

REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 22

Statewide Edition

June 3, 1998

this week's news

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Over a four-year period

Executive Board staff to visit every TBC church

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Beginning this month Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board staff members will make an intentional effort to visit every Tennessee Baptist church.

The process will take four years, said Gary Rickman, Executive Board ministry coordinator. Participating in church visitation will be Executive Board ministry specialists and collegiate ministers. Each staff member was randomly assigned 12 churches representing a cross section of the state to visit between June 1 and May 31 of next year, Rickman said. The process then begins again.

The effort will implement a recommendation from a Communication Audit conducted last year by Craig & Associ-

ates of Nashville.

"The work and ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is about relationships," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"The One Servant Family Executive Board's staff acceptance of the challenge to visit each church is a testimony to the value we put on relationships with our churches and people.

"We believe these visits will enhance our relationship and develop our understanding of our common goals to honor Christ through serving churches," Porch said.

"Visiting every Tennessee Baptist church will represent a visible and symbolic act which will communicate our primary message of serving churches," Rickman agreed.

Rickman cited other reasons for the effort.

(1) It will enable Executive



PORCH



RICKMAN

Board staff to listen to church leadership about their needs.

(2) Executive Board staff can share how they can help meet identified needs.

(3) The venture will nurture relationships between Executive Board staff and church leadership.

(4) The effort will help the Executive Board staff be proactive in communicating the message of "making Christ known by serving churches."

Rickman stressed the staff members will be at the church only to visit with the pastor

and/or other church leaders after the service. "We do not expect or want an invitation to speak. We are there to share in the service of the individual churches," Rickman said.

"Through this effort we hope to have an increased awareness by church leadership and a clear commitment by Executive Board staff that we are serious about serving churches," Rickman said.

He added that the effort hopefully will help church leadership "become more knowledgeable" about ministries and services offered by the Executive Board and that it will increase awareness that the Executive Board "will serve churches regardless of size."

"We also hope to develop new personal relationships between Executive Board staff and church leadership," Rickman added. *B&R*

Camp Linden observes 50 years of ministry to Tennessee Baptists

For Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Camp Linden, one of two camps sponsored by Tennessee Baptists, observed its 50th anniversary May 23-24.

Nearly 125 people, some of them former campers and staff members, visited the camp to reminisce about their experiences and to see changes that have occurred at the camp over the years.

The camp has hosted tens of thousands of children, youth, and adults over the years, camp manager Tommy Strong estimated.

In addition to TBC-sponsored camps and events, Camp Linden and its counterpart in the east — Camp Carson in Newport — are available year-round for churches to host their own youth retreats, deacon retreats, prayer weekends, marriage enrichment seminars, teacher training, and more. *B&R*



ABOVE, camp manager Tommy Strong and his wife, Shirley, have served at Camp Linden since 1981. BELOW, Shirley Strong, left, visits with Zubie Martin, center, and Beverly McKee of First Church, Lexington. McKee is an 'alumna' of Camp Linden, having attended GA camp there around 1950. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



Leader sought for Church Staff Leadership

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The search committee for group leader of the Church Staff Leadership Group of the Executive Board will receive nominations and/or resumes for the position through July 2.

The person will fill the position vacated by Gary Rickman, new ministry coordinator for the Executive Board ministries.

The group leader is primarily responsible for the coordination and leadership of the entire ministry of the Church Staff Leadership group.

The functions of the group includes worship skills, church administration skills, staff relationships, and career and personal development. In addition, the group leader oversees the annuity ministry of the group. Additional information regarding the specific assigned task of the group is available through the Executive Leadership office.

The search committee is comprised of John Holland, chairman; Betty Summers, and C.W. Dean, all of whom are members of the Church Programs Committee of the Executive Board.

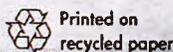
Recommendations should be mailed to John Holland, chairman, Church Programs Search Committee, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. *B&R*

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Mormons 'baptize' Lottie Moon 47 years after death

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — On May 15, 1959, a Mormon by the name of Vergilia Pollard went to the temple in Salt Lake City, donned a white robe and entered a baptismal font adorned with 12 ornamental oxen.

Once in the water, a Mormon priest greeted Pollard with these words: "I lay hands on you in behalf of Charlotte Diggs Moon, who is dead." Pollard, standing in for Lottie Moon, was then dunked into the baptismal water in Moon's behalf.

Thus, according to Mormon doctrine known as "Baptism for the Dead," Lottie Moon, "heroine extraordinaire" for Southern Baptist international missions, was supposedly given a "second chance" to enter the celestial palaces Mormons call heaven.

However, Moon needed no second chance, according to Southern Baptist Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president for the International Mission Board. "Lottie Moon's eternal destiny was settled in this life when she committed her life to Christ," he said. "No one can change the course of that destiny after death nor on behalf of another person. The Bible teaching is that the eternal destiny of all human be-

ings is determined in this life."

Mormon baptismal waters have also been stirred for other Southern Baptist legends, or soon will be. For instance, Mormon records on George W. Truett, pastor of First Church of Dallas from 1897-44, indicate he has been "cleared" for baptism, though the ritual has not actually taken place.

Years from now, after they die, other influential Southern Baptists will likely be named in these Mormons records of people baptized for the dead.

As the Southern Baptist Convention prepares to meet June 9-11 in Salt Lake City, headquarters of the Mormon church — officially the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — the spotlight will also fall on this doctrine that is one of many aspects of Mormonism that trouble Southern Baptists.

Messengers who tour the famous Mormon genealogical library in Salt Lake City may not realize that this doctrine of baptism for the dead has led Mormons to develop one of the finest, if not the best, collection of genealogical materials in the world.

The evidences of this doctrine are found in the library's thousands and thousands of stacks and microchips of records. The public may only view records of people born before 1900 who have been bap-

Tennessee Baptists travel to Salt Lake City for SBC annual meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

the SBC annual meeting.

SALT LAKE CITY — Hundreds of Tennessee Baptists are finalizing plans this week to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 here.

Several Tennessee Baptists, including a large group from First Church, Millington, are participating in "Crossover Salt Lake City," an evangelism effort held prior to

SBC messengers will elect a new president and will discuss an amendment on family to the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

Lonnie Wilkey and Connie Davis of the *Baptist and Reflector* staff will be on hand to report on events preceding and during the annual meeting. Full coverage will be provided in the June 17 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. B&R

tized, but the library contains the names and baptism records for millions of people who never in life embraced the Mormon Church but who in death have been baptized by "proxy" — as a Mormon descendant acted in their places.

Mormons collect genealogical information so they can baptize by proxy non-Mormons who are now dead.

In order to baptize Lottie Moon, for instance, Pollard — whose genealogy most likely intersected with Moon's family — had to "prove" through genealogical research that Lottie once lived and is now dead.

Moon's Mormon records list historical characteristics that match those of Lottie Moon the

missionary. They show her birth on Dec. 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Va., her death on Dec. 24, 1912, and the names of her parents, Edwards Harris Moon and Ann Maria Barclay Moon.

"These Mormon doctrines seem strange to most Baptists and other Christians," says material produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's interfaith witness team.

"Many find it hard to believe a church calling itself Christian could teach such things. Nonetheless, these unusual ideas are standard beliefs of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." ■

World Hunger funds lead to decisions, growth in Tanzania

Baptist Press

DODOMA, Tanzania — The Gogo people who live in the Dodoma region of Tanzania farm tiny plots of land where they grow a yearly food ration according to the mercies of the rainy season.

The "rainy" season of 1997 wasn't so merciful. A drought caused most crops to wither.

But where Satan meant destruction to the Gogo people, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries seized on a way to demonstrate the love of God to them. Their efforts helped relieve the suffering, save lives, build local churches — and win souls for the kingdom of God.

By last fall the Gogo were in the early stages of starvation, and Tanzanian officials declared Dodoma one of five regions in a state of famine.

Food is available in Tanzania — for a price. It costs \$4 to feed a family for a week.

The 1.3 million people of Dodoma are subsistence farmers who make an average

of only \$60 a year.

Working with Tanzanian pastors and youth trained in evangelism, missionaries Olan and Lynn Burrow organized a project to provide food for Gogo people in 10 areas where Baptist churches are located. Over and over, the busy pastors and youth volunteered to help in the project.

Using \$254,000 in Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds, they bought and distributed enough corn and dagaa, a small protein-packed fish, to feed 31,000 people for a month. They also distributed seed corn for the current growing season.

The workers scheduled nothing evangelistic on their first food distribution visits, to establish in the minds of people that everyone in need would receive the same amount regardless of their faith. Immediately, every church began reporting increased attendance, and some reported decisions for Jesus.

Later, workers began each distribution day with a service. People have continued to make decisions. ■

TBC on the Web! www.tnbaptist.org

Leaders plan YouthLink 2000

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — YouthLink 2000, a massive turn-of-the-millennium student celebration, promises to provide the kind of challenge today's Christian young people need to impact their world for Christ, according to several youth leaders organizing the event.

"All this generation of students is looking for is someone to point them in the right direction, to say, 'There is the hill: Go take it,'" said Keith Loomis, a student volunteer mobilization associate with the North American Mission Board who serves on the YouthLink 2000 steering committee.

The Southern Baptist event will be held Dec. 29-31, 1999, simultaneously in seven U.S. cities: Atlanta, Anaheim, Calif., Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Tampa, Fla. It will be devoted to celebration and praise, as well as commit-

ment to evangelism and discipleship in the new millennium. As many as 200,000 students, ages 13-22, are anticipated.

Loomis and Andy Morris, director of NAMB student volunteer mobilization, say they have already seen the spiritual intensity and maturity demonstrated by today's students in the response to World Changers, a program offering hands-on missions opportunities for junior high and senior high school students.

Coordinators of YouthLink 2000 are encouraging churches to register their students early for the event because space is limited. Using domed stadiums and convention centers at the seven sites, YouthLink 2000 will accommodate 200,000 students. Registration is at more than 13,500 as of mid-May. Venue choice and priority seating are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 1-888-YOUTHCLK. ■

April was bitter-sweet month for Lenoir City church

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — Members of Highland Park Church here had looked forward to April 26 for some time.

That was the day they had set aside to dedicate the church's \$945,000 sanctuary which also included office and classroom space. The congregation had been meeting in their new space since February.

Church members held the dedication, but floods the week before dampened their spirits somewhat, said Pastor Tony Collins.



COLLINS

Heavy rains flooded the basement of the old church and did about \$25,000 worth of damage to their newly-paved parking lot. Flood waters "rolled the black top up like a rug," Collins said.

In addition members worked the week before the

flooding to landscape around the church, Collins noted.

"To watch the floods wash away everything was discouraging," he admitted.

Church members worked hard the week after the flooding to clean up, Collins said. They were unable to hold services April 19, the week before the dedication.

During the dedication service Collins reminded his members that "we had survived and would continue to serve God."

He also reminded them that their new building had been spared of any flood damage.

While attendance has dipped somewhat since then, Collins is optimistic it will pick back up.

Highland Park has had 38 additions to the church since February, he noted.

Despite the misfortune, Collins said the Lord has blessed the church tremendously during his almost 15 years as pastor.

The church has grown from 50 in Sunday School when he arrived at his first pastorate to around 190 in Sunday School



THE CONGREGATION of Highland Park Church, Lenoir City, dedicated their new worship facility one week after flooding damaged their old sanctuary and did about \$25,000 worth of damage to their new parking lot.

and a worship attendance of about 300.

Collins noted he and the church have grown together over the years.

"I was green as a gourd when I first came," Collins laughed, but credited the congregation for being willing to change.

"I found a place where I fit with gracious, loving people

willing to grow," Collins said.

He noted as new people join the church, members make them feel at home and encourage them to use their gifts to work alongside them, some of whom have been members of Highland Park their entire lives.

"God has really been good to us," he affirmed. *B&R*



Easterly to retire from foundation

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Richard E. Easterly, vice president/administration for the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, will retire June 30.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Tennessee Baptists through the Foundation," he said.

Easterly, a native of Knoxville, will turn 70 in November. He has been with the Foundation for 12 years after serving for 21 years in hospital financial management.

He has been a Tennessee Baptist for 60 years and has served numerous churches throughout the convention in their music ministry on a supply or interim basis.

He served three congregations on a regular part-time basis — Black Oak Heights and Park Lane churches in Knoxville and Salem Springs (now River Rock) Church in Concord Association.

Easterly and his wife, Ruth, have two children — Richard Easterly Jr. of Franklin and Jennifer Spurlock of Sevierville — and seven grandchildren.

They are members of First Church, Nashville. ■



EASTERLY

Directors of missions, pastor will write lesson commentaries

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two directors of missions from across the state and an East Tennessee pastor will write Sunday School lesson commentaries for June-August.

Paul Medley, pastor of First Church, Jasper, since 1992, will write the Life and Work series.

A native of New Orleans, La., Medley is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and holds the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He currently serves on the TBC Executive Board and on the board of directors for the

Baptist and Reflector.

Medley and his wife, JoRene, have three children, Shane, Elizabeth, and Emily.

Richard Skidmore, director of missions for Weakley County Association since 1982, will write the Family Bible series.

A native of Lincoln County, Ky., Skidmore is a graduate of Bethel College, McKenzie, and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky., and has done additional study at the University of Kentucky, Cumberland College, Eastern Kentucky University, and Luther Rice Theological Seminary.

He served as pastor of three churches in Kentucky and Temple Church, Paris, prior to becoming a DOM.

Skidmore has held numerous positions at both the associational and state levels.

Skidmore and his wife, Sheila, have two daughters, Tracy Hunter and Trisha Hathcock.

James H. Powers, director of missions in Concord Association since 1987, will write the Explore the Bible series.

The Martin native is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and has done additional study through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



MEDLEY



POWERS



SKIDMORE

He was pastor of five churches in Tennessee — Palestine, Montezuma; Hickory Withe, Hickory Withe; Feathers Chapel, Somerville; Pinson, Pinson; and Edgefield, Nashville. He also served as a language missionary in the state.

Powers and his wife, Mary Lou, have two sons, Clark and Nathan. ■

Association secretary to retire after 31-year ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — In 1967 Pat Amos took a part-time job with Loudon County Association.

And though the job itself has remained part-time the past 31 years, it became a full-time ministry.

Amos will retire in October. During her tenure with the association she worked with four director of missions. She was with the association when it was housed in one room at Calvary Church, Lenoir City. The association moved to its present building and site in 1974, she said.

"It has been a special opportunity to be acquainted with the pastors over the years," she said, noting the most rewarding part of her job has been the friendships she has made over the years with pastors and church staff.

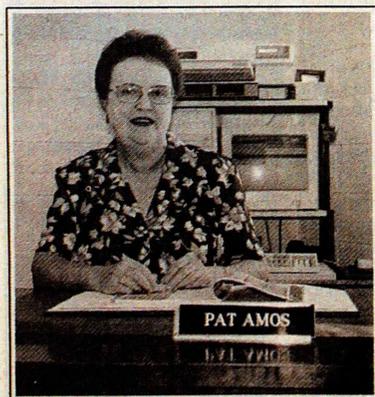
"My goal has been to be an encourager to our pastors," Amos added.

Even in high school, Amos said she knew she wanted to be a secretary. Her career has ran the gamut, from a manual typewriter when she first started to a modern, well-equipped office complete with a computer. Learning how to use the computer was her most challenging task, she admitted.

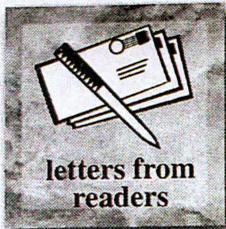
For most of her tenure she was the only secretary the association had. For the past two years she has shared duties with Gail Hooker.

In addition to working for the association, she also has been active in one of its churches — Pleasant Hill in Lenoir City where she has been the church organist for many years.

Amos, a native of Lenoir City, and her husband, Charles, have two children and two grandchildren. ■



PAT AMOS



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.

Agrees with action

As a graduate of Carson-Newman College, I have no problem with C-N electing its own trustees. C-N is neither conservative nor liberal, but rather progressive.

I realize that there are people who feel the need to control what others think and do. But I am offended by those who threaten my religious liberty and well-being.

My conservative friends are always saying that we should be independent, self-reliant, and assume responsibility for our own actions. But the only way to be that is to be a free individual with freedom to choose what one thinks and does.

However, my conservative friends are not free individuals. They cannot be responsible for their own actions because they have no individual actions.

I accept that I am a moderate and a free individual and that the consequences of my actions is that I am not welcome in the Baptist faith. But I was a born again Christian before I ever become a Baptist!

Jim Pennington
Johnson City 37604

Thanks to all

When the Allen family came to Tennessee 10 years ago, we came to stay. Not only have I been blessed to serve as editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, we have found a home.

We have become friends with many warm and gracious Tennessee Baptists who have made us part of the family. Thank you all!

I also want to thank each of you for this extraordinary relationship between editor and readers. You have been a wonderful audience — and you also participated in helping us build a strong paper which already had a reputation for excellence. You, our readers, are among God's most choice people.

A thousand memories enrich our lives. I will always treasure the church anniversaries, partnership missions journeys, associational meetings, Baptist people doing things for Christ and not for fame blended with the daily work of the paper. Week by week, year by year, it has been a great journey.

I also am grateful for the friends at the Baptist Center who supported the ongoing work of the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. I am thankful for the close relationships.

I am forever indebted to those B&R staff members for their steadfast loyalty and hard work — sometimes in difficult circumstances. Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, Mary Nimmo, Betty Williams, and Susie Edwards are the best and they merit praise and support. They are truly kindred spirits. Thank you Tennessee Baptists for the privilege and honor of serving with you in the name of Jesus Christ. Yes, Betty and I are proud to be part of the family.

Wm. Fletcher Allen
Franklin 37064

Amused by letter

James M. Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said it well in his statement of April 20 following action taken by Carson-Newman College trustees on April 17 to change the trustee selection process: "I am saddened and sincerely regret that the board of trustees of Carson-Newman College felt major action altering the trustee selection process was necessary." I, too, am saddened and sincerely regret this decision by the board of trustees of Carson-Newman College.

I was amused at a letter dated April 17 which I received from college officials. In that letter the second paragraph reads: "This action provides a more stable and secure future

for Carson-Newman and ensures that the college can remain true to its Baptist heritage and its commitment to serving Tennessee Baptists."

Wrong! This action provides for alienation from and amputation of the heritage and commitment of Tennessee Baptists.

My daughter graduates from high school this year and I had encouraged her to consider Carson-Newman College since I had graduated from the college in 1976. However, she made her decision not to attend Carson-Newman. Now, I see what a wise decision she has made.

Alan Smith, pastor
Grace Covenant Church
Knoxville 37923

Observations

I read the *Reflector* every week and have followed the developments at Carson-Newman with great interest. As executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, I know the institution is genuinely committed to its Baptist heritage. The SBHS recently voted to move publication of its journal, *Baptist History and Heritage*, to the school because of Carson-Newman's commitment to the study and communication of Baptist history.

My second observation is that the secrecy and suddenness of which the C-N trustees have been charged have become a way of life among Southern Baptists. If one group is guilty, all are guilty. I sat in the February 1995 SBC Executive Committee meeting when the PSSC (Program and Structure Study Committee) report was handed out at the very last minute and it was announced that major restructuring of the SBC was going to be recommended. Executives were not even allowed to share the recommendations with their staff nor their trustees.

As chairman of the Historical Commission's trustees, I was shocked and stunned that I was never contacted and had no input on the matter, although the bylaws of the SBC stated that the Executive Committee was required to communicate with trustees on matters related to their agencies.

My point is this. Developments during the last two decades have resulted in a lack of trust and constant suspicion of any group that does anything, no matter which side of the issue one is on. We have brought this upon ourselves with a two-sets-of-rules (one for you, one for me), winner-takes-all mentality. "He who is without sin ..."

Slayden Yarbrough
executive director, SBHS
Shawnee, OK 74801

Many blessings

I have received many blessings from God during my first-year of service on the International Mission Board. They include:

First, Dr. Jerry Rankin and others who serve with him in the administration and staff at the IMB in Richmond.

Second, the commissioning of men and women who are so dedicated, Spirit-filled, energetic, and intelligent to serve Jesus Christ on the international mission field.

Third, the record number of persons obeying God's missionary call. There have been five successive record-breaking years of missionary appointments.

Fourth, Southern Baptists gave the largest Lottie Moon Christmas offering in history this past year to support our missionary family.

Fifth, the restructuring of the existing mission organization, enabling Southern Baptists to be adequately prepared to make a greater impact for Christ and his kingdom and to reap an even greater spiritual harvest as we enter the third millennium.

Sixth, the beginning of the mobilization of Southern Baptists by the IMB, making it possible for "every tribe and language and people and nation" to know Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord. An example of their new proactive stance is "Creative Access Networks" which seeks to list Global Priority Churches. As a Global Priority Church, a congregation receives help from the IMB to learn, pray, give, go, and prepare today's and tomorrow's missionaries. For more information about GPC, call 1-800-999-3113, ext. 2-1509.

To God be the glory for all he is doing through Southern Baptists and the IMB to lead all peoples of all nations to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

John Adams
vice president for campus ministries & church services
Union University
Jackson 38305

Salutes foresight

The size of the blinders of a recent letter writer evaluating the actions of the board of trustees of Carson-Newman College is truly awe inspiring. Concerns about the "person in the pews" of our Tennessee Baptist churches are almost two decades late.

Most messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention are pastors, their wives, and ministerial staff. Therefore, "we the people" were given little opportunity to express our

opinions as various agencies were swallowed up by those with a fundamentalist agenda.

The trust of "we the people" was violated long ago and, trying to make Carson-Newman's board a scapegoat for that violated trust is duplicitous at best. I salute the bravery and foresight of Carson-Newman's board in preserving our historic Baptist principles and their own independence. They certainly had reason to be concerned.

Rose Hammond
Athens 37303

Likes variety

Thanks for printing the variety of views that characterize Baptists. I am so pleased that Carson-Newman College is standing up for traditional Baptist beliefs and quality education. Hopefully, Union University in my region, will be able to do this in their own way also.

I oppose the proposed addition to the *Baptist Faith and Message* document. Such a narrow definition of "family" is really anti-family as is the equally narrow definition of the roles of husbands and wives.

This narrow focus will not serve Tennessee Baptists well in the global world of the 21st century. It certainly does not express my beliefs as a traditional Baptist raised in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Nancy Lowe
Memphis 38112

Volunteers needed for revivals in Rio

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Volunteers are needed to help lead upcoming revivals in Rio de Janeiro.

A team of 15 people is needed for simultaneous revivals in churches on Governor's Island Aug. 9-17. The group will be led by Murray Mathis of Murfreesboro. Call him at (615)-890-7308.

Musicians are especially needed to complete teams of two people each for simultaneous revivals Sept. 17-Oct. 6 in the Jacarepaqua Association. Nightly services will be held along with visitation, personal witnessing, speaking in schools, and special musical presentations. That effort will be led by Terry Sharp of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

For more information about the Sept. 17-Aug. 6 revivals, call the TBC at 1-800-558-2090, or (615) 371-2021. ■

School violence — when will it stop?

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

Daniel, my soon to be fourth grader, recently told his mother he didn't want to get any older.

That syndrome usually doesn't hit males until they turn at least 40 so, being the wife of a journalist, Joyce investigated the matter further to discover why Daniel preferred remaining a 9-year-old indefinitely.

Daniel had heard news reports on television about shootings in middle and high schools across the country. He told his mother, "I don't want to get shot." From listening to some of my friends, Daniel is not alone in his fear.

It's a sad state of affairs in our nation when children cannot enjoy the innocence of their childhood. Most people have fond memories of their childhood and going to school. Unfortunately, school violence is robbing our children and youth of their age of innocence.

Instances of school violence are not isolated. They seem to be increasing at an alarming rate. A Baptist Press story May 22 cited three instances of teenagers and guns the day before. They occurred in three different states and resulted in five deaths and 23 people wounded.

A person is deluding himself or herself by thinking "that can't happen here." School violence already has happened in Tennessee. Three years ago a student opened fire in a Giles County high school, taking the life of a student and a teacher, and only two weeks ago a high school senior shot and killed another senior in

Fayetteville, just days before both were to graduate. Three other school shooting tragedies have been reported since January. Two of those have been in our neighbor states of Arkansas and Kentucky.

In the Baptist Press account of the May 21 shootings, Joe Martin, pastor of First Church, Toledo, Wash., commented that school violence "is not some kind of fluke. It's a symptom of a deeper cultural vacuum in young people who lack a moral compass. ..."

What confuses the matter is that some of the young people who have perpetrated the acts have been described as "good kids" from good families and neighborhoods. It's not just the "thugs" or teens on "the other side of the tracks" who are taking the lives of their peers.

What can Christians do to protect our children other than taking them out of public schools? For many people, that simply is not an option.

I asked Richard Ross, national youth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, what can be done as preventative measures.

In some of the reported cases of violence friends admitted they had heard the person talk about what they might do, but it was shrugged off as idle talk.

Ross observed that church leaders, both laity and staff, need to "gently help children and youth to tell a responsible adult when they are aware of a very troubled person."

That is not as simple as it sounds. We probably all at one time or another have told our kids not to be "tattletales." Ross observed: "There is a strong motivation

within the youth culture to not tell on a friend. Today a young person must realize that keeping quiet can be lethal to themselves and their peers." Christian adults need to talk with their teenagers and help them understand that in these situations it is ok to tell. And if told, adults must tell the appropriate person so counseling can be obtained for the troubled youth.

Schools that recognize there is a problem and are seeking ways to solve it should be given credit.

The Tennessean, Nashville's daily newspaper, reported May 27 that Metro Nashville school officials are making plans to help teachers and principals identify and then deal with potentially violent students before a tragedy occurs. Other school districts undoubtedly will follow suit.

The bottom line, however, is that school violence, along with a multitude of other sins, won't stop until Christians get busy and win the world for Jesus Christ. It won't happen overnight, but it can be done.

Back to Daniel's concern. We would not have been honest with him if we said, "Don't worry. Nothing will happen to you at school." We simply don't know that. What we can do is let him know that we pray for him and his sister every day — that they will be safe, especially when at school. At his young age he knows prayer is important.

I challenge Tennessee Baptists to pray seriously about this issue and to do whatever they can to help eliminate violence in schools. Our kids deserve the right to just be kids, free of stress and worry. They will have that all too soon in life. *B&R*



just for
today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Euadora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Mr. Jones to dentist: "What is your standard fee for pulling a tooth?" Dentist: "One hundred dollars." Mr. Jones: "That's a lot of money for a job that takes only a minute or two, isn't it?" Dentist: "I can take a little longer if you wish."

Take this truth

Life has many swap-offs. Had you rather have a not so well qualified surgeon who was a regular pray-er perform your surgery or have a highly qualified one who was not quite so enthusiastic about prayer? One man said, "I'd take the well trained one and do my own praying."

Memorize this Scripture

"The worker is worth his keep." — Matthew 10:10, NIV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to realize those who perform services deserve proper compensation and usually we get value in direct portion to how much we pay." ■

Tennessee Baptists belong to God, with each other

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive
director



Ashley, a four-year-old, lives next door.

Frequently she visits to "help" me with my yard work. Usually her assistance is through interrogation: "What

are you doing? Why are you doing that? What are you going to do next? When will you be there?"

Last Saturday, she came over carrying a quart jar containing her collection of cicadas, Middle Tennessee's bug of the year for 1998.

Seated on a stump nearby she proceeded to name each bug for me. Her list included Ronald McDonald, Lion King, Anastasia, Seinfeld, Peyton Manning, Winnie the Pooh,

Egor, Zorro, Mickey Mouse, and then she hesitated. It was apparent she had run out of names. "And, what's your name?" she asked. I replied, "James." She immediately informed me that the last bug, the unnamed cicada, was also named James. What a new and innocent experience. I now belong to a child's bug family. Ashley simply wanted me to know I was included even in her fantasy world.

Early in life we learn we

have the need to belong. Our Christian faith includes belonging. As children of our heavenly Father, we belong to him. After all, we were bought with a price, the precious atoning life and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

As Tennessee Baptists we also belong. We belong with each other. By grace we belong to God. Through extensions of grace to each other as fellow Tennessee Baptists we belong with each other. ■

Agency releases stats on children and drug use

FamilyFax

Edited by
Robert Parham

Boomer (1946-64) parents are out of touch with their children and drug use, according to a national study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America (PDFA).

A survey of 9,712 children, teens, and parents across the country found "a dramatic gap between parents' perceptions about their children and drugs, and what teenagers and children

are actually experiencing."

"Boomers — many of whom have 'been there, done that' — are surprisingly and ironically out of step with the reality of drugs in their children's lives," said Richard D. Bonnette, president and CEO of PDFA.

Research findings on parental perceptions and their children's experience include:

- 45 percent of parents said their child may have friends who spoke pot, while 71 percent of teens report they have friends who smoke marijuana.

- 21 percent of parents believe their teen may have tried pot, while 44 percent of teens say they have.

- 33 percent of parents think their children view pot as harm-

ful, but only 18 percent of teens think it is risky.

Research findings on drug use among children and teenagers include:

- 59 percent of teens were offered drugs in 1997, up from 52 percent in 1995 and 46 percent in 1993. One-third of all teens were offered drugs at school.

- 28 percent of 9 to 12-year-olds (children in the fourth-sixth grades) were offered drugs in 1997, compared to 24 percent in 1995 and 19 percent in 1993.

- 571,000 fourth-sixth graders experimented with pot in 1997, up significantly from 334,000 in 1993.

"Less than one-third of teens named parents as a source of in-

formation on drugs," the report said.

More than 30 percent reported that their parents "had never talked to them about drugs" in the past year, compared to 94 percent of parents of teens who said they had "talked to their teens about drugs in the past year."

To access information from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, visit their web site (www.drugfreeamerica.org). Parham is executive director, Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville. FamilyFax is published by Acacia Resources, a division of the center. It is available at no cost. A dedicated FAX line is needed. For information, FAX request to (615) 383-0915.

Partnership Prayer Requests

June

3 — Pray for Scott Plavnick, pastor of Grace Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

4 — Pray for Westhaven Church, Memphis, a part of the Mississippi River Ministry. The church needs finances for building repairs and ministry teams for its English as a Second Language program.

5 — Pray for a nine-member team from Broadmoor Church, Memphis, who are doing construction this week in Costa Rica.

6 — Pray for the deaf camp sponsored by Michigan Baptists June 18-21.

7 — Praise God for Canadian Baptist Seminary students who are ministering in churches this summer.

8 — Pray for Pastor John Cowherd and New Song Church, Memphis, a part of the Mississippi River Ministry area.

9 — Pray for the Costa Rica Baptist Mission as it responds to new directions from the International Mission Board.

87-year-old pastor completes 60-year ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Grainger County native R.C. Walker ended a 60-year ministry April 26 when he retired as pastor of Hilltop Church, Kingston.

Walker served as bivocational pastor of eight churches in East Tennessee and north Georgia during those years.

He also was the first director of missions for Loudon County Association, serving there in 1947-48.

During his 60 years of ministry Walker was instrumental in organizing five churches in Roane, Knox, Blount, and Loudon counties.

In addition to serving as pastor, Walker held several jobs during that period, including 22 years with Southern Railway from where he "retired." In recent years he has maintained his farm at the edge of Roane and Loudon counties.

He laughed that he down-



R.C. WALKER, center, and his wife, Pon, look over an annual from Walker's tenure as director of missions in Loudon County Association with current DOM Ray Luck.

sized his farming operations this year by planting "only" 200 tomato plants.

His greatest thrills have been winning people to the Lord and seeing some of those go on to become ministers, and working in Vacation Bible Schools.

"I enjoyed VBS because it is a good way to reach kids with

the Gospel," he noted.

Walker's wife, Pon, says that "everywhere we go we see someone he led to the Lord."

Walker's first wife died in 1994 after 62 years of marriage. They had six children.

His greatest challenge as a bivocational pastor was similar to those faced by bivocational pastors today — find-

ing time to study.

Looking back over the years Walker said he believes it is harder to be a pastor today than it was when he first began.

"We live in a fast age and have more distractions that keep people out of church today," he observed.

Walker estimated he conducted 61 weddings during his ministry and "hundreds" of funerals.

Walker was called to preach after his son almost died with appendicitis. "I told the Lord if he'd open the way I'd do what he wanted." And, the Lord did. "I never asked for a church or a place to preach. The Lord has always furnished a way."

And though he has officially "retired" as pastor, he does not plan on stopping his preaching. Some churches already have contacted him about preaching in the near future.

"The Lord called me to preach," he said with conviction. **B&R** — Lonnie Wilkey



Twin 'PKs' earn honor in high school

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — Rachel and Rebekah Livingston, twin daughters of Nathan and Debbie Livingston, recently graduated at the top of their class at Seymour High School.

The girls' father is pastor of Knob Creek Church here.

Their grandfather, Reid Berry, is minister of music at Cedar Grove Church, Johnson City.

The twins are third generation valedictorians.

Their mother, now a science teacher at Jefferson County High School, graduated from Elizabethton High School as a valedictorian. The girls' grand-

mother, Mary Ann Berry, a retired school teacher, was valedictorian of her senior class in Windom, Minn.

In addition to their scholastic achievements the two girls are extremely active in Southern Baptist life.

They were "state perfect" in Children's Bible Drill and later heavily involved in Acteens.

The twins also served as counselors at the All Nation's Camp held last summer at Camp Linden, where Rachel led a young boy to faith in Jesus Christ that week.

As Acteen Activators they went on a mission trip last summer to Lisbon, Portugal through the International Mission Board. Rebekah took the trip because she wanted exposure to the mission field.

Both are planning to attend college this fall. Rebekah plans to attend Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to prepare to be a career missionary while Rachel plans on attending the University of Tennessee and major in social work. ■



RACHEL LIVINGSTON



REBEKAH LIVINGSTON

Tazewell lay leader honored by Carson-Newman College

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — During commencement services May 9 at Carson-Newman College, a Tazewell lay leader received one of the college's highest honors.

Leo Walker Yoakum was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award which is presented annually to a community member, who through characteristics of heart, mind, and conduct, evidences a spirit of love and helpfulness.

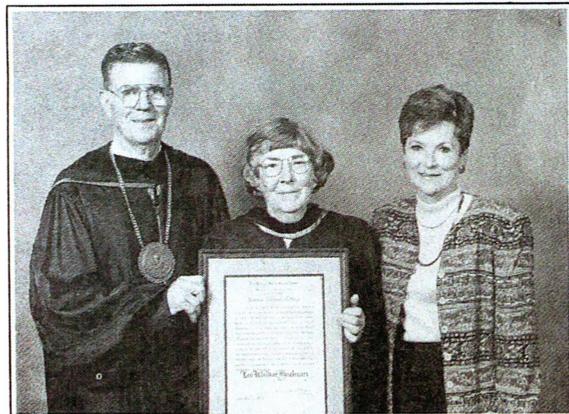
"It is Carson-Newman's privilege to recognize Mrs. Yoakum who has committed her life to the education of young people," said C-N President Cordell Maddox.

For Yoakum the trip to C-N was a homecoming. She is a 1937 graduate of the college and served on the board of trustees of the school for 12 years.

After graduating from Carson-Newman she returned to Claiborne County where she taught and eventually became superintendant of schools. After retirement she was elected to the local school board.

Yoakum's leadership also led to the formation of several community organizations, including Claiborne County's Head Start program.

She is a Sunday School teacher, church training leader, and an active WMU member at Tazewell Church. ■



LEO WALKER YOAKUM, center, received an award for humanitarian service from Carson-Newman College President and Mrs. Cordell Maddox.

Union hosts pastors, seniors

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University will jointly hold its annual pastors school and senior adult conference this summer.

The pastors school will be held Aug. 3-6 while the senior adults will meet Aug. 3-5.

The pastors school is sponsored by the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry. Theme of the event is "The Whole Gospel for the Whole World."

Speakers include Frank Lewis, pastor, First Church, Nashville; Roy Edgemon, Baptist Sunday School Board; Dennis Swanburg, Fort Worth, Texas; and Don Kammerdiener of the Southern Baptist Interna-

tional Mission Board.

Bob Agee, who will retire Sept. 1 as president of Oklahoma Baptist University, will serve as worship leader for both the pastors conference and the senior adult gathering.

The theme of the senior adult meeting is "Living the Abundant Life." The event will offer Bible study, worship, senior adult choirs, special music, and 12 small group conferences.

Charles Sullivan, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, will lead the Bible studies.

For more information about either event, call John Adams at (901) 661-5300 or Paul Williams at (901) 661-5163. ■



Morristown church honors deacons

Alpha Church, Morristown, recognized two men on Sunday, May 24, as 'deacon emeritus' of the church. They are the first two men to be given the honorary designation in the church's 130-year history. From left are Tom Massey, chairman of deacons, B.M. Berry, deacon emeritus, Dee Berry, Anna Laura Stroud, Leonard Stroud, deacon emeritus, and Thomas R. James, senior pastor.

Pastor's former life included drugs, crime

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — At the lowest point of his life, Steve Austin was spending \$1,500 a week on crack cocaine and prescription drugs, drinking alcohol, and smoking 10-20 joints of marijuana and several packs of cigarettes a day. One day, he found himself homeless and penniless. He was 24 years old.

He couldn't turn to his parents, who were practicing tough love toward him. His only friends were drug users. Then he thought of Sam and Linda Wrather whom he had met at Third Church here. The Wrathers invited Austin to stay with them.

The couple told Austin about a drug rehabilitation program, Teen Challenge of Memphis. Their son, Michael, was participating in the program.

Austin had gotten many such referrals over the years, but this time, because he was so desperate, he listened.

"I didn't have any hope. When you don't have any hope, you don't have any reason to live," said Austin. And his attempts at suicide had failed, which just confirmed his desperation.

So he sought help from the rehabilitation program. There, he had an experience with God over several months which initially led him to give up drugs without any drug treatment and also removed the desire for them, he stated.

He's been drug-free for three years.

Austin, who is a student at Belmont University, Nashville, and pastor of Rucker Church here, explained he is not proud of his past, but he's not ashamed of it either. If he can help someone caught up in that kind of life, he said, his struggles are worth all the pain he suffered.



AUSTIN

His life was like a maze, he described, from which he didn't know how to escape. "It just snowballs," he said, "and you don't know where to turn to get out of it or the first step that you need to take."

Because he entered his "maze" during childhood, Austin spent a long time there. He was incarcerated in jail or prison 40 times and took drugs 13 years, eight of which he took crack cocaine. His longest incarceration was for seven months.

No one is to blame except himself, said Austin. He was raised in a Christian home in a town of about 1,000 — Maury City. He made a commitment to God at age six. And Austin knew God had special plans for him when he was healed of leukemia at the age of three.

He may have been afraid of not meeting the high expectations of his family or of God, said Austin. For whatever reason, at age 10 he began re-

bellling, which led to "a life of sin," he explained.

But God continued to work in his life, he noted. God spared his life several times. He was shot at point blank range more than once and stabbed and beaten.

His parents, Jim and Delma, have been wonderful through it all, said Austin. During his adolescence they continued to show him unconditional love and to hope he would return to God.

Austin said he remembers one night when he left his room he tripped over his mother because she was kneeling at the door praying for him.

The entire experience was painful for them and for him. He was miserable and he still has the disturbing memories. He also lost many opportunities, said Austin. For example, he squandered a baseball scholarship to college and a business because of his actions.

But despite everything, God has kept providing new opportunities for him, he noted.

Today he's a new person, he said, referring to II Corinthians 5:17 which describes a person who has begun a new relationship with God as a new creature.

And he has an unusual attitude about his former life.

"I would not change one thing," said Austin.

He has learned from his struggles. For one thing, he learned a submission



to and a reliance on the Lord rather than on himself, he explained.

Austin also has a special discernment of drug problems in others. He can't really explain it, but when he sees a certain action or attitude in another person, he remembers he used to act that way. And he tries to confront the person.

Austin is quick to tell his story, whether he's in a college class or in the marketplace.

He refers people to Teen Challenge, of which he was a client and a staff member for a year. It is an international program which has centers in Nashville and Chattanooga, in addition to Memphis. Locally he endorses First Step of Murfreesboro, a similar program. It can be reached at (423) 890-0338.

He would advise parents not to "give up" on their children. They should try to teach children that they are responsible for the choices they make, even at young ages.

He realizes his past is a stumbling block for some considering a relationship with him. But "for me it has been a building block," said Austin. **B&R**

First, Linden, continues relationship with Venezuelan church

By Janet D. McClearn
For Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Voices singing praises to God could be heard out the door and down the street as we hurried to the worship service. The outside of the building sandwiched between several block buildings wasn't particularly inviting, but the voices, so lively, so spirited, beckoned. I couldn't believe I was walking in the door of a church in Venezuela.

Several years earlier, Richard Taylor, a member of our church, First, Linden, worked in Venezuela doing health care work. At that time, in 1995, his work supported the Tennessee/Venezuela Baptist Partnership.

When Taylor returned he had a difficult time sharing his work with members of Emmanuel Baptist Mission in Puerto Cabello. He described long lines of people waiting for hours for treatment. The memory of the children made him choke back years.

He also shared about the youth of the congregation. The youth shared the Gospel with every person 12 years and older who visited the clinic. Taylor was inspired by their enthusiasm and commitment to the Lord.

At the time our church was considering expanding our facility. But God led our 200-

member congregation to help this congregation which met in a crowded rented room.

We began to pray. Then our church sent \$1,200 to Emmanuel Mission. It was used by the congregation to help buy some land. And the connection between the two congregations was sealed.

Taylor served in Venezuela three more times and each time visited the congregation. Then Fabion Perea, pastor, visited First Church, Linden. We were not at our strongest at the time. First, Linden, had just built a house for a deaf couple and we were searching for a pastor. But the members gave \$5,000 to Perea to help the congregation build a facility.

Then the two congregations began exchanging prayer requests. Taylor served as the conduit. During the next two years many prayers were answered. Emmanuel Mission became First Church, Puerto Cabello, the only Baptist congregation to serve an area of 300,000 people. And Gary Dozier was called as pastor of our church.

Then we heard about a missions trip to be led by Jesse James of Hampton to Venezuela April 18-27. Taylor, Gary Dozier, Barbara Jackson, and I went.

Now, here we were, walking in the door of the Venezuela

church we felt so close to. On a wall was a banner bearing the words: Linden and Puerto Cabello. We were greeted warmly.

Our team worked in health care clinics but one day we visited the church building site. It is not large by any standards, but they had begun to build the pastor's residence. The vision is for a three-story building which will include a 250-seat worship hall. A recreation area will be on the third level.

This will make best use of the limited area. Income in Venezuela for many is extremely limited and making a living is very difficult. The



GARY DOZIER, left, pastor, and Richard Taylor visit while in Venezuela recently.

small church is struggling to support its pastor and build the church.

In the church service, I felt such joy as each of us had the opportunity to represent Linden and get to know the members better. At one point Bro. Gary spoke as Taylor translated.

The music was so lively, so joyous. It was beautiful. We couldn't understand all the words, but it didn't matter. Our hearts were singing too in a language we all understood, the language of the spirit of love.

A youth mime team performed. The members gave an interpretation of the song,

"People Need the Lord." It was a moving performance.

When Pastor Fabion spoke he said a few words in English to us. As the service ended, we were warmly greeted by many of the church members.

We hope to go back next year to conduct another clinic and help the church build its building. To prepare, Taylor is teaching a Spanish class at our church.

Only God could have joined the hearts of two churches miles apart in distance. Both congregations are eager to what God is continuing to do as a result of Tennessee's commitment to partnership missions. ■



THE CONGREGATION of First Church, Puerto Cabello, gathers for a worship service during a visit by members of First Church, Linden. The two congregations have a special relationship.

Church's passion play extends to other ministries

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

LOUDON — A passion play begun five years ago at Blairland Church here continues to grow and has extended into other ministries.

Blairland began the Easter effort five years ago with a cast and crew of about 50 and it was held at the church, said Pastor Jon Henson.

This year's effort included about 100 people and was held at Loudon County High School, Henson noted. Approximately 1,000 people attended the matinee on Saturday and the Sunday night service, Henson said. There were 10 decisions made for Christ, he added.

"We're trying to expand to include other churches and denominations," he said.

Henson noted the church saw the potential for the play after the first year.

"The idea was to go to a neutral setting so we could reach more unchurched people," he said, observing many people would go to the play at a school setting who would not go to church.

Blairland averages about 240 people in worship, Henson



PASTOR JON HENSON and secretary **Karen Harris** look over photos from this year's passion play held at Loudon County High School. Two performances attracted about 1,000 people and saw 10 decisions made for Christ.

said. This translates into almost half of the congregation being actively involved in the production of the passion play.

The church is committed to the passion play, Henson said. "It takes a lot of work."

Henson said the church chose to focus efforts on an Easter production rather than one at Christmas because people who commit to it seem to

have more time than they do at Christmas. In addition many other churches do plays or musicals at Christmas. "We wanted to be different and it has worked out best for us to



BLAKE HARRIS, center, portrays a beggar during the passion play at Blairland Church.

do an Easter presentation," Henson said.

"We found it is a very effective way to get the message out in a contemporary way. We try to have an evangelistic emphasis at the end."

The passion play has



evolved into other areas of church ministry, the pastor added, noting they incorporate drama and other facets of the play into summer mission programs.

Henson noted they try to add something new to the passion play each year. "That's the challenge — to be fresh every year." **B&R**

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PART-TIME: Shellsford Church, McMinnville, is looking for part-time music director. Send resume to David Daugherty, 4149 Shellsford Road, McMinnville, TN 37110.

YOUTH MINISTER: Part-time or full-time to work with established and exciting youth group. Send resumes to FBC, Fairview, Attn: Search Committee, 7310 Overtby Road, Fairview, TN 37062, or direct additional inquiries to Karla Arney at (615) 799-8215.

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For more information on locations and times, please call the **Church Program Training Center** of The Sunday School Board: 1-800-254-2022

Tennessee
AUGUST 24-28, 1998
Central Baptist Church
Hixson, TN
SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
Clearview Baptist Church
Franklin, TN
SEPTEMBER 21-25, 1998
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
Knoxville, TN

South Carolina
JANUARY 18-22, 1999
North Spartanburg
First Baptist Church
Spartanburg, SC

Mississippi
OCTOBER 12-16, 1998
Trinity Baptist Church
South Haven, MS

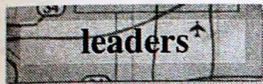
Georgia
OCTOBER 12-16, 1998
Rehoboth Baptist Church
Tucker, GA
JANUARY 11-15, 1999
First Baptist Church
Snellville, GA

Alabama
AUG. 24-28 and NOV. 2-6, 1998
Vaughn Forest Baptist Church
Montgomery, AL
OCT 5-9, 1998
Lakeview Baptist
Auburn, AL

Florida
SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
Olive Baptist Church
Pensacola, FL
SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
First Baptist Church
Merritt Island, FL
SEPT 28 - OCT 3, 1998
Idlewild Baptist Church
Tampa, FL
NOVEMBER 2-6, 1998
First Baptist Church
Daytona Beach, FL



■ **Trinity Church**, Brighton, ordained **Gary Cannon** and **Kevin Pearson** as deacons recently.



■ **Bobby McCord**, minister to children and youth of **First Church**, Adamsville, on a part-time basis has been called to serve in the position full-time.

■ **David Bayer** has been called as pastor of **First Church**, Perryville.

■ **Ernest Condee**, pastor, **Inskip Church**, Knoxville, has been called as pastor, **Prospect Church**, Walland.

■ **Amy Parker**, a student at **Samford University**, Birmingham, has been called as summer youth leader, **First Church**, Ridgeway.

■ **Doug Burr**, minister of music and youth, **Ebenezer Church**, Greenbrier, has been called as minister of music of a church in **Lewisburg, Ky.**

■ **Jess Love Jr.**, co-pastor, **Concord-Grandview Church**, Brentwood, has served the church for 15 years. Part of the time he was pastor of **Grandview Church**, Nashville, which merged with **Concord Church** last year.

■ **Ray Moss** has served as associate pastor/education, **Two Rivers Church**, Nashville, for 12 years.

■ **Bill Williamson** has served as pastor, **Neely's Bend Church**, Madison, for 36 years.

■ **Mike Breeden** has been called as pastor, **Walden's Ridge Church**, Dayton.

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

■ **Fred Trexler Jr.**, associate pastor, **Highland Heights Church**, Memphis, has been called as pastor, **Merton Avenue Church**, Memphis, effective this month. He served **Highland Heights Church** for seven years.

■ **Victor and Jodi Morrison**, missionaries to Okinawa, Japan, are staying in the missionary home of **Highland Heights Church**, Memphis, during their furlough.

■ **Steve Kuzinar** has been called as minister of music/associate pastor. He has been serving as interim minister of music.

■ **Paul Brown** has been called as interim pastor, **Bal-**

moral Church, Memphis.

■ **John Mahony** is serving as interim pastor, **Southland Church**, Memphis.

■ **Walter D. Hammond** has been called as pastor, **Westhaven Church**, Memphis. He served as assistant pastor of the church for the past 15 years and was the first pastor of the **Hope Center**, the multi-housing ministry of the church. Hammond also is a student at **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary**, Memphis.

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

■ **Poplar Heights Church**, Jackson, has called **Phillip Robinson** as minister of youth and recreation, effective Aug. 9. Robinson is a recent graduate of **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Bethel Church**, Greenbrier, called **Mike O'Neal**, a student at **Union University**, Jackson, as youth intern, effective June 1.

■ **Orlinda Church**, Orlinda, has called **Stacey Stanley** as youth director. She is a student at **Western Kentucky University**, Bowling Green.

■ **Bruce A. Yates** has been called as pastor of **First Church**, Seymour, effective June 7.

■ **French Broad Valley Church**, Kodak, has called **Kevin Maples** as associate pastor.

■ **Bodie Young**, minister of youth, **Calvary Church**, Covington, and **Jeff Joy**, minister of music there, have resigned.

■ **First Church**, Brighton, has called **Michael Berkley** as interim minister of youth.

■ **Clark Inman** has resigned as minister of music, **Calvary Hill Church**, Ripley.

■ **Cody Stout** has been called as minister of youth, **Dyllis Church**, Harriman.

■ **Charles "Sonny" Works Jr.**, earned a bachelor of arts in ministry degree from **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College**, Pineville, Ky., May 8. A native of **Roane County**, he is interim pastor, **First Church**, Sunbright.

■ **Maynard Tribble**, minister of education and administration, **First Church**, Knoxville, will be honored on his retirement June 14 at the church from 4-6 p.m. He has served 15 years there.



■ **Bill Bandy**, 55, chair-



STANDING IN front of the new office of **Stone Association in Cookeville** is **Mike Prowse**, director of missions. For years, the association office has been located at **First Church**, Cookeville. The association bought this house, an adjoining house, and garage which includes an apartment for \$83,000 at an auction. The other facilities can be used by beginning congregations, noted Prowse.

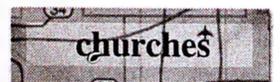
man of the department of physical education, health, and wellness, **Belmont University**, Nashville, died May 24 of a heart attack. He had just finished the **World Qualifier Duathlon**, a 5K run/30K bike/5K run, in **Columbus, Ohio**. He was a member of **Forest Hills Church**, Nashville, and a native of **Portland**. **Bandy**, an alumnus, had served on the staff of **Belmont** since 1974. He also was a professor and men's basketball assistant.



■ **Big Hatchie Association** will hold a "traveling" youth revival June 22-26 at the following churches: **Fellowship**, Faith, **Charleston**, **Central**, and **Smyrna**.

■ **Baptist Men's Ministries of Sevier County Association** will serve once again at **Russwood Church**, **Springville**, June 21-27. The team members will minister in a campground, lead a Bible club, and do some construction work.

■ **Steve Linginfelter**, pastor, **First Church**, **Benton**, was named interim director of missions, **Polk County Association**, effective May 1. He also is a member of the search committee for the director of missions.



■ **Wallace Memorial Church**, **Knoxville**, will place a **Memory Stone** in **Greenwood Cemetery** in **Knoxville** in honor of **Bill Wallace**, the missionary doctor who died while imprisoned in **China**. Wallace was a member of the church. The ceremony will be July 12 at 4 p.m. The stone, a 12-foot granite shaft, is a replica of a **Memory Stone** placed in **China** to honor Wallace.

■ **Luray Church**, **Luray**,

held a note burning ceremony May 17 to celebrate paying off a debt.

■ **Bethel Church**, **Henderson**, will hold homecoming activities June 7.

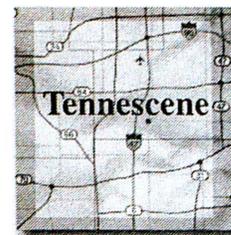
■ **Faith Church**, **Atoka**, held a crusade recently which resulted in 75 people making decisions for Christ. **William Blackburn** spoke.

■ On May 3 **Midway Church**, **Cookeville**, celebrated its 22 year anniversary. **Fate Wilson**, former interim pastor, spoke.

■ **First Chinese Church**, **Cordova**, will dedicate its new building June 7 at 3 p.m. The congregation was started 45 years ago at **First Church**, **Memphis**, under the leadership of **Paul Caudill**, pastor. Today the congregation includes about 200 members.



■ **Rick Pitino**, coach of the **Boston Celtics** of the **National Basketball Association** and former coach of the **Kentucky Wildcats**, will speak June 30 at **Belmont University**, **Nashville**, at 9 a.m. He will be a guest of the school's **Peer Learning Network**. For more information, contact **Angie Bryant** at (615) 460-5554.



Watertown crusade results in 80 professions of faith

For Baptist and Reflector

WATERTOWN — Nine churches from three associations cooperated to hold a crusade here May 17-21. Although the area is rural and the town here has a population of 1,300, about 600 were drawn several nights to the tent under which services were held. It was located in a city park.

And about 400 gathered at **Round Lick Church** one night when the services had to be relocated because of stormy weather.

As a result of the crusade, 80 people made professions of faith and about 80 others made other spiritual decisions, reported **Terry Wilkerson**, crusade chairman and pastor, **Round Lick Church** here.

Harold Hunter, evangelist of **Hermitage**, spoke and **Gary and Kathy Miller** of **Jacksonville, Fla.**, led the music. Hunter was especially effective as he spoke to youth, noted Wilkerson. Hunter speaks in schools as a part of his ministry.

About 175 youth heard his message and at least 22 made professions of faith.

The crusade follows a revival at **Round Lick Church** a year ago led by Hunter in which 98 people made professions of faith, said Wilkerson. **B&R** — **Connie Davis**



BREAKING GROUND by pulling ropes attached to an old plow are members of **Salem Church**, **Liberty**, on May 3. The plow is being directed by **Don Mathis**, center, pastor. The event marked the beginning of construction of a new church addition.

Life and Work Lesson

Anger

By Paul Medley

Focal Passage — Genesis 4:2b-8; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31; James 1:19-20

What makes you angry? We all get angry for different reasons. The truth is we will continue to have experiences and expressions of anger.

Some anger comes and goes. Some anger we hold on to like a badge of prominence. Our anger is unresolved.

Sin travels to new depths of depravity in our focal passage. Cain acted violently to the rejection of his offering and thus it became a personal rejection. Sin had already entered the world, was abounding and could ultimately reign according to Romans 15:12-21. But with the murder of his brother, Cain's relationship to his family and to God changed forever.

Cain lashed out toward the one who was probably the closest to him in earth, his brother. This old story is as current as today's headlines. Brother killing brother, children killing parents, parents murdering children, all usually related to unresolved anger. Unresolved anger can stem from jealousy, as is the case here, or envy, or strife, or any number of other reasons.

The first step in overcoming any problem is identifying the problem. While I was in college I drove an older, beat up automobile. One day it completely quit running. I determined that I should be smart enough to repair it myself. Over the period of about six months every part conceivable that could be replaced on the exterior of the motor was replaced. Finally, out of desperation and abject poverty, I sold my car to a "dumb freshman." He then called his dad, a dealership mechanic, and explained the symptoms of the problems. The dad came to the school and replaced a 25-cent filter inside the carburetor and drove the car home.

I could have avoided all the expense, inconvenience, embarrassment, and anxiety if at first I would have found someone capable of identifying the problem. Anger, when the cause of it is not identified, can result in many of the same circumstances. Anger that is identified can be confronted and overcome through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Anger is sin and all sin results in separation of God and the sinner. In Christ all sin is forgiven and the separation returned to unity with him. But what about others?

After I sold that car I ran into an upper classman and began to brag about selling my car to a dumb freshman. (This was before his father fixed the car.) To my shock the upper classman said, "That is why I am not a Christian. I see how you treat one another." Anger's consequences always go beyond just affecting us. Anger destroys our relationship to God through sin and silences our witness to the world. Anger not dealt with by Jesus hurts his work more than our reputation.

Please note, the Bible says, "Be ye angry and sin not. ..." If you get angry let it be known why and seek not to take it out upon others. And especially follow the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way; and be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Do something about your anger before your anger does something to you.

Is there someone you need to go to this week and be reconciled with? Do you need to stop and think about why you are angry and seek to resolve the anger? Being angry is not bad, doing nothing about your anger is the problem. — Medley is pastor of First Church, Jasper.

Questions and answers

By Richard Skidmore

Focal Passage — Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 2:1-2, 10-13; 4:1-3; 12:1, 13-14

Life has continual questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? The "Preacher" of Ecclesiastes addresses these, especially the second about purpose and satisfaction in life. From the standpoint of wealth, wisdom, and power, Solomon is uniquely qualified to address these issues. His word to us is that nothing "under the sun" can fill the void in us that will only be satisfied by a proper relationship to our creator.

The terms "vanity" and "under the sun" occur 37 and 29 times respectively in the book. They are possibly used so often to keep before us the truths that man does not find meaning or fulfillment in any possession or pursuit in this life only. Man is made for more than achievement or aspiration "under the sun." We are told "... he has also set eternity in their heart. ..." We are made to consider that there is life beyond the sun.

Family Bible Lesson

In 11:9, the Preacher offers his advice reaching his conclusion in the last two verses of the book. He counsels that while we are young, we should remember our creator; establish a reverent, obedient, worshipful, joyful, relationship to him. This is the way to meaningful life. It would be most tragic to reach our advanced years and have used our lives up in pursuit of the temporal, even having reached some of our goals to have found our successes in

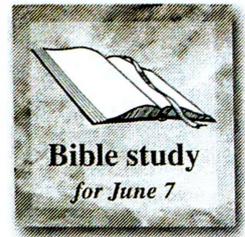
this world a chasing after wind, vanity, hollow.

Perhaps it is not that life has "More Questions than Answers." Life's perplexing questions do not require different individual answers for each of their puzzling inquiries. They are summarily answered in the one who is the way, truth, life.

In the letter to the Colossians, Paul has similar thoughts. Colossians 1:9-18 seem parallel to the teaching of Solomon. Christ is the creator of all, Lord of all, by him all things "consist." Consistency is a baking term; the right amount of flour, eggs, sugar, etc., mixed properly, baked correctly, make a wonderful treat.

I remember watching my mother make biscuits. In that big wooden bowl, she would begin mixing shortening and flour with her fingers, then pour milk over her hand, adding it to the ingredients. She would soon start using her thumb to roll the dough from her finger. I thought she was just cleaning the dough off her finger. Years later, it occurred to me that she only did this with her thumb and index finger, not her whole hand. She only squeezed the dough from all her fingers when she was finished and ready to form the dough into biscuits. What she was doing was checking the dough mixture between her thumb and finger for consistency. When she was satisfied with the amount of each ingredient and her kneading, she would roll out between her hands the flakiest, best tasting homemade biscuits ever.

That scene comes back when I read Colossians. Whatever else in this world one may achieve or temporarily possess, there is no consistency apart from Christ. Is this not what Solomon said to us also? — Skidmore is director of missions for Weakley County Association, Dresden.



Salvation God provides

By James H. Powers

Focal Passage — 1 Peter 1:1-12

As Peter writes to the elect pilgrims of Asia Minor he clearly states the theme of his epistle: Salvation comes through Jesus Christ to all who will believe.

In verse two, Peter emphasizes the role of the trinity in salvation. God, the Father, knew from the foundation of the earth who would accept and who would reject his salvation. God, the Holy Spirit, works in believers making their lives holy and separated from their old ways. God, the Son, is active in salvation because of his sacrificial death on the cross. The sprinkling of his blood refers to the Old Testament Day of Atonement. Salvation offered through Jesus Christ is the result of God's mercy which is his act of compassion toward us, despite our condition of sinfulness.

To be "begotten again" is being born again by his divine act of forgiveness. The hope of verse three is living. He is able to call it "living hope" because the living Savior, Jesus Christ is the resurrected Jesus. He was dead but now lives. He is the living hope.

An incorruptible inheritance is available because the "living hope" offered the redeemed. The idea of inheritance carries with it a present reality and a future promise. This world is simply a journey toward the "reserved" home prepared by

Explore the Bible Lesson

God, himself.

In contradiction to the health, wealth philosophy of some modern revivalist, Peter suggests a time of "various trials" serving to determine the quality of faith. These trials come but the ability to persevere through them is the result of promised rejoicing and faith tested by fire that is incorruptible. As the pure gold is refined in the fire so the genuineness of our faith is enhanced by our trials.

Real faith praise, honors and glorifies Jesus, our unseen redeemer. Faith developed can love Jesus although he has not been seen.

The outflow and overflow of the salvation experience bring joy that has no words, but wells up from the inner being with overwhelming glory. No feeling in this life is superior

to the inexpressible joy and the fullness of his glory felt in salvation.

Salvation is completed when we are absent from this physical body and are present with the Lord.

Divine revelation to the Old Testament prophets gave them understanding of the gracious salvation to be received by all who would believe. Their prophecies were for the benefit and blessing of those who receive Christ's salvation.

The prophets realized they were writing for future generations. We may preach the Gospel, inviting people to allow Jesus' blood to atone for their sin but the Holy Spirit is ultimately the one who develops conviction, reveals truth, and brings people face to face with their sin and Jesus. This phenomenon is even beyond the comprehension of the angels. They are truly amazed at this wonderful salvation God has offered fallen humanity. — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murfreesboro.

Christmas in June?

Want to get an early start on Christmas, or did you forget someone special last December? If so, send a gift subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector*. We will send a card announcing your gift.

Send \$8 along with the name of the gift recipient to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.





736 accept Christ in Detroit during inner-city conference

Baptist Press

DETROIT — An Inner-City Evangelism Conference sponsored here by the North American Mission Board May 10-15 saw 736 people led to faith in Jesus Christ.

Jimmy Jones, evangelism director for the Michigan Baptist Convention, called it "the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the greatest miracle I've seen in the 15 years I've been the director."

The Detroit conference was the third of its kind, pulling together three tracks of frontlines evangelism instruction in an inner-city setting. ■

Men seek SBC first vp position

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A pastor and an emeritus missionary have announced they will be candidates for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC's June 9-11 meeting here.

Rick Ferguson, pastor of Riverside Church, Denver, Colo., will be nominated by Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., and former president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

Ferguson is current chairman of the SBC's Committee on Order of Business.

Also to be nominated will be William L. "Bill" Wagner, an emeritus missionary with 31 years of evangelism and church growth ministry in Europe and the Middle East.

Wagner, now a professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will be nominated by Darrell Robinson, special assistant to the vice president for evangelization at the North American Mission Board and author of *Total Church Life*, an evangelization strategy for churches. ■

Texas editor to retire

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Toby Druin, editor of the *Baptist Standard* in Texas since 1996, will retire as

the 12th editor of Texas Baptist's weekly newspaper, effective Dec. 31.

"Three years ago the directors of the *Baptist Standard* gave me the highest honor in Baptist journalism when they elected me editor of this paper," Druin said of his election in June 1995. "I told them at the time of my election that I would serve until I was 65. I am ending that commitment 10 months short," said Druin, who will be 64 on Oct. 20.

Druin said he was not pressured to make the decision but simply wanted to spend more time with his family.

When Druin retires Dec. 31 he will have completed 43 years as a professional journalist, 34 years in denominational journalism, and more than two decades with the *Standard*, including 19 years as associate editor. ■

ABC TV cancels controversial shows

Baptist Press

NEW YORK — ABC has announced plans to cancel two controversial shows from its fall schedule.

In April the Disney-owned network announced plans to end "Ellen," a sitcom which broke ground by having a homosexual as its lead character and subsequently suffered a tumble in the ratings. The final show was aired May 13.

On May 19 ABC announced it was ending "Nothing Sacred," a drama about a Catholic priest which was criticized by both Catholic and evangelical groups. ■

CBF endorses Memphis chaplain

For Baptist and Reflector

ATLANTA — A Baptist chaplain at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis was among five persons endorsed as chaplain or pastoral counselors May 18 by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Linda Serino, an active member of Second Church, Memphis, was endorsed. She is a Memphis native and former school teacher. Serino has been on the staff of St. Jude since 1990. Previously, she was a chaplain at Regional Medical Center, Memphis, and a ministerial fellow at Second Church. Her husband, Robert Serino, is a clinical psychologist.

Also endorsed as a chaplain was former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Andrew Lester of Texas, who is a former staff member of First Church, Memphis. ■

Grahams discuss passing the torch

By John Loudat
For Baptist Press

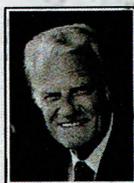
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Billy Graham acknowledged his days as an evangelist are numbered, but he expressed his confidence in his named successor, his son, Franklin Graham.

The Grahams faced reporters during a news conference at the University of New Mexico arena in early May. The two were featured preachers at the New Mexico Festival '98. The younger Graham preached May 6-8 while his dad led worship May 9-10.

Franklin Graham, 45, has been named by the board of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association as his 79-year-old father's successor, when the elder Graham allows his

son to take over.

When will that be? Billy Graham said he will retire "when the Lord retires me." Indicating he did not expect that day to be too far in the future, he affirmed his commitment to continue as head evangelist for his evangelistic association "as long as I have the strength." When he is no longer able, the elder Graham continued, "I'm going to step aside and let Franklin take over.



B. GRAHAM



F. GRAHAM

"Franklin's a far better preacher than I am now," his father said. "Maybe I'm a little bit more known, but he is becoming known in various parts of the world."

The elder Graham said one reason he believes the transition will go so well is that he and his son believe and teach the same thing — that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Acknowledging that some people consider that viewpoint "narrow," Graham noted that is what the Bible says.

Franklin Graham said he hopes the benevolent organization he now heads, The Samaritan's Purse, will eventually become "the passion ministry" of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The five-day evangelistic effort yielded nearly 6,000 decisions for Christ. ■

Texas church first to join new global missions network

Baptist Press

MIDLAND, Texas — First Church here is the first Southern Baptist congregation to join a new network that helps churches focus on their commission to take the good news of God's love to the whole world.

The International Mission Board's new "Global Priority Church" challenge equips churches with resources to become more effective in their overseas missions efforts.

The 4,200-member congregation in western Texas learned about the new emphasis during its recent missions fair. The church is one of six Southern Baptist congregations which give more than \$500,000 a year to the Cooperative Program, the convention's unified budget.

By helping churches link up with unreached people groups and missionaries, the Global Priority Church challenge helps congregations partner with the International Mission Board in reaching 1.7 billion people with little or no access to the Gospel, said Bill Morgan, director of the agency's Creative Access Networks program. ■

Former Arkansas editor dies at age 90

Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Erwin McDonald, retired editor

of the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine*, died of cancer May 1. He was 90.

McDonald, editor of the newspaper from 1957-72, was known for strong editorial stands against issues including gambling, racism, and the Ku Klux Klan. ■

Church leaders protest library's homosexual books

Baptist Press

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — A Southern Baptist pastor will not return two children's books promoting homosexuality to the Kemp Public Library here, and the deacons of First Church unanimously passed a resolution May 12, asking the city council to direct the library to refrain from carrying such books.

The actions have ignited a firestorm, making pastor Robert Jeffress and the 8,400-member church the target of a scathing editorial May 16 by the city's only newspaper, and recipients of a plethora of criticism from homosexual groups and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The issue surfaced when the library purchased, with taxpayer funds, two children's books, one which tells the story of a boy who has a homosexual father who lives with his boyfriend while the other features a girl with two lesbian "mothers."

A member of First Church, saw the books, checked them out, and brought them to Jeffress, who showed them to the entire congregation while

preaching a May 12 sermon on God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In that sermon, Jeffress stated that homosexuality is against God's will and violates Texas' law against sodomy.

Jeffress said he would not return the books, informing city officials he would pay the library penalty for both so the members of his congregation who checked out the books would not be fined or lose their library privileges. He wrote a \$54 check to the library for the books as local television news cameras looked on.

Extra help was required on Monday, May 18, in the church office in order to deal with an avalanche of phone calls, which Jeffress said was running 95 percent in favor of the ban. ■

Florida governor vetos pro-life plate

Baptist Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A proposed "Choose Life" license plate, which would have raised funds to aid adoption, was vetoed May 20 by Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles.

In an official statement, Chiles wrote that the "Choose Life" license plate would further polarize Floridians on the "controversial and difficult subject" of reproductive rights and that an official license plate was not the "proper forum for a debate on this or any other political issue."

Randy Harris, Choose Life Inc. president, said the group is prepared to encourage a veto override or, if necessary, reap-ply next year. ■