

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 30

Statewide Edition

August 5, 1998

this week's news

- Two couples with Tennessee ties are appointed as missionaries — Page 2
- Milan congregation accepts changes and grows. — Page 3
- Knoxville church bridges generation 'gaps' to hold successful VBS. — Page 3



PASTOR LEADS VBS

- Will the next generation be more spiritual than baby boomers, busters? — Page 4

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

Chinese nurses, church honor Wallace

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — On July 12 a Memory Stone was dedicated at Greenwood Cemetery here to honor Bill Wallace, the missionary physician of Knoxville who was tortured to death by Chinese communists in 1951.

The stone was given by Annie Fong, a nurse who served with Wallace. Fong, of Sacramento, Calif., and four other Chinese nurses who worked with Wallace, gathered here with members of Wallace Memorial Church and others to honor him.

The other nurses were Pui Liang Lee of Hong Kong; May Li of Baltimore, Md.; Grace Liang of Sacramento; and Flora Cheng of Davis, Calif. The dedication was coordinated by the church.

The 12-foot granite obelisk, which is located near the entrance of the North Knoxville cemetery, marks the remains of Wallace, which were received in Knoxville in 1983. Wallace and the nurses worked at Stout Memorial Baptist Hospital in Wuchow, China, now the Workers' Hospital.

Speaking at the dedication were Mike Boyd, pastor, Wallace Memorial Church; James McCluskey, retired pastor; N.E. Burleson, charter member; and Victor Ashe, Knoxville mayor.

Fong gave the gift because she wished Wallace's remains to have more than a headstone in the family plot at



NURSES WHO served with Bill Wallace in China gather at the ceremony with Jane Powell, fourth from left, of Wallace Memorial Church. The nurses are, from left, May Li of Baltimore, Md.; Annie Fong of Sacramento, Calif.; Grace Liang of Sacramento; Pui Liang Lee of Hong Kong; and Flora Cheng of Davis, Calif. — Photo by Bill and Nancy Gaunt

Greenwood Cemetery, explained Jane Powell, director of the Bill Wallace Library/Memorial Room at the church.

Church members have developed close relationships with Fong and the other nurses since the church started developing the library/memorial room in 1984, Powell explained.

Four of the nurses have visited Wallace Memorial Church before. They are active Southern Baptists, she added, because of the influence of Wallace.

"You can't imagine how much they revere his name and what he did for the people and what he did for the hospital there in Wuchow," said Powell.

Wallace, who was a member of Broadway Church, Knoxville, served in China from 1935-51. *B&R*



FROM THIS VIEW, the Memory Stone reads 'For me to live is Christ, Phil. 1:21' in Chinese characters. At its base are the marked remains of Wallace and a stone noting the memorial is from the nurses. — Photo by Keith Curtis

Don't forget B&R Day on Aug. 16

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — *Baptist and Reflector* Day is set for Sunday, Aug. 16.

It is not too late to order free copies of the Aug. 12 issue. Tennessee Baptist churches are encouraged to order free copies of the paper to distribute to members on this Sunday. It is an excellent way to introduce them to their state paper.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is the official newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Currently, more than 53,000 homes receive the paper each week.

The paper emphasizes news of Tennessee Baptists and events and ministries that will help them as they seek to win people to Jesus

Christ, said Lonnie Wilkey, interim editor.

"The *Baptist and Reflector* needs to be more than just a newspaper. While we will continue to report news as unbiased and accurately as possible, we want to be an integral part of Tennessee Baptist life by printing stories and articles that will enhance God's work," he said.

As a special bonus for readers, the Aug. 12 issue will contain an eight-page insert, "Tennessee Connection," which highlights the importance of the Golden State Mission Offering. The insert is produced by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

To order copies for your congregation, call the *Baptist and Reflector* office at (615) 371-2003 by 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6. *B&R*

TBC Web page receives visits, responses

By Denise Scott
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "It is good to see your Web site on the Internet. I will now be able to keep up with what is happening in Tennessee." This is one of many comments received on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Web site, which was launched June 1.

During the month of June, users requested 9,538 various pages on the site. An average of 243 pages were viewed per day (not to be confused with the number of site visitors).

In July, requests for pages totaled 7,456, and average pages viewed per day totaled 240. A newly installed software program will allow tabulation of the exact number of visitors to the site and other information.

The Annual Convention section of the site includes information about the annual convention meeting Nov. 10-11. Housing information is now available online. A feature being developed is a monthly calendar of Executive Board Ministries events.

The Communication Services Group encourages you to visit the site (www.tnbaptist.org) and e-mail your feedback to Denise Scott, dscott@tnbaptist.org. ■

CP gifts reported

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,793,588 to the Cooperative Program in July, a decrease of \$228,647 over last July's gifts.

For the first nine months of the 1997-98 fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$23,274,338, an increase of \$744,609, or 3.31 percent over the same period last year.

The budget requirement after nine months is \$22,579,136.

"The priority of missions and evangelism is evident among Tennessee Baptists as seen by their continued giving through the Cooperative Program," said James Porch, executive director-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention. *B&R*

about your newsjournal

- Lonnie Wilkey, interim editor
- **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Family or individual subscription - \$8.00; clubs of 10 or more subscriptions - \$7.25; church (more than 50 percent of families) - \$6.50.
- **To contribute a news item**, call, write, or e-mail Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis, assistant editor
- **To advertise** - Lonnie Wilkey
- **For billing and subscription data questions** - Betty Williams, book-keeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition - Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** - the Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** - Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- **Publisher** - Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Paul Medley, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Ambers Wilson
- **Office** - Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
- **Mailing address** - P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024
- **Phone** - (615) 371-2003
- **FAX** - (615) 371-2080
- **E-mail** - 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- **Membership** - Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Postmaster** - Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
- **Frequency of issue** - The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.

Printed on
recycled paper

Trustees discuss CP funding

IMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

Compiled for Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — The International Mission Board appropriated \$3 million to fund the first three years of a program enabling key Southern Baptist leaders to participate in hands-on missions overseas.

During their July meeting the board also appointed 53 new career missionaries. Among those missionaries are a current Tennessee Baptist minister and a former pastor in the state.

The new program adopted, "Mobilization Assistance Program," grew out of research and statistics showing dramatic escalation in commitments to overseas service, receipts to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and prayers for overseas mission work among those who go overseas on volunteer mission trips.

Mobilization funds will be available only for "IMB field-generated projects" to "participating members of Southern Baptist churches" who have "not been overseas on any mission projects." The program will pay one-third, up to a maximum of \$800, of "the cost of going on the volunteer project."



THE JOHNSONS

Half of the funds will be made available to active pastors and directors of missions. Another 30 percent would be made available to full-time seminary students and 20 percent for ministers of college students.

New missionaries include Michael and Hope Johnson who were appointed to serve in Thailand where he will start and develop churches and together they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Johnson currently is associate pastor of Peterson Lake Church, Collierville. He is bivocational.

Also appointed were Steve and Shirley Taylor. Taylor, former pastor of First Church, Goodlettsville, will work in church and associational development in Zambia. Mrs. Taylor will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.



THE TAYLORS

Since leaving Tennessee Taylor has served as pastor of

churches in New Mexico and Oklahoma. They have three children. In other action, trustees registered a concern that the percentage of funds the IMB receives through Nashville from the Cooperative Program remains the same as it was before the convention's downsizing two years ago.

It was expected that increased resources would be available for overseas missions work as a result of the convention's restructuring.

Last year more than 50 percent of the Cooperative Program funds received at the SBC level were dispersed to other agencies.

IMB President Jerry Rankin expressed concern "with the tendency to bring everything under the Great Commission umbrella and diminish our denominational thrust toward global evangelism and discipling the nations."

Trustee Tim McCoy of Macon, Ga., said IMB trustees should take "a friendly but firm advocacy" on the issue. ■

— Compiled from a BP story by Louis Moore and IMB news releases

Five Tennesseans serve in Jamaica

By Wally Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

OCHO RIOS, Jamaica — "I'm leaving part of my heart in Jamaica. My missions work doesn't stop here. My missions (work) is just now starting up back at home," declared Donna Robinson of Maryville, as she shared her feelings on the last night of a nine-day missions effort in Jamaica. Robinson is wife of Dennis Robinson, pastor of Liberty Church.

Another Liberty Church member, Glenn Jackson, echoed Robinson's feeling: "A part of me is going to stay in Jamaica," he said. Jackson is choir director at the church.

The two were among five from Tennessee working in Jamaica July 10-18. They joined Baptists from four other states to hold Vacation Bible Schools, evangelize, and do construction at churches on this Caribbean island nation.

J. Darryl and Erie Wilson also from Liberty Church, and Scott Gray of Mount Juliet were the other Tennesseans serving. Gray is a member of New Hope Church, Hermitage.

The group helped lead Vacation Bible School at the Harmony Vale Church. The group had 110 students of which nearly a fourth (25) accepted Christ as personal Savior.

During the nine-day effort, the Southern Baptists saw a total of 1,004 enroll in VBS. In the schools and the revival services held in one church 147 people made professions of faith and 40 other people made other spiritual decisions.

Scott Gray reported that the Tennesseans also distributed 200 Bibles at the Ocho Rios market. Of the Tennesseans, only Darryl Wilson had been to Jamaica before. He helped set up a crusade. Erie Wilson had served in Ecuador last year. She is youth director, VBS director, and a Sunday School teacher at her church while her husband also teaches Sunday School, is a youth teacher, and operates the church sound system.

Scott Gray has made missions trips to England and Israel and, in the U.S., to Clearwater, Fla.

The Tennesseans were impressed with the friendliness of the Jamaicans with whom they came in contact.

"These people are the most friendly people I have ever been around," commented Glenn Jackson.

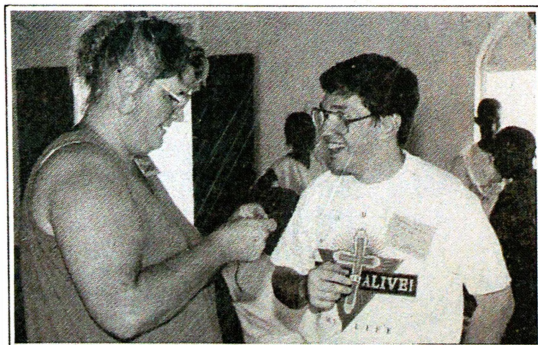
The people are extremely nice. They go out of their way to help you, the Wilsons described.

The group reported the Lord sent a Jamaican "angel" to their rescue when they had a minor auto accident their first day on the island.

All agreed they would like to serve on future missions efforts.

"I love to work with the people," Erie Wilson said. ■

IMB Photo by Betty Poor



DONNA ROBINSON AND SCOTT GRAY compare notes on activities for a Vacation Bible School they helped lead in Jamaica. — IMB Photo by Betty Poor

Person sought to help start congregations

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Resumes and/or recommendations are being received for the position of church starter strategist in the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

The person will have direct responsibility for assisting with new church starts and/or missions primarily in the Middle Tennessee area.

Resumes will be received through Aug. 31. All nominations, applications, or resumes should be sent to the Human Resource Office, TBC Executive Board, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

Congregation spurs growth at Milan church

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MILAN — When Dale Denning accepted the pastorate of Chapel Hill Church here seven years ago, the church was averaging around 35 people in Sunday School.

The church now averages around 230 in Sunday School and 310 in worship. On Sunday, July 19, the church dedicated its newly-renovated sanctuary.

Denning does not take credit for himself. He credits God and a congregation that was willing to be led.

"When I came they made it clear they wanted to grow and reach lost people," said Denning, who was bivocational when he accepted the call to Chapel Hill. He became the first full-time minister of the 150-year-old church in 1994.

The willingness of members to work hard and to want to grow is the key to why God has blessed the church, Denning is convinced.

He noted the congregation did things in the first year he was there that they had never done before.



MEMBERS OF THE building and decorating committees who worked to renovate the sanctuary join the pastor during dedication activities. They are, from left, first row, Geraldine Moore; Cathryn Dowdy; Charles Martin, chairman of the building committee; Dale Denning, pastor; Martha Nell Orman; Lois Ann McFarland; back row, Tommy Jones; Edward McFarland; Clayburn Darby; Dennis Jones; David Nelson; and Steve Hughes.

"We tried to establish ourselves as a church to the community," Denning noted.

The church began hosting a community-wide cookout and special concerts.

They also began to offer programs and activities that would attract children and youth. It worked. People began to invite

friends and co-workers.

Surprisingly, the church does not have an organized visitation program.

"The reason we are growing is not because of a visitation program," Denning affirmed.

Visitation has to be a lifestyle, he observed. "We preach lifestyle evangelism

and encourage members to invite friends and neighbors.

"Our witnessing should be an every day occurrence, not something that is done one or two nights a week, he said.

He noted the church has visitors almost every Sunday and that the majority of them were invited by a member of Chapel Hill.

Denning knows that once people come there has to be something to keep bringing them back.

"The staff works hard to have something meaningful for them when people come," Denning said. Though he was the only staff member for awhile, he is now assisted by associate pastor Aaron Shoaf, a full-time minister, and Ken Bowman, part-time minister of music.

"If you offer something spiritually significant and it is enjoyable, then people will come back and bring someone with them," Denning said.

He stressed he was not talking about entertainment. "I have never watered down the Gospel to get people to come," the Bradford native said.

The increase in membership has forced the church to almost



be in a constant building program. They added a fellowship hall and educational space in 1993 and just recently completed a sanctuary, which already is being filled. "The day we provided space, people started coming," Denning said.

Charles Martin, a long-time member and chairman of the building committee, said they thought the renovated sanctuary would meet their needs for at least five years, but it already is almost to capacity.

"It's a good problem to have," Martin said.

Both Martin and Denning said the church will begin planning for future growth.

"We want to build something we can grow into," Denning said. "There's not a doubt in anyone's mind that we won't continue to grow."

Martin agreed. "We're going to do everything we can to get the people here," he said. **B&R**

Knoxville church spans generation 'gaps' to draw 72 to VBS

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Marble City Church, located in the innercity here, has held Vacation Bible School almost every year. And this year newly-called pastor, George Williams, continued the tradition.

Williams knew the congregation didn't have an easy task. Most of the members are past middle age, he said. He's 86. And the church only was drawing about five children and five youth to activities.

But Williams was undaunted. He enlisted a "young" director, he said. When she couldn't attend the first training session for VBS workers provided by Knox County Association, Williams went alone.

Director of Missions Walter Taylor and Kathy Trundle, associational VBS director, praised Williams for coming. Williams is an example to others because of his willingness to work with children and youth despite his age, said Taylor, and his willingness to lead an older congregation to join him.

Making decision

It wasn't an easy decision to hold a VBS, admitted Williams. He and other church leaders debated the pros and cons for several weeks before deciding.

In addition to the age aspect of the congregation, the church only has about

70 active members, those who attend Sunday School each week.

But when the leaders decided, the congregation agreed with the decision and most wanted to help, said Williams.

He knew he must not back off, despite the good response of church members.

"The pastor is the key to success of anything that happens in your church," said Williams.

He's somewhat disturbed that so few pastors attend VBS training sessions.

He'd advise pastors, even those of large churches, to participate.

And Williams speaks from experience, having served as pastor of

Second Church, Clinton, from 1952-78 and Norwood Church, Knoxville, from 1978-87.

Williams got to work. He enlisted workers and attended all of the training and planning meetings and the actual event.

"I really enjoyed it and I don't hardly ever enjoy Bible school," said Williams.

Outcome

An average of 72 children and youth attended the five evening sessions. And 11 youngsters made professions of faith.

Some of the youth were African American, which was unusual for Marble City Church. Some were from a nearby children's home. In fact, of all of the VBS participants, most had never attended the church before, Williams said.

All of these factors make their gifts to missions outstanding, he continued. During the week \$284.43 was given for missions.

It not only was a large gift, but it appeared to be a lot of money, since it was given in pennies, described Williams.

A competition between boys and girls may have motivated some of the response, noted Williams. And the teachers joined in and gave too, which surprised him.

The VBS workers

The workers from the church, who made the VBS possible, not only gave to the offering, but they gave in other ways, said Williams.

Despite being older adults, many led VBS activities for the first time. And they conducted them so as to draw the youth night after night.

Williams attributes this to their training.

Diane Kosier, VBS director for Marble City, offered training and planning meetings after attending the associational training.

Those who had volunteered as leaders conscientiously attended the training, Williams said.

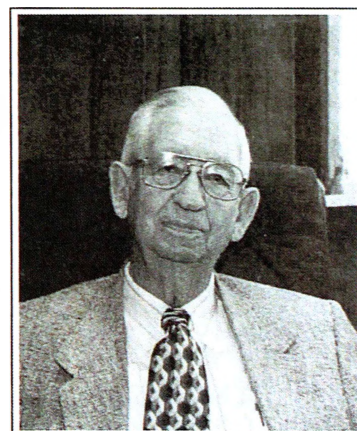
The congregation

The congregation not only produced a group of effective workers, it produced a large one, said Williams.

In fact, the congregation had enough volunteers that some served as relief workers. These workers stayed until all activities were concluded even if they weren't called to help, he explained, such was their commitment.

And Marble City generously funded the event, said Williams. It spent about \$600 on the event.

"You're not going to get young people



GEORGE WILLIAMS

if you don't have something for them," said Williams.

The result was that the entire week went without a glitch, he added.

To follow up

The congregation is discussing adding a youth director to the staff, reported Williams.

The VBS drew about 10 teenagers. And a youth director could help Williams and the members follow up on the young people who made spiritual decisions and those who attended.

The VBS workers and other church members are still talking about the week.

"There wasn't a problem, not even a child problem. I guess they knew we were old folks and we couldn't take care of a lot," Williams concluded with a grin. **B&R**



The Millennials

Will the next generation be the most spiritual?

By Sarah Zimmerman
For Associated Baptist Press

If you are a typical adult, you probably think of the alphabet as a series of letters beginning with A B C, all in order.

They might think of a group of letters — A, E and F, for instance — that all are made with straight lines, no curves.

You see events on a timeline, with things happening in sequence. They organize life by experiences, with value given only to what affects them right now.

"They" are the millennials, the next "next generation," the kids who will come of age around the turn of the millennium. Born after about 1978, they are the ones going ga-ga for Hanson, bagging your groceries, dating your daughter, and clogging up America On-Line during prime time. And one thing's for sure — they don't think like you do.

"There's a huge abyss between you and your children, perhaps the greatest in history," Phyllis Tickle tells adults. Tickle, contributing editor in religion for *Publisher's Weekly*, has written two books on faith in post-modern America. She says millennials — especially those born since 1985 — are prone to process information in ways vastly different from their parents.

Now there's an understatement. These kids were playing with interactive CD-ROMs while their parents still thought Windows were something you close when it rains. Today's teenagers could design Internet pages before they got their driver's licenses. They've

been exposed to so much virtual reality that real reality — whatever that is — dulls in comparison.

Or maybe their issue is that reality is ugly by comparison. Their parents have divorced in record numbers. Their friends have contracted from AIDS. Their world is broken and can't be fixed with the latest high-tech invention. They easily believe in the invisible, but in their broken world they only trust things that work.

How will this wary generation ever come to faith in God? Boomers and busters have shown they approach faith in ways vastly different from their predecessors. And millennials likely will rearrange the faith furniture again.

"They value the supernatural, and they're more spiritually minded, but that doesn't always come out in classic Christianity," says Doug Pagitt, manager of the Young Leaders Network for Leadership Network in Dallas, a Christian think-tank. "The question used to be, 'Is God real?'"

"This group would look at you like you're crazy if you asked that. Their question is, 'Whose God is real?'"

The next generation will be attracted to churches that demonstrate a connection to a Gospel that has worked for centuries and continues to make a difference. In fact, some observers are predicting

the spiritual awareness of this generation will open new vistas for Christianity.

"The revival we've prayed for could be at hand with this group," Pagitt says.

The millennials are attracting attention if only because there are so many of them — 73 million to 76 million, depending on which study you believe. They are often called "echo boomers" because they're mostly children of baby boomers —

and there are almost as many of them.

Their parents, the largest generation in history, account for 29 percent of the U.S. population. Echo boomers, born roughly between 1977 and 1994, are 26 percent of the population. Sandwiched between these two generations are the baby boomers, representing only 16 percent.

Millennials. Echo boomers. They are also called the Net Gen because of their computer expertise. They are the first connected generation, the first raised on the Internet. In fact, it would be easy to blame everything you don't like about them on the ever present computer. Short attention span? Poor social skills? It's the computer's fault.

In a way, the Internet exemplifies what is different about this generation. The Internet lets you move randomly among endless information choices. Go to whatever web

page interests you most. Disappointed there? No need to move through it in any order. Click a button to find something more appealing. No need to take it all in either. Just glean what you want. The Internet has changed the way people process information.

"Their brains are wired differently than ours," admits futurist Leonard Sweet, vice president and dean of the theological school at Drew University, a New Jersey institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. "It's a cultural and almost physiological thing. The electronic culture creates interactive people. They cannot learn in traditional lecture method."

If they learned to think using a computer but they're not at it every waking moment, what makes this generation distinctive? Perhaps more important than the computer in distinguishing these young consumers is their world view.

They're post-modern. In fact, they are the first wholly post-modern generation.

Modern thought was "built on the assumption that the human mind could overcome all obstacles," Pagitt says. Another distinction between modern and post-modern worlds is thought patterns. The modern world trusted linear thinking — timelines, flow charts and the like — Sweet says. In the post-modern world, thoughts follow loops rather than a straight line.

Consider prime time television. "Bonanza" and "Father Knows Best" had one narrative line that lasted the entire episode. "Laugh-In" and

"MASH" changed that to multiple plots in one show. Now "ER" is a classic example of a television show relying on looping information through multiple points rather than following one train of thought.

The four spiritual laws and the Roman road to salvation are based on linear thoughts as well. Those evangelism techniques assume the reader thinks in sequences. Don't be surprised if these youth don't get it.

But don't be discouraged either. "This is a much more exciting time to communicate the Gospel," Sweet claims.

Remember that echo boomers are very pragmatic and only trust what works. They can believe in the invisible, but they want to see evidence that the God you worship affects how you behave in a broken world.

Alan Sherouse of Lakeland, Fla., understands that struggle. "I went to an arts school where everybody thinks they have to be a non-conformist," he says. "They would pick the wackiest religion just to be different."

Of the 13 students in his high school senior class this spring, three were Christians. "It was quite a struggle for us at school," he recalls. "We tried to witness through our actions. I like to think we showed them what it's like to live a Christian life." ■ — This story is reprinted with permission from *FaithWorks*, an ABP publication.

The Millennials



Seven tips offered to revive 'dead' Sunday School classes

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — If it's dead, bury it.

That's Randy Millwood's tip No. 1 for bringing dead Sunday School classes back to life. The assistant professor of Christian education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary led a July 16 seminar on the topic at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. The session was part of the July 13-17 National Sunday School Leadership Training Conference at Ridgecrest.

"The number one reason dead classes continue on and on is because class members won't accept the fact that they're dead," Millwood said. "Sometimes you just have to kill it,

rebuild, and move on."

Millwood had the dozens of church staff and lay leaders attending his seminar brainstorm the most likely causes of death for Sunday School classes. Making their list of killers were: pride, poor teaching, inability to change, apathy of teacher and/or members, failure to promote, being more loyal to the teacher than the mission, failure to evangelize, poor organization, and cliques.

"You have to know what the problems are before you can fix them," Millwood said, which brought him to his second tip: evaluate, then fix it.

"What's important is the mission," he said, adding anything which takes away from that, including the teacher, is fair game for elimination.

Millwood had five other tips for

teachers interested in bringing a dead class back to life:

► Get to know folks and build relationships. "This is sometimes harder at church," Millwood said. "Why? Because many of us put on our church face, our religious masks."

"We have to deal with this sin of pride and learn to be honest with each other about our struggles. That doesn't mean we share all our dirty laundry; it means we have to start being real."

► Go informal. "Relationships are seldom built in settings of formality," Millwood said.

► Move from Bible teaching to Bible study, i.e. involve class members in the lesson. "In Bible teaching, the focus is on you. In Bible study, you are moving the 'a-ha' moment

from you to them," he said.

► Become an equipper, not a doer. An equipper does four things: (1) envisions people not as they are, but as they can be, i.e. as God sees them; (2) enables people to be all they can be; (3) empowers people for ministry; and (4) encourages people with credible compliments, i.e. praise that is specific, thought out, believable, and correct.

► Become an evangelist. "There is no better way to bring new life to a dead class than to lead someone to faith in Jesus Christ. That's what it's all about."

The National Sunday School Leadership Training Conference was sponsored by the Sunday School division at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. ■

Vacations are nice, but serving God is year-round task

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

Vacations are nice. Everyone needs to get away from their daily routines from time to time.

Yet, we all need to remember that serving Christ is a full-time job.

When we take vacations, we need to make sure our church responsibilities will be carried out — whether you are a Sunday School teacher, usher, teller, or whatever your task may be.

Also, we must remember that daily expenses of the church continue throughout the summer. Bills must be paid. If we're out a Sunday, that should not be a reason for failing to give our tithes and offerings. Either give them before you go on vacation or make sure you give when you return.

Some people give their vacation time to God. God's work in Tennessee and beyond is continuing throughout the summer

thanks to many people who are taking their vacation time to go on mission for God.

In newsletters we receive in the office, we read about many churches who are sending their members to various places to do mission work and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Many have reported decisions that have been made for Christ during these trips.

Churches also use the summer to hold and promote Vacation Bible Schools. Who knows but that youngster who accepted Christ in your VBS will become a future pastor or missionary.

None of this could happen if people did not freely give of their time for ministry in God's name.

The work of the Executive Board Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention also is going strong this summer.

Camps sponsored by various ministry groups have been held and lives have been impacted by the message of Christ. Others are slated for later this month.

TBC Disaster Relief teams have been busy this summer. Most recently volunteers returned from ministering in Lawrence County, following severe flooding a few weeks ago.

The ministry groups also have been planning upcoming events which will impact the lives of Tennessee Baptists and their churches.

Among events to be held soon are the Church Workers Tune Ups, Sunday School Revivals, and Mapping It Out events sponsored by the Christian Growth Development Group later this month and in September.

These training events, designed to help Tennessee Baptist churches reach more people for Jesus Christ, were described in detail in the July 22 issue.

Whether you take vacation time to get away and relax or to use it for ministry, come back ready to meet the demands of year-round service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **B&R**



just for
today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Customer to Car Repair Technician: "Did you find out what was wrong with my car?" Technician: "Yes, I did. It's your timing." Customer: "How much will it cost me to have it fixed?" Technician: "I don't mean the car's timing. I mean yours. You should have traded it in six months ago."

Take this truth

The word "opportunity" is a small word, but it has a large meaning. The word "lost" is a small word, but it has a large meaning. Combine these two words and they spell "tragedy."

Memorize this Scripture

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good." — Galatians 6:10

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to remember always the brevity of time, the vastness of eternity, and the impossibility of calling back the wasted moment." ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

August

- 5 — Pray for IMB missionary Laura Lane, who is leading a cooking class at San Pedro Church in Costa Rica.
- 6 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's campaign to extend facilities at their conference center.
- 7 — Pray for Sylvia McArthur, a Canadian Baptist who is recuperating from aneurysm surgery and a stroke.
- 8 — Pray for McLean Church in Memphis, a part of the Mississippi River Ministry, which needs young and middle-age adults to work in their church.
- 9 — Pray for IMB missionary Bill Egbert as he works in Costa Rica and for various studies being conducted there.
- 10 — Pray for the Michigan convention's upcoming choir retreat.
- 11 — Pray for Canada pastor Brian Nelson who donated a kidney to his mother-in-law as both recover from surgery.

Romantic love involves many factors, especially commitment

families matter

by Paul Barkley
counselor,
professor



As a marriage and family therapist, I am continually confronted by clients who want to explain that they have "fallen out of love" or are no longer "in love" with their spouse. This is used as a justification to dissolve the marriage.

Without going into a long discourse let me simply state my definition of love. "Love is the intentional willingness to do what you consider to be the best for the object of your love despite what it may cost you."

I believe, however, that "romantic love" also involves some other factors which must also be considered under the overarching umbrella of the above definition.

Romantic love usually involves an intense sexual attraction. This is sometimes called lust or infatuation. It must never be experienced outside the boundaries of the above definition of love or it will become self-serving, abusive, and exploitive.

Romantic love also encompasses the idea of companionship or friendship. We usually enjoy the company of those with whom we are romantically in love. This also must meet the above definition of love, or it will also become a means to capitalize

on the relationship.

The third facet of romantic love is concern and care. Those we romantically love, we also want to provide for and protect. This forms the giving nature of romantic love where the lover is more concerned with what he can give than what he can get.

The fourth factor of romantic love is idealization. This is the part of romantic love that makes love "blind." There is a willingness to overlook the faults of the loved one and to focus on the positive traits.

Benjamin Franklin said this: "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterward." This also must be considered within the parameters of the above definition or

one may not be honest enough with the loved one to confront critical issues which are important to the stability of the relationship.

The final facet of romantic love is the most important part, commitment. Romantic love always desires and demands exclusiveness. We feel betrayed when our love takes that which we believe belongs to us and gives it to another.

This description of romantic love might be understood like looking at a brilliant diamond.

The jewel itself is the concept of love. The different facets of romantic love are the ways the jewel looks from different perspectives even though the jewel remains the same. ■

Families need to work together to achieve fitness

FamilyFax

Edited by
Susan Lanford

"We are dying of excesses, not deficiencies," said a nutrition researcher.

Meet the "too-busy-to-watch-our-health" family. So prevalent, it is almost the norm. Parents work hard. All are involved in school and church activities, and constantly fight stress, fatigue, and overcommitment. They say "no" only to themselves. They rarely eat meals together. Children are overweight, teenagers inhale junk food, and parents are at-risk heart disease candidates.

Meet the "we-sure-do-look-good" family. The kids are on the swim team, take tennis

lessons, and play soccer. Even if dad works late, he goes to the gym daily. Mom protects her morning jog and weekly aerobics class no matter what is scheduled at home or church.

This family also experiences stress — stress of looking good. They may be in good shape on the outside, but they spend little time toning up to create family. They risk losing the purpose that can keep them together.

How do families help themselves?

Practice the "one rule" with individual activities. If mom teaches Sunday School, then she declines the PTA presiden-

Prevention magazine found:

- 34 percent of children ages 3-17 are overweight.
- Boys are more likely to be overweight than girls: 39 percent boys to 30 percent girls.
- Older children are chubbier than younger children: 22 of those 12 years and younger are overweight, compared to 57 percent of those ages 13-17.
- 80 percent of overweight children become overweight adults.

cy. If daughter takes ballet this year, then piano lessons wait a year. Prioritizing prevents burnout and overload.

Become physically fit together. If son plays baseball, maybe dad can coach. Ride bikes together. Start a family garden.

How may churches help families?

Too much of anything can cause stress and pull families apart — even church. God never intended that we be so worn

out doing church that we lose our desire to be the church.

Practice the "one rule" with church. Individuals, take one task at a time. Churches: ask for one task per member only.

It is also important for families to perform ministry outside of church.

Keep time and energy available to help sick friends, or e-mail extended family. ■ — Lanford, a member of First Church, Nashville, edits FamilyFax for Acacia Resources, a division of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics. FamilyFax is available at no cost from BCE. A dedicated FAX line is needed. For information, FAX request to (615) 383-0915.



Evangelicals affirm SBC family stance; N.C. church to cut ties

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Southern Baptist Convention is not alone in holding forth the Bible's teachings on marriage, according to an evangelical leader who has received more than 150 signatures of other leaders affirming the family statement adopted by the SBC at its annual meeting in June.

Dennis Rainey, executive director and co-founder of the FamilyLife ministry division of Campus Crusade for Christ,

said "the vast majority of Bible-believing Christians would not only agree with the (SBC) statement, but embrace it unashamedly as the timeless truth of Scripture."

Among those signing the affirmation were Campus Crusade founders Bill and Vonette Bright, Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney and his wife, Lyndi, and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet.

Rainey noted only two leaders refused to sign.

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS • CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialist.
827 E. Broadway Blvd., Jefferson City, TN

Meanwhile, First Church, Raleigh, N. C., has garnered national media attention for launching committee deliberations on ending all ties to the SBC over the family statement, adopted June 11 by SBC messengers in Salt Lake City.

The possible congregational vote at First Church essentially will be a formality as the church had ended its giving to SBC causes and its use of SBC Sunday School literature long before the convention adopted the family statement. ■

SAIMS
Our company proudly carries the name of our founder, J.L. Sams, a Southern Baptist pastor. It has been our privilege to serve Southern Baptists since 1989.
- pews - pulpit furniture - stained glass - educational furniture - carpet - painting - more than 200 complete CHURCH RENOVATIONS
FREE BROCHURES CALL
1-800-537-4723
P.O. Box 1430, Waco, TX 76702

Hovie Walker, Musician and Ordained Minister



- One of Bill and Gloria Gaither's "Homecoming" friends.
- Former bass singer for such notable groups as the grammy award winning Thrasher Brothers, Willie Wynn and The Tennesseans and The Singing Americans.
- Staff evangelist, Riverside Church, Nashville, TN
- Endorsed by retired staff member of Nashville Baptist Association

Contact KAP Ready Ministries, 1-800-583-4186 or (615) 226-0244, FAX - (615) 226-8128

"A Realistic Anointed Family Serving Yours."

Director of Foster Care

The Baptist Home for Children, Jacksonville, Fla., is seeking qualified candidates for the director of its Foster Care Program. Duties include recruitment and licensure of Christian foster homes, ministry to foster children and parents, Christian education and training, and administrative direction of case managers and office staff. Candidates must possess a master's degree preferably in social work, family counseling, or a related field. Please contact Randy Harrison, Executive Director, at (904) 721-2711.



Available in 20' to 37' models
(12 to 43 Passenger, New and Used)

Church Buses

- We rent new buses!
- We buy used buses!
- Guaranteed buy back!

Call Henry Headen
Carpenter Bus Sales
Brentwood, Tenn.
1 (800) 370-6180
1 (615) 376-2287
www.carpenterbus.com

Director of Residential Services

The Baptist Home for Children, Jacksonville, Fla., is seeking qualified candidates for Director of Residential Services. Our campus contains five cottages for children ages 5 to 17 who have been neglected, abused, or abandoned. Candidates must possess a master's degree in social work or a related field. Responsibility includes directing treatment and houseparent staff, developing program goals and strategies, and personal ministry to children and parents. Please contact Randy Harrison, Executive Director, at (904) 721-2711.

NOBTS

HAVE YOU HEARD YOU CAN GET A SEMINARY DEGREE FROM NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE?

For more information, please call
Bradley Baptist Association
at (423) 476-5493

Fall classes will begin Aug. 24. Planned classes include: Foundational Issues of Christian Education, Christian Doctrine, and New Testament Elective (Book of Acts)

A fully accredited program for an Associate Degree in "Pastoral Ministries" and "Christian Education"

Senate oks ban on Internet gambling

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate, by a 90-10 margin, voted to prohibit gambling on the Internet.

The senators voted in support of legislation by Sen. John

Kyl of Arizona to extend the ban on gambling by telephone or wire to such activity on the Internet and other computer services. "We need to update the law to help it keep up with technology and close the loopholes that have allowed this activity to flourish," Kyl said.

A similar bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. ■

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Screenprint & Embroidery

Customized caps, shirts, etc.

Appealing Apparel

1-800-728-9530

"Each Product Becomes A Walking Billboard"
Best Prices in the Industry!

1998 Senior Adult Conference

Theme: "Redeem the Times"
Sept. 15-17

Grand Hotel & Conference Center
Pigeon Forge



Bible Study: Kenny Cooper

Music: Fes Robertson

Wednesday Night Concert: Stu Phillips of the

Grand Ole Opry

Pianist: Joyce Byrd

Conference Leaders: Karl Babb, Bill Highsmith, Dorothy Chrisman, Janice Holcomb, Tim Holcomb, Chris Adams, Bo Childs, and Kenny Cooper

Registration: \$15 per person; make check payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention. Send to Don Mauldin, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728

Room Reservations: Call the hotel at 1-800-362-1188 for individuals or 1-800-472-1188 for groups of six or more.

For more information about the conference, call Don Mauldin at (615) 371-2047.

The value of your computer just went up a degree.



Pictured are Ed.D. faculty (L to R) Warren Benson, Brian Richardson, Jack Cunningham, Mark Simpson and Dennis Williams.

The School of Christian Education and Leadership at Southern Seminary invites you to explore the first Doctor of Education in Leadership degree on-line.

- Use the Internet to study full time without having to relocate.
- Complete most of your course work at home while continuing your full-time ministry.
- Come to campus for seminars three times a year in July, November and March.
- Complete course

work for seminars at home through Internet discussion groups, e-mail and on-line research.

• Study with the renowned education and leadership faculty of Southern Seminary and other guest specialists.

Application requirements and detailed program information are available on-line at:

<http://www.sbts.edu/celead/edd/edd.html>.



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
Toll-free: 1 800 626-5525, ext. 4058 • www.sbts.edu

Why Pay More For Life Insurance?

Low, low non-smoker monthly cost (male)

Age	\$150,000	\$300,000
25	\$16.01	\$19.95
35	\$18.11	\$23.63
45	\$28.88	\$42.53
55	\$54.99	\$88.73

Please call Jim Smelcher (Knoxville, TN)
Toll Free 1-800-583-0970 (9-9 Mon.-Sat.)
Level death benefit term to age 95 with a step premium that does not increase for the first 15 years.
Written by an A-plus Life insurance company. Preferred male rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and female rates.

Pews, pulpits,
baptistries,
steeples, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

CHURCH FURNITURE

Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded



BAPTISTRIES
STEEPLES
WINDOWS
"Refinishing &
Cushioning Your
Present Pews"

Toll Free
(800) 365-2568
(615) 359-3075

CISCO

P.O. Box 1068
Lewisburg, TN 37091

Feeling secure or being secure

By Paul Medley

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 7:1-15

I remember the first sermon I ever preached. The date was December 12, 1972 and the place was the Westside Baptist Church in Bastrop, Louisiana. My text was John 3:16 and I "waxed eloquently" for 10 minutes before realizing I had said all I had prepared. Not wanting to end so quickly I then repeated my message two more times in order to fill a 30-minute time slot! I have since learned that the length of the message is unimportant, it is the meat — the heart of the message — that matters.

The passage for this lesson may well have been Jeremiah's earliest public utterance. The message was an open and sweeping attack on the belief that God can be glorified by any sort of temple worship or ritual sacrifice. His was a message against worshipping worship and revering ritual rather than God. His message fits well into many churches today.

For six weeks our church ran in our Sunday bulletin an insert series compiled by Henry Maxey (Worship, Summer 1997). The series asked, "So, You Have Come to Worship?" and then offered suggestions about how to prepare for worship. These were well received and made the point that worship is more than ritual, word, or attendance. Worship is the experiencing of God and glorifying of him through praise, prayer, and proclamation.

What does worship mean to you? Does it refer to a time or event? Does it conjure up thoughts of observation or participation? Is your act of worship separate from your Christian lifestyle? Can you separate worship from witness?

The people Jeremiah was speaking to had indeed separated worship and witness. They were like the proverbial folks that came to church on Sunday and lived like the devil the rest of the week. They based their relationship with God on "going to church" and not on a personal relationship with a loving God. These people felt secure because they had fulfilled the outward, public, obligations of worship.

What about the inward obligations of worship? Have we not recently read that before we come to the altar of the Lord that we be assured that we have nothing against our brother and he against us? There is a preparation to worship. One must come prepared with a clean heart to worship the Lord our God.

Keeping the rituals of worship led the people of Jeremiah's day to a false sense of security. They had based their relationship with God on platitudes and pleadings. Keeping the ritual was more important to them than replenishing the soul.

There is a lesson here for all of us. Worship, ritual, tradition are not ends in themselves. Observing them, however diligently, will not secure our relationship with the Lord. We are only secure in Jesus when we have trusted him as our personal Lord and Savior. Worship then becomes a means of expressing our thanksgiving and praise to God. — Medley is pastor, First Church, Jasper.

Work diligently

By Richard Skidmore

Focal Passage — Proverbs 6:6-8; 10:4-5; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 20:4; 24:30-34

One of the deacons offered the young pastor employment with his lumber business. The church was growing and the six-day work week he currently had would be reduced. More flexibility would allow time for visitation and ministry.

The job consisted of carrying a commercial chain saw in one hand, a sledge hammer in the other, and heavy wedges in his pockets to help fell the trees in the right direction. After trees were on the ground, roads had to be made to drive the heavy trucks over steep embankments, through creek bottoms, around weak bridges.

At the mill, the preacher was introduced to a cane hook that was used to turn the logs during the sawing process. He soon graduated to stacking the lumber in ricks according to grade and size. After a while, his hands were once again splintered and calloused reminding him of his youth on the family farm.

Family Bible Lesson

After noticing him rubbing a sore muscle, the deacon remarked, "I guess you've found out by now that none of the jobs in the lumber business have the work cut out of them."

From the texts of this week's lesson, there are some important notes for us about work:

To work and thereby provide for our needs, those of our family, and those in need should be **natural**. The Scriptures often provide simple illustrations to remind us of our Creator's truths. The ant's ways should remind us that without compulsion, in season, God's creatures work so that they may live.

Life is not all work. There are seasons for rest and

recreation. There is a time to work. The plowing season in the Middle East is often windy and cold. The harvest season where we live is usually hot and uncomfortable.

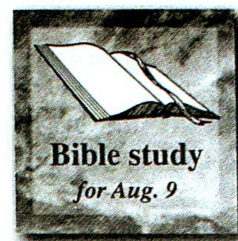
We need to remember that some of the synonyms for work are labor, toil, exertion, drudgery.

Work is the way to provide. The numerous references in Proverbs, notably those in today's lesson, and others in Scripture make it plain that work was and is part of God's plan for mankind. References you might check include Genesis 1:28; 2:15; John 5:17; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:8; II Thessalonians 3:7-12. The commandment to rest on the seventh day is preceded by the admonition to work the others (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15).

Neglect and procrastination are common causes of failure and lead to disaster. One translation of Proverbs 24:30-33 reads, "I once walked by the field and the vineyard of a lazy fool. Thorns and weeds were everywhere, and the stone wall had fallen down. When I saw this, it taught me a lesson: Sleep a little. Doze a little. Fold your hands and twiddle your thumbs. Suddenly poverty hits you and everything is gone!"

We should remember other Scriptural instruction about poverty and hunger. Laziness is not always the cause of either. Proverbs 21:13; 22:9 teaches **generosity** toward the poor. Deuteronomy 24:10-22 commands help for the helpless, especially widows and orphans. The story of Ruth is worthy of our thought. Ephesians 4:28 expresses the New Testament teaching of work and includes help for the needy.

"Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know," (Charles Kingsley). — Skidmore is director of missions, Weakley Association, Dresden.



Be sure you grow

By Jim Powers

Focal Passage — II Peter 1:1-11

When we bring our babies home from the hospital we feed and nurture them in many ways so they will grow. If they fail to grow we immediately try to find the problem and correct it.

In his second epistle, Peter is encouraging the Christian to grow and not be stunted in growth by following false teachings. In this epistle Peter exhorts Christians to develop a mature faith that will stand firm against false teachers.

By using the term bondservant Peter identifies himself as an equal fellow pilgrim on the journey of faith. In salvation grace and peace need to be multiplied so victory can come in the Christian walk.

As verse three is written Peter makes it clear that human effort is not responsible for the life of godliness but rather the divine power and presence of God in our life. The divine blessings include such qualities for the believer as eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The glory and virtue of Jesus attracts believers to him.

Having received Jesus as our

Explore the Bible Lesson

Lord and Savior makes Christians the recipients of his great and precious promises. Christ has made it possible for us to participate intimately in life with God.

Just as Jesus' life was one of virtue so is the believer's life to be free from immoral activities. If not careful Christ's followers can decay from within because the lust of the flesh is uncontrolled.

In order to grow one must develop Christian qualities. Notice the progression in the walk of faith. The placing of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the beginning of the Christian life.

Faith should produce virtue and moral excellence. This quality is developed by allowing the Holy Spirit to nurture us.

After virtue we are to seek after knowledge. Knowledge results as we dedicate ourselves to learning the truths of God's Scripture and practicing those truths.

As knowledge comes self-control is to be produced. Mastering one's

emotions is essential for spiritual growth.

In Christian service it is always too soon to quit. Perseverance is needed. Keep on keeping on!

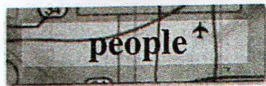
As these virtues come, godliness shows up. Christians should display qualities that are godlike.

Brotherly love involves serving one another. "Loving your neighbor as yourself." "Now abides faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love." Christian living is dominated by love for God and your fellowman.

The results of developing with diligence Christian virtue are fruitfulness and usefulness in Christ's kingdom. Omitting these qualities causes spiritual blindness or at least limited spiritual sight.

The "blind" Christian receives Christ as Savior and then no growth and serious backsliding results. If a godly lifestyle is maintained then the faithful follower is less likely to stumble, backslide.

The eternal reward for those who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord is entrance into his everlasting kingdom. Praise God! — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murfreesboro.



■ **First Church, Cumberland City**, recently ordained **John Williams** as a deacon.



■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, has called **Ricky Mitchell** as interim minister of music and his wife, **Kim**, as interim pianist.

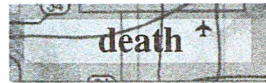
■ **J.W. Taylor**, pastor of a church in Georgia, has been called as pastor, **New Market Church, New Market**, effective Sept. 20.

■ **Jim Hopkins**, pastor, **Faith Temple Church, Nashville**, recently celebrated his 17th anniversary of service.

■ **Bill Taylor**, pastor, **Liberty Church, Nashville**, recently celebrated his 17th anniversary of service.

■ **Greg Frizzell**, pastor, **Georgian Hills Church, Memphis**, was honored recently on the 14th anniversary of his service there.

■ **John Joiner**, minister of music, **Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville**, recently celebrated his ninth anniversary of service.



■ **Arthur H. Cate**, 93, re-

tired pastor of **Rockwood** died July 12. He contributed several times to the Letters to the Editor section of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Cate was pastor of **Daysville Church, Rockwood**; **Clax Gap Church, Crab Orchard Church, Oakdale**; **Westel Church, Rockwood**; and **Cardiff Church, Rockwood**. He was ordained in 1941 in Texas.



■ **Riverside Association** will hold a youth weekend retreat Aug. 14-15 at **Cedar Lake Camp**.

■ **Nashville Association** has given \$5,000 to the **American Baptist College** in Nashville to help meet dire financial needs.

■ A Senior Adult Leadership Conference will be held Aug. 11 at **Woodmont Church, Nashville**, by **Nashville Association**. For more information, call (615) 259-3034.



■ **Beech Springs Church, Gleason**, will hold its 150th anniversary celebration Sept. 6. Activities include old fashioned day, recognition of longtime members, afternoon music program, and luncheon.

■ Eleven youth and three adults of **Mouth of Richland Church, Blaine**, attended a **Centrifuge Camp** at **Ridgecrest**



MEMBERS of a team from **Goodsprings Church, Etowah**, pause during their work July 11-17 in **Union City** to support the **Mississippi River Ministry**. The group worked with **Beulah Association and Sunswep Church, Union City**. They led backyard Bible schools and did construction work. Seven people made professions of faith as a result of the effort.

Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 25-31. The youth raised all of the money needed for the camp.

■ **First Church, Trimble**, will hold revival Aug. 23-26. **Phil Glisson**, evangelist of **Memphis**, will speak.

■ On July 18 **College Heights Church, Gallatin**, drew about 100 to its annual **Mother-Daughter Luncheon and Style Show**. Models were members of the church and fashions were provided by **Steinmart**. **Linda Gilmore** spoke.

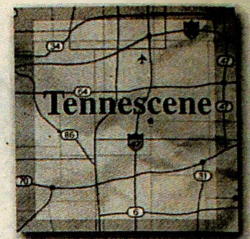
■ **Roaring Fork Church, Gatlinburg**, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary Aug. 16. Former pastors will speak during the morning worship service. Other activities include a luncheon, afternoon music program featuring former members of the church.

■ A team of 12 from **Forest Hills Church, Nashville**, is serving in **Warsaw, Poland**, July 31 - Aug. 10. The members will lead a children's day camp at the **Baptist seminary** outside of **Warsaw**.

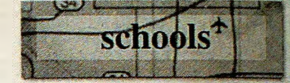
■ **Shaws Chapel Church, Brownsville**, will hold Homecoming Day Aug. 9. Activities, part of which will be held in its new building, will include a luncheon and afternoon music program.

■ **Poplar Heights Church, Jackson**, will hold its 75th anniversary celebration Aug. 23. **James Porch**, executive director-treasurer, **Tennessee Baptist Convention**, will speak. Activities will include a luncheon and groundbreaking for a **Family Life Center**. For more information, contact the church at (901) 668-2425.

■ **First Church, Sunbright**, will celebrate "Homecoming Sunday" Aug. 9. **Phil Fisher** of **Florida** will speak and special music will be presented. For more information, contact the church at (423) 628-2404.



construction and evangelism.



■ **Jason Rogers**, a Nashville attorney, has been named vice president/general counsel of **Belmont University, Nashville**. A member of **Glendale Church, Nashville**, Rogers works for **Guenther, Jordan, and Rogers**.



ROGERS

■ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, will hold a course at the **Sevier County Association** office to support the **Winter Bible Study of Life-Way Christian Resources**. The class, "Joshua," will be offered on selected Monday nights beginning Oct. 5. It is for credit or audit. **Don Mitchell**, retired from the college, will lead it. For more information, contact the college's **Adult Education Office** at (423) 471-3234 or 1-800-678-9061.

Laconia Church notes 175th anniversary

For *Baptist and Reflector*

LACONIA — Liberty Church here observed its 175th anniversary July 26.

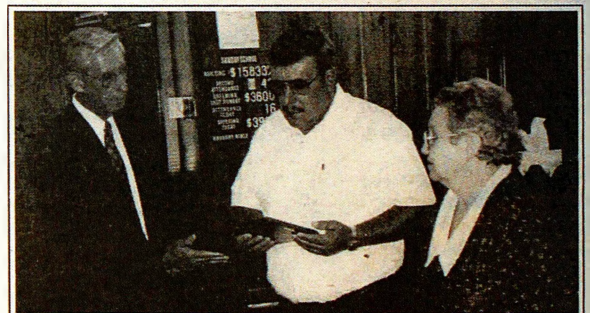
A highlight of the event was the presence of six former pastors — **Charles Dinkins**, **Raymond Holloway**, **J.W. Abney**, **Bill Stricklin**, **Lynn Granger**, and **Billy Ray Burch**. Each spoke about their ministry. All are retired but still active in ministry, reported **Bob Campbell**, director of missions, **Fayette Association**.



FORMER PASTORS and the current pastor attending the celebration were, from left, front row, **Charles Dinkins**, **Billy Ray Burch**, **Lynn Granger**, **Claudie Hammers**, pastor; second row, **Raymond Holloway**, **J.W. Abney**, and **Bill Stricklin**.

During an afternoon memorial service, deceased former pastors were honored.

Also **Claudie Hammers**, pastor, was recognized. He has served the church for 16 years, the longest tenure of any pastor of the church and of any church in the association. He has led the church in several building programs. ■



PRESENTING a plaque recently is **Dale G. Smith**, left, director of missions, **New River Association**, to **Roger Lloyd**, pastor, **Smokey Creek Missionary Church, Huntsville**; and **Linda Lowe**, 76, the oldest member who is church clerk/treasurer. The plaque commemorates the church's 125th anniversary. It is from the **Tennessee Baptist Convention**.



BEING HONORED recently for her years of service is accompanist **Kathleen Hill**, right, of **South Knoxville Church, Knoxville**. Hill has served as church pianist for 40 years. She stands with **Jeanne Cunningham**, church organist for 41 years.