nothing we can do to become acceptable to God. We need only accept what Jesus has already done for us. He has done the work; we acknowledge that work; we acknowledge his position as God.

Read Ephesians 4 in several translations before next week's lesson. We will study God's plan for the church. — Growden is a teacher and a bivocational pastor, Hillcrest Church, Nashville.

people

■ Laneview Church, Kenton, ordained **John Baker**, **John Burpo**, **Steve Jewell**, and **Russ Woods** as deacons recently.

■ West Shiloh Church, Stantonville, recently ordained **Ronnie Blanton**, **Jimmy Cooksey**, and **J. D. Germany** as deacons.

leaders

■ Calvary Hill Church, Dyer, recently called **Harvel Baker** as pastor.

■ **James Brown** is serving as interim pastor, Calvary Church, Humboldt.

■ First Church, Perryville, called **David Bayer** as pastor, effective April 12.

■ Concord Church, Chattanooga, has called **Tim Galyon** as minister of music and senior adults, effective May 13.

■ Finley Church, Finley, honored **Charlie Halliburton**, pastor, recently for serving 14 years at the church.

■ **Bill Phipps**, pastor, Lenox Church, Lenox, resigned recently.

■ North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, recently called **Blake Estes** as minister of music and youth.

■ **Bryan Ray** has been called as pastor of White Hall Church, Trenton, and will begin serving after his May graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **Trent Bullock** has been called as pastor, First Church, Halls. He was associate pastor, First Church, Dresden.

■ Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, called **David Bennett** as minister to youth, effective May 3.

■ **David Lawrence**, pastor, First Church, Lawrenceburg, and **Chad Moore** will serve in Russia May 18-29.

■ **Lee Barnett** has resigned as youth minister, First Church, Rutherford.

■ **Ruble Thompson**, pastor, Boyd's Creek Church, Sevierville, recently celebrated his 12th year of service there.

■ North Springfield Church, Springfield, has called **John Rowland** as minister of music and youth. He was on the staff of a church in Florida.

■ **Brett L. Hawkins** of Knoxville has been awarded the Lester E. Harrell Memorial Award from Southwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The memorial scholarship is awarded to an outstanding music student.

■ First Church, Columbia, has called **Brad Sallee** as minister of education/administration, effective May 24.

■ First Church, Martin, recently honored **Elwood Doss Jr.**, minister of music and senior adults, for 15 years of service.

■ **William Owens**, pastor, Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga, will participate in a pulpit exchange program with a pastor in England during July.

death

■ **Charles W. Hood Jr.**, 44, missionary to Colombia was shot and killed April 21 in front of his home in Bogota. He is survived by his wife, **Becky Harvey Hood**, who is the sister of **Gary Harvey**, minister of education, First Church, Cookeville. The murder is unsolved but the International Mission Board reported it seemed to be a random act of violence. Hood also is survived by a daughter, **Dawn**, of the home, and son, **Aaron**, a student at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Ark. The Hoods are from Missouri.

churches

■ **Broadmoor Church**, Nashville, held revival recently. As a result, 20 people made professions of faith, two joined the church by letter, and others made additional spiritual decisions.

■ **Wanda Lee**, the new national Woman's Missionary Union president, will address a Spring Luncheon held by Baptist Women of **First Church, Memphis**, May 19 at 11 a.m. For more information call **Kathryn McCommon** at (901) 683-1804.

■ **Maple Springs Church, Medon**, will hold its 150th anniversary celebration/homecoming May 10. For more information, call the church at (901) 935-7033.

■ Musical compositions of **Ray Hatton**, minister of music, **First Church, Memphis**, will be featured at the church May 3 at 6:15 p.m. The church's Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Chorale, and Youth choir will perform. For more information, call the church at (901) 454-1131 or access the church's website at www.magnaworld.com/fbcmemphis.



BURNING A NOTE to represent the debt-free status of a church addition are leaders of **Henard's Chapel Missionary Church, Rogersville** on March 12. The addition is only a year and half old.

■ **Poplar Corner Church**, Brownsville, will conduct revival May 17-20. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of Memphis, will speak. For more information, contact the church at (901) 772-0950.

■ **Fellowship Church**, Millington, recently met a challenge set by the pastor, **Mike Owens**. Because 212 attended the church one Sunday, he spoke from the church's roof the following Sunday.

■ **Pleasant Site Church**, Selmer, will conduct revival May 10-13. **Johnny Burns**, pastor, Unity Church, Ramer, will speak.

■ **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, will hold a "Journey of Faith" for ladies May 15-16. **Janie Miller** will speak. For more information, call the church at (423) 523-9419.

■ **Beacon Church, Parsons**, will conduct revival May 4-6.

■ **Missionaries John and Brenda Bayer** of Mexico, are living in the missionary home of **Leawood Church, Memphis**, for a year during their furlough. They will be honored May 10 following the evening worship service.

■ **First Church, Crossville**, will hold a prayer conference, "Listening to God," May 10-13. It will be led by **Dick Burr** of Pennsylvania. For more information, contact the church at (931) 484-3532.

■ **Central Church, Hixson**, will conduct a women's conference, "Walking Worthily," May 16. **Anne Graham Lotz**, daughter of evangelist **Billy Graham**, and **Bev Lowry** will speak. For more information, call (423) 877-6462.

■ **First Church, Martin**, is conducting a fund-raising effort to add a children's educational wing, to remodel the auditorium and several other areas of the church.

■ **New Salem Church, Dukedom**, dedicated a new church steeple April 19.

■ **Eastside Church, Martin**, will conduct revival May 17-20. **Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld**, evangelist, will speak.

■ **Laneview Church, Kenton**, is conducting revival May 4-8. **Ronnie Coleman** is speaking.

■ **First Church, Rutherford**, will conduct revival May 10-14. **Gray Allison** will speak.

■ **Calvary Church, Humboldt**, will conduct revival May 17-20. **James Brown** will speak.

■ **Mount Pleasant Church, Bradford**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary May 17.

■ **Sunnyside Church, Kingsport**, soon will move into its new \$1 million educational building.

■ Teams from **West Colonial Hills Church, Kingsport**, and **Tri-Cities Church, Gray**, served in Romania in March. Groundwork was done to build a chapel and do further evangelistic work there next year.

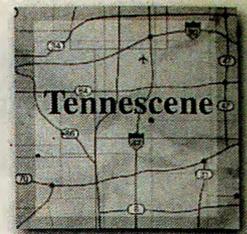
■ A team from **Calvary Church, Kingsport**, will do construction and evangelism in Rio de Janeiro Aug. 8-17. Their work will support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

■ **Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville**, will conduct revival May 17-20. **Ronnie Owens** will preach and **Marty Bilbrey** will lead the music.

■ **First Church, Sharon**, presented its sixth annual "Sharon Passion Play" April 11-12. More than 400 people attended. **Larry Ingle** has portrayed Jesus each year.

■ **Richland Church, Memphis**, will host **David Gandolfo**, a body builder who is a former member of the U.S. Navy Seals. He will speak May 17 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (901) 683-2451.

■ **Two Rivers Church, Nashville**, will host a seminar, "Toward a Growing Marriage," May 29-30. It is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday



School Board, Nashville, and will feature **Gary Chapman**, marriage counselor, author, and speaker. For more information, call 1-800-254-2022 or the church at (615) 889-3950 ext. 162.

■ **Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg**, will conduct revival May 11-17. **Larry Cain** of North Carolina will speak.

■ **First Church, Waynesboro**, dedicated its renovated building April 5.

associations

■ **Big Emory Association** led revivals in Idaho during March.

■ **Shelby Association** will conduct a Starlight Crusade May 23-27 at Lighthouse Church, Memphis. **Jackie Kay**, evangelist, will speak and **Rusty Eason** will be praise leader. Also the **Shelby Singers**, a men's chorus made up of ministers of music from association churches will present its spring concert May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Audubon Church. **Wayne H. Randolph**, associate minister: music and worship, Second Church, Memphis, is the director and **John Scott**, organist, Audubon Park Church, is accompanist. For more information, call the church at (901) 324-5541.

■ A Woman's Missionary Union Prayer Retreat will be held by **Shiloh Association** May 23 at Turkey Creek Church, Savannah.

■ **Weakley County Association** will lead groups to work July 11-18 in Iowa and at Fuller Street Church in Dresden.

■ A team from **Sullivan Association** served in Pinckney, Mich., April 2-4 to prepare for further work to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership.

■ **Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations** will work in Ida, Mich., July 11-18 to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. Volunteers will be building a worship center for Cornerstone Church there which has outgrown its building. The associations work together each year, but this is the largest effort they have accepted.