

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

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this week's news

- ▶ Consultant offers tips for improved health. — Page 2
- ▶ Nashville pastor continues to preach despite recent health struggles. — Page 3
- ▶ Editorial, column remind readers of *Baptist and Reflector* Day on Aug. 16. — Page 4

Pullout focuses on state missions

On pages 5-12 in this issue readers will find a special pullout section which focuses on the Golden State Missions Offering and the 1998 Season of Prayer for State Missions.

Prepared by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, the GSMO insert features ministries supported by the state missions offering.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is proud to be a part of this focus on state missions. *B&R*

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

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Churches evangelize through tent revivals

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Old-fashioned" tent revivals apparently aren't old-fashioned after all.

In fact, they still are an effective means of reaching lost people for Christ, said Ken Weathersby, evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The TBC Executive Board's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group has three tents churches can use for revivals or other evangelistic activities, Weathersby noted. Two of the tents will seat between 150 and 200 people while the larger one will seat between 450-550, he noted.

This year 40 churches have reserved a tent and several have already reserved them for use in 1999, he added.

People will go to a tent service who would not enter a church building, Weathersby contended. "They see the tents as neutral ground," he observed.

History has proven the

TBC's tent ministry has been successful. "Many souls have been won to the Lord under these tents," Weathersby said.

He acknowledged some people are skeptical of the tents, calling it old-fashioned.

Yet, he doubts those who have accepted Christ would accept that theory. "They simply heard the Gospel," he stressed.

And, contrary to what one might think, it is not just small rural churches that use the tent. Tent revivals can be effective in both rural and urban settings, Weathersby maintained.

Alta Loma Church, located on a busy stretch of Gallatin Road in the Rivergate Mall area of Nashville, used the tent recently.

While they had the primary service inside their auditorium the tent was used to attract at-

tention and for pre-revival events, said senior pastor David Thompson.

Thompson said the tent helped promote the revival and draw attention. "It was a good tool and we will use it again," he said. Alta Loma's revival had an average attendance of 220 people with 63 professions of faith, 29 rededications, and three other decisions, Thompson reported.

In Paris, New Harmony Church acquired the use of the tent for a revival held with other churches, including some from other denominations.

The tent was filled each night and there were 100 professions of faith, said Bill Moody, a layman at New Harmony.

The revival was led by evangelist Robert Mims of Chicago and a choir comprised of young people who testified what Christ had done for their lives.

"The choir really ministered to the young and old alike," Moody said.

Moody acknowledged holding a tent revival was hard work, but well worth the effort.

Edgemont Church, Shelbyville, used the tent which attracted an average of 330 people to the services with a high attendance one night of 444.

There were four professions of faith and 30 rededications, according to Tim Beaty, a layman at the church.

Beaty thanked Weathersby for the use of the tent. "Without this ministry we would have spent more than \$1,500 just for the tent rental," Beaty wrote in a report concerning the revival.

Weathersby said the only charge for usage is a \$200 fee which goes toward the repair and replacement of tents as needed. If a church has a problem with the fee, arrangements can be made, he stressed.

"We are willing to work with the churches. This is God's property for his use. We are just being good stewards of what he has given us."

For more information about the tent ministry, contact Weathersby at (615) 371-2059. *B&R*



WEATHERSBY

Computer glitch poses opportunities: authors

By Ken Walker
For Baptist Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is the first in a three-part series.

ATLANTA — The possibility of widespread computer malfunctions or computer crashes at the year 2000 could usher in historic evangelism opportunities, say two evangelicals who have written books on the increasingly discussed "Y2K problem."

Because many computer programs use two-digit endings for dates, computers may interpret the upcoming turn-of-the-century "00" to mean 1900.

Warning signs already have surfaced, according to Mike Hyatt, vice president of Thomas Nelson Publishers and author of *The Millennium Bug: How to Survive the Coming Chaos*. His book lists such problems as:

▶ In Honolulu, the Hawaii capital's electric utility recently ran a series of tests on its power grid to see what would happen come Jan. 1, 2000, and the system stopped working.

▶ Visa had to recall some credit cards with expiration dates into the next millennium, since machines reading them

thought they had expired in the early 20th century.

▶ In Britain, a company's computers mistakenly ordered the destruction of tons of corned beef it believed was more than 100 years old.

"When you get right down to it, the Year 2000 problem is not a technological problem," he writes in his book, which sold 90,000 copies in two months after its release.

"We know exactly what the problem is, and we know how to fix it. We just don't have enough time. The job is too big, and we are starting too late."

Shaunti Feldhahn, whose *Y2K: The Millennium Bug — A Christian Perspective*, will be released in November by Multnomah Publishers, agreed.

"It's important for people to understand this is not a technical issue," said the Y2K consultant and former Federal Reserve employee. "In 1990 it was a technical problem. Now it's a time and resource problem, which makes it a public policy and Christian issue."

While few agree on the exact scope and impact of the problem, the situation has spawned dire warnings, more than 40 books and considerable attention from the U.S. government.

In mid-July, for example, President Bill

Clinton said he would propose federal legislation to limit liability for companies sharing possible solutions that later prove faulty.

A week later, the U.S. Senate began hearings on the medical industry's efforts to repair potential computer glitches. Last year, a British government study predicted between 600 and 1,500 deaths in England related to Y2K problems, according to a report in *USA Today*.

In a recent speech, Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate's special committee on Year 2000 technology problems, outlined three areas of concern.

In addition to problem software, countless numbers of computer chips are embedded in everything from refrigerators to automotive manufacturing equipment, he said. There is also the problem of computers receiving faulty data through widespread networks, he added.

Noting a friend said the situation parallels the Tower of Babel, Bennett said after Jan. 1, 2000, modern nations also may be unable to talk to each other via vast computer networks. "I am hoping ... we use the opportunity to take the remaining (time) to see to it that when we get to New Year's Eve 1999, we can look back and say that we were facing something as serious — Continued on page 2



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Computer glitch poses opportunities ...

— Continued from page 1
as the Tower of Babel, but we have — as a nation and as a world — faced up to that,” he said.

Despite some ominous warnings, Hyatt and Feldhahn believe Christians should not shrink with fear from the possibilities.

“One of the verses that has stood out to II Timothy 1:7, that God has not given us a spirit of fear,” said Hyatt, who lives in the Nashville area. “As Christians, there is no reason to panic. God is still on the throne and we do have a responsibility to trust him.

“He has given us a spirit of power. So as impotent as we may feel in the face of this crisis, by the spirit of Christ indwelling us, we can meet this challenge.”

Hundreds of churches across the nation already are gearing up for a variety of scenarios by forming Y2K task forces, he said. Three are located in the Nashville area.

In metropolitan Atlanta, a coalition of several hundred churches plans to host a community forum Sept. 12. Among the speakers will be Larry Burkett, radio commentator, author, and founder of the nationally known Christian Financial Concepts ministry, and Jim Lord, a computer programmer and former contractor for the

Department of Defense.

Dunwoody Baptist Church, a suburban congregation, hosted a pastors’ planning meeting regarding the forum on Aug. 4.

Feldhahn, president of a new non-profit organization, Joseph Project 2000 based in Atlanta, said she hopes the forum will serve as a model for other communities and “light a fire” under the church.

Christians need to take this dilemma seriously, she said, but many shrug it off as a technical problem that Microsoft founder Bill Gates will fix.

“It’s absolutely an incredible opportunity for the church,” she said. “There needs to be a Christian response, globally.”

For her forthcoming book, Feldhahn interviewed such evangelical leaders as Burkett, Henry Blackaby, special assistant to the presidents of three SBC agencies; “700 Club” host Pat Robertson, and financial consultant Ron Blue.

Most of her book is devoted to a Christian response to the situation, she said. Generally, those interviewed agreed on three major issues:

(1) The need to become aware of the situation and prepare for it. While our job is

not to predict the future, we should be ready to face it, she said.

(2) The need for Christian leadership and service. This is the church’s chance to be a shining light on the hill, she said. Thus, it is important that believers remain in cities and other areas where trouble may occur, she emphasized.

“Larry Burkett said, ‘Why does God raise up an army if in fact the army quits when the battle starts? That doesn’t make any sense. God put us here to lead people to the Lord.’”

(3) There may be a twofold message in this crisis. One, that

God will use it to remove our focus from modern idols of technology and self-sufficiency. Also, it may represent his judgment.

The latter will not be aimed at the world, she said. In her discussion with Blackaby, he pointed out that in the Bible the Lord’s judgment usually fell on the church.

“Christian divorce and our rate of abortions are just as high as the world’s,” Feldhahn said.

“We mirror all of the problems of society. It is not unthinkable that judgment could be coming on us.” ■



No need to diet, just change it: Yessick

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

Tips to improve your diet

GLORIETA, N.M. — Despite the recent national publicity of a Purdue University study proclaiming Southern Baptists the most overweight of religious people, a national wellness consultant advised that “no one needs to go on a diet.”

Tommy Yessick, a Leader-Care consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, instead preaches changing one’s diet.

Approximately 95 percent of people who go on a diet and succeed in losing weight will regain the weight and add even more pounds than they had before the diet, Yessick said in a recent workshop at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

“You are what you eat to some extent,” he said.

“What you don’t eat may kill you, and some of what you do eat may kill you.”

Yessick pointed to the scriptural admonition in Philippians 3:19 which warns of the destructive result of making a god of one’s appetite, and I Corinthians 10:31, which encourages whatever one eats or drinks be done to the glory of God.

But before Baptists rush to clear their shelves of all their favorite calorie-laden foods, Yessick provided some encouragement: “You can eat some of what you want if you eat all of what you should.”

But back to the grim news. Yessick said Americans’ bodily temples “are in ruin. The United States is number one in cardio-

vascular disease. More than 300 people die from it each day.

“One in three people in the United States will be affected by cancer in their lifetime,” he said. “Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness and 45 percent of non-traumatic amputations. Sixteen million Americans have hypertension. Inactivity and salt consumption, far above the quarter teaspoon each of us needs, leads to hypertension.”

Before allowing ourselves to have a modest portion of Aunt Mary’s “Chocolate Heart Attack,” our bodies need 45 essential nutrients, Yessick said, noting many of these needs can be met by small amounts. Others, like water, are needed in greater amounts. The essential nutrients, he said, are carbohydrates, fats, proteins, amino acids (9), vitamins (13), minerals (19) and water.

“The way God made vitamins is the best way to consume them,” Yessick maintained. “Nutrient-dense foods are much better than supplements.”

Yessick cautioned “zero-fat

foods may have high sugar content,” misleading people to believe they can eat all they want of those foods.

And he said water is critical to every chemical body process. Water is needed for minerals, nutrients, lubrication, temperature regulation, and growth promotion.

Yet most people do not consume the recommended eight glasses of water daily.

“Estimates are that 60 percent of Americans are on the verge of dehydration,” he said.

What Americans eat, per person per year, he said includes 150 pounds of sugar, 24 pounds of artificial sweetener, 67 pounds of added fat, 27 pounds of cheese, and 51 gallons of soft drinks.

What we should eat, he said, is 55 to 65 percent of our diet from carbohydrates, 20 to 25 percent from fat, and 15 percent from protein.

Citing I Corinthians 6, he reminded participants, “it is a spiritual matter to take care of your temple.” ■

Camps seek to serve

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After 50 years of ministry, Tennessee Baptists’ two camps — Camp Carson in Newport and Camp Linden in Linden — are still meeting needs, says William Maxwell, TBC Executive Board administrative director.

In November the convention will consider a plan to improve the camps for the next 50 years of ministry. “It is imperative that we prepare for changing retreat needs of our Tennessee Baptist family,” he said. To book a time for your church retreat, call Linden at (931) 589-2622 and Carson at (423) 623-2764. ■

Specialist sought

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Applications are being accepted for the collegiate ministries specialist.

This position will coordinate the different aspects of collegiate ministry on the campuses and in the local churches for Tennessee Baptists.

This person will lead campus ministers and church leaders in reaching college students for and building a positive pilgrimage with Christ. Subsequently, this person should have demonstrated skill in team building and group dynamics as well as effective communications skills. Experience in collegiate ministries is preferred.

For an application, contact the Human Resources Office, Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37064, by Sept. 15. ■

Despite lingering health problems

Pastor gains spiritual strength from illness

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Six months ago, Conyer Walker had everything to look forward to.

He had just begun serving as pastor of Riverside Church here and was enjoying the new challenge of working in a large city. He had served churches in towns and small cities in West Tennessee for 28 years. And his wife, Helen, was enjoying her new job here.

His family responsibilities were lessening. His two older children had married and moved away from home. His youngest child was glad to move to Nashville so she could attend one of the colleges in the area.

And his health was good, he thought. He was just 47 years old. Periods of weariness he attributed to trying to respond to new challenges. A few weeks later, during a routine physical, he found out differently.

On April 28 Walker underwent heart surgery during which two valves were replaced, an aortic route was added, and an aneurysm was repaired. After eight hours of surgery, he underwent an unexpected four additional hours of surgery. Several days later he suffered a stroke.

The stroke caused him to lose most of his sight and recently, has caused his speech to be slightly slurred.

But none of these setbacks seem to be a hindrance to Walker. He still preaches each

Sunday morning at Riverside and in personal conversations he speaks rapidly and with urgency.

Coping

If a person tries to follow God's direction in the Bible, explained Walker, he or she looks for the good in every situation. Since his illness, he has tried to do that and it has worked, he explained.

"It's amazing that God can bring such good out of such a bad thing."

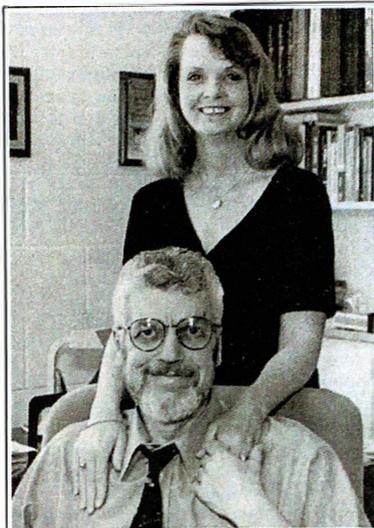
Personal blessings

For instance, he realizes now he needed spiritual renewal in his life and ministry, he explained.

One wouldn't know it, considering his accomplishments. Walker had just served as pastor of First Church, Bruceton, for seven years, a longer than average tenure.

He also was a recognized leader among Tennessee Baptists. In 1996, he finished serving six years on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. During his service he helped plan renovation of the two Baptist camps as chairman of the Central Administrative Committee. That renovation has recently begun.

But despite his accomplishments, he had become "numb," said Walker, or able to turn away from hurting people. He had realized this and had been praying to become more tender-hearted.



CONYER AND HELEN WALKER pause in his office at Riverside Church, Nashville.

Walker doesn't know if God allowed him to become ill so he would have more compassion. He just knows he is more empathetic, he said.

And he has a zeal for witnessing since his illness.

He has more opportunities to witness, he explained. He has met many health care workers. And he has made new or closer friends of acquaintances as they have learned about his illness.

His disabilities have, ironically, removed barriers between him and other people, he explained. He has to speak more often to strangers be-

cause of his limited vision. And when his weaknesses could present a barrier, he ignores them. For instance, when dumping the household trash recently, he heard someone nearing him. He asked who it was and eventually witnessed to the woman who was walking for exercise.

God has been directing him, claimed Walker, because people have stopped what they were doing despite their busyness to hear his witness. And when he witnesses to Christians or they overhear him, they might be encouraged to share their faith, he continued.

One day while he and Helen were on an errand, she facetiously told him they could spend a lot less time if he would stop witnessing to everyone.

The couple has laughed about her observation many times. In fact, they laugh more about everything since his illness, they agreed.

"That helps," explained Helen. "God uses laughter. I think."

The couple said another outcome of his illness has been their closer relationship. Of course, they realize he was close to death. But they have endured many changes, including adopting new roles.

Helping church

Another good outcome of Walker's ordeal has been the im-



pact on Riverside, said Walker.

Revival has begun at the church in the past several weeks. Members are expressing themselves in new ways in relationships and in worship. Many gather at the altar during each service to pray. And 10 people have joined the church recently, he reported.

Not only is Walker's ministry different, but the other two staff members have suffered trials during the period of Walker's illness.

Members have responded by assuming responsibilities of the staff and ministering generously to each of them, he described.

"I can't say enough about this church," said Walker.

"He's (God's) just blessed us so much," said Walker. *B&R*

'Courage in Ministry' series

The series "Courage in Ministry" continues in this issue. These articles consider ministers and family members who continue ministry during extreme trials in their lives. *B&R*

Belmont University unveils plans for visual arts center

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University's focus on the visual arts will benefit not only the university and its bachelor of fine arts program, but the Nashville arts community as well, according to school officials.

The site has been cleared for the three-story, 40,000-square-foot Leu Center for the Visual Arts which, in addition to art faculty and administrative offices, will house a 1,600-foot exhibit gallery, a 125-seat projection theater, and studio space for classes in painting and drawing, printing and graphics, photography, sculpture, and ceramics.

"Margaret and Frank Leu have given Belmont a tremendous opportunity to provide our students and our community with a very unique cultural center dedicated solely to the study, production, and enjoyment of the visual arts,"

said Belmont president William E. Troutt.

"The Leu Center is a celebration of their vision that will house one of Belmont's most dynamic and fastest growing programs."

The Leus, who were benefactors of the Leu Art Gallery, both died within a year of each other in 1996-97. A gift from their estate has provided the bulk of the estimated \$5-6 million cost of the building.

The Leu Center will be located next to the Lila D. Bunch Library on the Belmont campus and will complete Belmont's fine arts quadrangle with the library (which houses the Leu Art Gallery), Wilson Music Building, and Massey Performing Arts Center.

Belmont draws considerable community support for exhibits in the Leu Gallery and for musical productions in the Massey Performing Arts Center. The Leu Center will complement these, officials said. ■

Brook Hollow Church ministers in Eastern Kentucky for 30th year

By John Fairless
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Youth and adult members of Brook Hollow Church here recently led Vacation Bible Schools in Eastern Kentucky. The group was following in the footsteps of many other church members, as this was the 30th year for the summer project.

In 1969, the first group of members served in what has become a twice-yearly event. In addition to the summer ministry, the group also makes a visit every year at Christmas to deliver gifts to children there.

It's hard to say which event is more eagerly anticipated by the boys and girls in Kentucky — the VBS program each summer or the "Birthday Party for Jesus" each December.

David and Mary Lu Smith, who helped lead the original outing 30 years ago, accompanied the group this year as well.

"It's just amazing to see what God does in the lives of these kids every year," David Smith reminisced. "We now have children who attended our Bible schools 20 and 30 years ago who are bringing their own children."

Mary Lu Smith remembered that the whole thing began rather uncertainly.

"The first day we ever went, we just had one child and us under an old oak tree. But before the week was over, we had a whole yard full of kids."

The Smiths have participated every year since then but passed leadership responsibilities to John and Kathy Davis.

The missions experience took on a new twist this year, as children had their first-ever opportunity to help other needy children.

One of the themes for the school was sharing "treasure" received from God. The missions leaders did not want to ask the children to give money, so they suggested that each child bring a small toy to be given to inner-city children who attend the Woodcock Baptist Center in Nashville. Each class constructed treasure boxes for collection boxes.

The team was surprised when the children brought their treasures at the end of the week. The accumulated toys filled up about half of the trailer the group uses to carry supplies.

During a worship service after the event, team members placed the gifts on the church's altar in a special service. The toys have been delivered to Woodcock Baptist Center. ■ — Fairless is pastor of Brook Hollow Church.

B&R Day offers time to reflect on purpose

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

The third Sunday every August is recognized on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar as *Baptist and Reflector* Day. For the nearly 53,000 families who receive the *Baptist and Reflector* each week, a day is not needed. Those families know the paper. But we all, even the *B&R* staff, need a reminder of the reasons for having a state paper.

Also, approximately 12,000 other readers this week are seeing the paper, maybe for the first time. We hope the paper becomes a weekly tradition.

Why do Tennessee Baptists have a state paper?

It is the official newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The paper has over the years and will continue to report news as fairly and accurately as humanly possible.

The *Baptist and Reflector* also is a communications tool or resource. We go into more Baptist homes weekly than any other publication of the convention. We must inform Tennessee Baptists of events and ac-

tivities that will strengthen their membership. We also run stories that will strengthen church ministries and families.

Many of our stories highlight what Tennessee Baptists are doing in the areas of missions and evangelism. Tennessee Baptists believe strongly in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, not only in our state, but other states and the world as well.

Every month the *Baptist and Reflector* carries a four-page insert entitled "The Macedonian Call." This insert features the partnership missions endeavors Tennessee Baptists are involved with on a year-round basis.

This week's issue contains a WMU publication entitled "Tennessee Connection." This feature contains stories and information about the Golden State Missions Offering and the upcoming Week of Prayer for State Missions.

A recent communications audit indicated our readers want more Tennessee Baptist news. We have tried to honor that. Readers also indicated they wanted more articles on church growth, evangelism, and matters related to families. Again, we

are striving to meet those needs.

In this issue we are printing the plan of salvation. We will do this periodically. We encourage our readers to place their copy of the paper in waiting rooms of doctors and dentists, or anywhere else people have to wait for services.

The *B&R* is a vital tool for Tennessee Baptists. If a tool is not used, however, it is no good. We want the *Baptist and Reflector* to be a tool used by Tennessee Baptists.

We can also be a resource for churches. We have 16 churches who currently use our back page for their newsletter. They have done the math and found we can print the newsletter more economically than they can do it "in-house." Call and ask about the Church Page Plan. Just think about it. Your members can get their local news and Tennessee and Southern Baptist news in one neat package.

I want to personally thank readers who subscribe individually and especially our Tennessee churches who provide the paper to their members. Without you we would have no reason for being. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Husband to wife on 15th anniversary: "Darling, would you say I am more or less the same man you married?" Wife to Husband: "Of course dear. More pounds, less hair."

Take this truth

Someone defined temperance in food as eating none of that which is bad for you and a proper amount of that which is good. This is an excellent rule for life.

Memorize this Scripture

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." — Philippians 4:5

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to discipline the hardest person on earth to control — myself." ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com.

Meet your fellow Tennessee Baptists through the B&R

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive director



Shortly after 8 a.m. each Tuesday Susie Edwards of the *Baptist and Reflector* staff distributes copies of the paper throughout the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Regularly by 9

a.m. I have scanned our weekly Baptist paper mentally noting editorials and many and varied news items for more careful reading later in the day.

Recently I pondered — what category of items consistently attracts my attention. The answer — Tennessee Baptist news. The *Baptist and Reflector* proclaims a scope of interest as broad as the Great Commission of our Lord. Nevertheless, week by week our focus is drawn to the life and min-

istries of our churches and God's people of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Every church, yea every Baptist has a worthy story. After all we are a people of the good news. And as we take time to get to know each other, our relationships grow stronger. Relationships? Yes! Actually there is no church, no association, or no state convention apart from relationships.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is a source of nurture for our re-

lationships; it feeds the mind, heart, and soul. What a blessing! Week by week, we meet Mr. and Mrs. Baptist from across the state. The state convention has programs, institutions, processes, and procedures. But more so, a state convention is really about people, God's people.

I challenge you. Meet your fellow Baptists from across Tennessee through the weekly issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*. ■

Pastor shares how one can become a Christian

Editor's Note: Periodically the *Baptist and Reflector* will publish the plan of salvation. We encourage readers to share this copy of the *Baptist and Reflector* with others or place it in office waiting rooms. Anyone interested in writing a personal version should contact Lonnie Wilkey at (615) 371-2046.

By Ken Clayton
For *Baptist and Reflector*

Who Jesus Is

Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, was with God the Father before the world was created. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

What Jesus Did

Jesus became human in order to reveal the Father. He healed, he taught, he ministered, and he died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and he is

the source of eternal life for all who follow him.

What Jesus Is Doing Now

Jesus is our mediator, our advocate with the Father. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all ..." (I Timothy 2:5-6). "Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that came unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and he is coming again to receive us unto himself.

Who You Are and What You Have Done

Man is a sinner. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin is basically selfishness; always wanting our way. Sin is transgressing God's law and God's way. Sin is rejecting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man

cometh unto the Father, but by me," Jesus said (John 14:6).

Jesus' Offer

Jesus' offer is: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The promise of Jesus is: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me has everlasting life" (John 6:47).

Your Response

You must turn away from your sin and turn to Jesus. The Bible calls turning away from sin repentance.

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). The Bible calls coming to Jesus faith or belief. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved ..." (Acts 16:31a).

Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, I know I am a sinner. I confess my sin and ask you to forgive me. I know you love me and believe you died on a cross to pay the penalty for my sin. I believe you rose from the grave and are preparing a place for me in heaven. Come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen."

What To Do Next

You will want to become a part of a fellowship of Christian believers. Con-

tact your nearest Southern Baptist church. Talk to the pastor or a staff member and share with them the decision you have made. They will offer you counsel and direction as you begin your Christian walk. ■ — Clayton is pastor of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.





Tennessee Connection

Impacting lives through praying, serving and giving.

W.C. and Mildred Golden



My Neighbor? In My Reach!

by Gina Howard
Gatlinburg, TN

The story is told of Old Joe and his neighbor who were the best of friends until they disagreed over ownership of a calf. The dispute escalated over days and weeks until the friends stopped speaking. The neighbor dug a ditch to divide their property and prevent any trespassing. In an effort to get even, Old Joe decided to build a wall so that he wouldn't have to see his former friend.

A young carpenter came

looking for work, and Old Joe hired him to build the wall. Joe explained the situation, described what he wanted, and left the young man to work while he drove his wagon into town to get supplies.

"Leave it to me," said the young carpenter. "I know exactly what you need."

The carpenter worked diligently throughout the day, not even stopping for lunch, eager to finish his task. When Old Joe returned at the end of the day, he found that the carpenter had not built a wall as he had asked, but instead had built a beautiful bridge arching across the ditch that divided the friends.

Before he could protest, Old Joe saw his neighbor coming over the bridge, his hand outstretched.

"Thank you for caring enough to build a bridge between us. I could never have found the courage to do that. I'm sorry, my friend. You were right all along. The calf is yours," admitted the neighbor.

"No," replied Old Joe.

"He's yours, and I can't take credit for the bridge, either. I wanted to build a wall to keep you out, but this young carpenter built the bridge instead."

The old friends realized how much they needed each other as friends and neighbors. They asked the young carpenter to stay, promising him enough work between the two of them to keep him busy for a long time.

The carpenter declined, saying, "Thanks for your offer, but I can't stay. I have other bridges to build."

Do you know your neighbors? Depending on where you live, you may not even know the people next door, much less all of the neighborhood. In today's society, people don't make the same connections that they did

generations ago, and neighbors come and go unrecognized.

Other things have changed with time, as well. We can pick up the phone and talk to friends halfway around the world. We can reach them through fax transmissions, personal pagers and email. In the midst of a high-tech world, people are looking for the personal connections that add a high-touch relationship.

How do all of these changes affect the way we share the Gospel? How do they alter the way we do missions? As people are more and more isolated in their own homes, able to communicate at will without physical interaction, we have to find new ways to build bridges between us. We search for new ways of doing old things—new evangelism methods, new church starting strategies, new outreach tools. We also need to search for old ways to do new things—

bring back the old-fashioned hymn sing for a seeker-targeted church, offer a class on cooking "from scratch" to Generation Xers eager for something different than fast

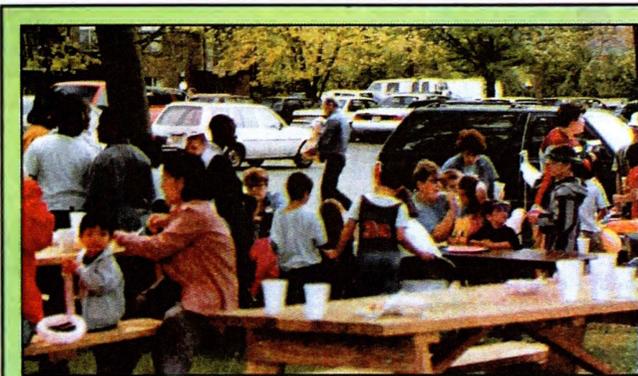
food and microwave warming.

The world is a much smaller place, thanks to the advances of technology. Our neighbors stretch across

Tennessee and around the globe, but they are still within our reach. The key lies in our willingness to reach out to them. As we join hands and hearts together, we find countless bridges to cross,

than to have to venture outside our own comfort zones. But that is not what Christ has called us to do; it is not who Christ has called us to be.

Show mercy to the man beaten on the side of the



Free hamburgers, anyone? Eating, face painting and making animals from balloons are just some of the activities at the Block Party last fall at Woodbine Baptist Church. See the article "A Chip off the Old Block" on the back page to find out how the whole Woodbine community became involved.

personal opportunities to share Christ one on one with an international student or migrant worker as well as corporate opportunities to begin new churches in planned communities or to reach transitional neighborhoods with innovative multicultural programs.

It is much easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbors individually. It is much safer to send our money and say our prayers and ask God to take care of the needs. It is much more comfortable to send someone else to do the job

road, even if it is not safe or sane to do so. That is the message of the Good Samaritan.

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the ones in prison, invite the strangers into your homes. That is what Jesus commands, reminding us that when we do these things for our neighbors—even those to whom society gives little value, we do these things for Jesus himself.

Reach out your hand and build a bridge. It is exactly what your neighbors (and you!) need.

Inside this issue read about:

- Discovering the Treasures in Our Own Backyard
- Where do the "Golden" dollars go?
- Looking for a Place to Call Home
- Finding New Life in the Mountains
- A Little Better Than We Found It
- Digging Wells and Building Bridges
- The Best Kept Secret
- Who is my neighbor?
- The Great Food Fight of 1997
- Because We've Been Obedient to God
- Independent Living in a Safe Haven
- A Chip off the Old Block
- Standing Tall for Christ



The homes, hands and hearts throughout this newspaper represent the theme "My Neighbor? In My Reach!" visually and serve as a reminder to us of our heritage in Tennessee, where we are known for our folk crafts and friendly neighbors.

1998

Season of Prayer for State Missions

Golden State Missions Offering Goal

\$1,355,000



W.C. and Mildred Golden

Discovering the Treasures in Our Own Backyard

Pioneers pushed west as the country grew, and people looked for new territory to settle. They crossed the mountains through the Cumberland Gap and moved on across Tennessee, across the Mississippi River and into the plains. The story is told of one well-traveled path that led across a small, flowing stream. In order to cross safely, some intrepid pioneer had placed a large rock in the stream, easing it down into the gravel and dirt as a steady footstep.

Dozens of travelers crossed the water aided by the makeshift bridge, until one day a family of settlers decided to build their home beside the stream and end their long journey. They built a cabin on the gentle slope above the water with a peaceful view of the stream. Cooling winds blew through the windows and doors, and the time came when one of the family members decided to offer the wind a little resistance. Down at the stream, he found an unusual rock, oddly shaped, but perfect as a doorstep.

For many years, the family used the old rock, kicking it into place to hold the door open, knocking it away when the door was to be closed. Children were born, grew up, left home. One grandson went away to college and studied geology. On a trip back to the family homestead,

he noticed the unusual doorstep and decided to examine it more closely. What he found stunned and amazed his family and his colleagues. The large rock which had been stepped on to cross the stream, kicked and knocked about as a front porch doorstep was an incredibly large nugget of gold, one of the largest ever found. Pioneers seeking their fortune in a new land had literally stepped right on top of it. Treasure was hiding in plain sight, and they never saw it.

All around us in Tennessee, there are treasures hiding in plain sight, waiting to be found. Treasures lie buried in the stories of volunteers who work tirelessly in new church development and language missions, in special needs camps and student ministry, in resort areas and in inner cities. Treasures are waiting to be discovered in the rich resources of Tennessee Baptists working as individual believers and working together as churches, associations and as a state convention. Treasures unknown are hidden in the lives of the lost, who haven't

found the Savior we serve. Little did the folks in Graves County, Kentucky suspect that there was any sort of treasure in their midst when a young farm couple had their first child in September, 1858. The son, W.C., later joined by five younger sisters, worked diligently to help his family eke out a living in the sparsely settled country. His childhood was marked by war as neutral Kentuckians were surrounded by embittered neighboring states which were fighting against each other. No doubt the Golden and their few neighbors relied on each other and assisted each other whenever possible. There was little time or opportunity for education, and W.C. Golden found himself almost grown, yet barely able to read and write.

Converted at age seventeen at a brush arbor revival, W.C. felt called to preach, but he worried over his lack of education. He was eager to learn, and he sought every opportunity to do so. He worked his way through the Methodist High School at Millburn, Kentucky—he was janitor at the school in return for his tuition and janitor at his boarding house in return for his board. W.C. spent an additional two years studying at Clinton College, a Baptist school primarily for training young preachers.

Just before his twenty-fifth birthday, W.C. Golden entered Southern Seminary, convinced that God wanted him to preach but concerned about his own inadequacies.

The seminary curriculum was intense, as was W.C.'s financial situation. His father was now an invalid, unable to work. Opportunities to preach offered little financial aid, and during his third year, he was forced to drop out due to his father's medical expenses.

Despite the financial concerns, W.C. Golden became a respected and successful pastor, first in Ohio, then in Arkansas, and finally in Tennessee. He began an eleven-year ministry at Third Baptist, Nashville, in 1892. Missions was at the forefront of Baptist thought in the late 1800s, and W.C. Golden began publication of a small missionary paper called *Earnest Worker*. These were among the happiest days of W.C. Golden's life, and his "fortune" improved significantly in 1898 when he married one of his church members, Mildred Bennett. She was lovely, talented and well educated, having graduated magna cum laude from Boscobel and Peabody Colleges. Together, they were a formidable pair, committed to missions and to assisting new and struggling churches.

In 1902, W.C. Golden became State Missions Secretary of Tennessee, and Mildred Golden became more involved with Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. At her suggestion, a state week of prayer for missions and an offering were established; Tennessee was one of the first states to begin such a program. Mrs. Golden,

assisted by friends, family, WMU co-workers and her dedicated husband, prepared study materials the first ten years of the state missions emphasis.

Together, the Golden's laid the groundwork for missions in Tennessee. Their tireless efforts and unflinching commitment yielded an initial offering of \$800. Gifts to state missions more than doubled in two years, with one-third of the offerings given by women and children in local missions societies. From 1902 until 1943, these gifts were designated as a "State Mission Offering." In 1943, a committee was appointed to select a more meaningful name for the offering. Although the Golden's had left Tennessee in 1910 to work with the Home Mission Board in evangelism, their pioneering in Tennessee's missions causes was not forgotten and the "Golden State Missions Offering" was established. This was a fitting way to honor this missions-minded family and to recognize the tremendous contribution they made to Tennessee missions.

Today, the offering reaches into every part of Tennessee, across the mountains, through the small towns and big cities, into campgrounds and congregations, farms and families. There is a rich treasure here in the heritage established by the Golden's, and there is treasure still waiting to be found somewhere along the missions path.



Where do the "Golden" dollars go?

- \$50 allows one language pastor to attend the annual language missions conference
- \$50 provides one camper's lodging at Special Friends Camp
- \$50 pays utilities for one month for one resident of Tennessee adult homes for mentally disabled
- \$50 will subsidize expenses for a bivocational minister and wife to attend a marriage enrichment retreat
- \$50 can help an African-American student develop evangelism skills by participating in a Spring Break outreach project
- \$50 provides one week's on-site expenses for a summer missionary
- \$50 supplies ten videos for tutoring

- \$30 fills the gas tank of a 15-passenger van used in weekday ministries
- \$26 buys one Literacy Workshop manual
- \$20 pays for refreshments for one Friday night's Conversational English class at TN Tech
- \$15 covers a child's registration fee for a sports evangelism clinic
- \$10 buys five cassettes for recording *Baptist & Reflector* for the blind
- \$7 purchases one blanket for distribution in disaster relief
- \$5 pays for a Spanish Bible to be given away in language missions
- \$3 buys cans of Koolaid for evangelistic block parties
- \$2 buys a nail apron for a crew member in Appalachian Outreach

Your Golden
State Dollars
at Work



Looking for a Place to Call Home

The nervous bride and groom just wanted to get married, but they did not understand the words on the forms they were asked to complete at the courthouse. Bill came to the rescue, translating English to Spanish and Spanish to English so that the wedding could take place.

Bill knew what it was like to be a stranger in a strange place. After his mother was killed by guerillas in Central America, Bill left Nicaragua for Guatemala. There he met Southern Baptist missionaries, and eventually, he found his way to school in the United States. Like Bill, many international students find Cookeville and Tennessee Technological University a place they can call "home," at least for a few years.

Ministries to Collegiate Audiences seeks to develop effective outreach to International students across Tennessee's campuses and to equip Christian international students as witnesses, disciples and "Great Commission Christians."

\$11,000

Tennessee Tech is one of our many colleges and universities with large groups of international students. More than 4,500 international students study on Tennessee campuses, and Southern Baptists are committed to reaching out to these students.

Working with international students is an open-ended ministry. Students come into this country for undergraduate work, to improve their

English and to further their education in master's and graduate level programs of study. Their tenure in American schools is brief, but the impact American Christians can have on the



Students get to know each other through group activities at the International Student Missions Conference in 1997.

students, their families and their futures is immeasurable.

At the University of Tennessee-Martin, director of student ministries, Adam Hall, and his wife, Pat, have been actively involved with international students for many years. UT-Martin is one of a handful of schools with an Intensive English program which attracts internationals. Last year, more than 300 students from 35 countries were enrolled.

One Sunday as Adam and Pat started to enter their church, Adam noticed a young international student pacing in front of the church. The student seemed to be struggling with the decision to enter the church, trying to convince himself that he should go in. Adam suggested Pat speak to the young man since she was working

student to invite him to join them in the college class.

This was the beginning of a long relationship with Johan Luhulima. Working with Johan, countless international lives were touched

at UT-M. Johan gave strong leadership to the International Christian Fellowship, a group which continues to meet weekly at the Baptist Student Center for Bible study, conversational English and recreation. For many international students who are so intensely dedicated to their studies, this night of fellowship with friends is the one break they allow themselves during the week.

Many international students long to know American friends, to experience American culture and to see real American family life. Conversational English classes, Bible studies, cultural excursions and fellowship times in Christian homes help to accomplish these goals. Christian students and local church families invite Internationals to join them

for special occasions, and campus groups schedule annual events which help to introduce students to uniquely American traditions such as Thanksgiving and Fourth of July.

Together, Tennessee Baptist Collegiate Ministry groups meet for an International Student Retreat each year at Henry Horton State Park. International students have the opportunity to meet with each other and

with American Christians who serve as hosts.

One UT-M student reported to her fellow international students that participating in International Christian Fellowship and other activities at the BSU was safe, even for those who were not Christian. Students at the BSU were trustworthy and would not take advantage of the internationals; they did not use alcohol, and internationals would not get into trouble by going there. This, notes Adam Hall, was a strong, unsolicited endorsement from an international

and bolstered their outreach onto the campus.

Adam also reminds us that international students are often surprised by the kindness of those who reach out and invite them into their homes. "Why do you do this?" Pat was asked by one shy Chinese girl as she retrieved her coat from the Hall's bedroom after an evening of fellowship. "I think you do it," the girl continued, "because you are Christian."



My Neighbor? In My Reach!



All articles in this tabloid and all teaching helps are written by Gina Howard, who resides in Gatlinburg, Tennessee with master potter, husband, David, and their two sons. Gina is minister to youth at Gatlinburg First Baptist.

Your Golden State Dollars at Work



Camp Linden is a favorite site for youth and children's camps throughout the summer. GSMO funds provide for continuing improvements at both Camp Linden and Camp Carson.



Tennessee Baptists minister to a wide variety of special needs groups through GSMO, including those who are sight-impaired. The Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind enjoys an annual weekend retreat to experience renewal and Christian community.



Kathy Skinner, Belmont University, leads a student seminar at the International Student Missions Conference.

with the new group of international students. However, Pat deferred to Adam for fear of cultural restrictions. Adam approached the young

Finding New Life in the Mountains

They come for rest and relaxation, to get away from the busyness of everyday life. They come for adventure, a chance to do something different from the ordinariness of everyday life. They come for the beauty of the natural surroundings and the majesty of the mountains. They come to the Great Smoky Mountains, to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, and they are welcomed by Southern Baptists seeking to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people caught up in a leisure lifestyle.

Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries (SMRM), led by Bill and Cindy Black, provides volunteers a place to express their call to missions and to grow as Christ's servants. Last year, five summer missionaries, three semester missionaries, seven Innovators, four Sojourners, eighteen MOST volunteers, three Mission Service Corps workers, twenty-nine special volunteers, twenty-two mission youth groups, and five weekend ministry groups joined forces to reach this East Tennessee resort community. With ten million visitors each year, ministry to the resort areas of Sevier County requires this level of volunteer commitment.

Although resort ministry seems to be a transient-focused outreach effort, looking at tourists and visitors does not tell the whole story. After seventeen years with SMRM, the Blacks are beginning to see a renewing, cyclical pattern in their work. Many of their former staff members and volunteers are serving as missionaries around the world, from Hilton Head, South Carolina to Chile and Brazil in South America.

Stan and Joanie Albright, who served for three years in

Gatlinburg before Bill began, are now serving in church and community ministries in Anniston, Alabama. Their daughter, Laurel, named for the beautiful flowering plant so prominent in the Smokies, returned to Gatlinburg the last two summers to work with Bill and Cindy as one of the first recipients of the Art Holloway Scholarship. The scholarship underwrites the expenses of missions volunteers each summer and is named for a

Resort Missions addresses special ministries such as truck stops, raceways, and flea markets, as well as Tennessee's geographical tourism sections. In each of these areas, mission teams use creative ministries to present the Gospel.

\$15,000

long-time missions volunteer and youth minister. Holloway worked with both Stan Albright and Bill Black as a summer missionary. For fifteen years, he led Labor Day mission teams of youth and adults from his church in Thomson, Georgia to work with SMRM. When he died just days before the 1996 trip, family and friends found that the last entry in his prayer journal was for the youth participating in the upcoming mission trip.

Relationships with those who work in resort industries, both seasonal and permanent employees and residents, is

another key element in this ministry. Stephanie Quattlebaum serves as chaplain at LeConte Lodge. She hikes five miles up to the lodge each weekend, leads two Sunday worship services and builds on-going relationships with the lodge staff. Pete Owen is in his second year as chaplain at Dollywood, the most popular tourist attraction in the state. Pete's "congregation" includes the park's more than 1,600 employees and two million guests each year. Pete has a ministry of presence and identity. Even without an office on the park grounds, he is a well-recognized and welcomed staff member. In addition to leading three worship services each Sunday at the park's chapel, Pete offers Bible study groups, pastoral care and crisis intervention. He assists with employee training and orientation; his frequent counseling sessions may take place on a park bench under a tree during an employee's break. Pete's natural love for people and his easy-going manner make him readily available and accessible for Dollywood's staff or visitors.

During the hectic spring season as the park readied for the opening and greeting of the summer crowds, Pete was called on to tell the staff of the death of a fellow employee. He assisted the wife, also an employee, with funeral arrangements and helped her deal with her grief and with her transition back to the park alone. Another park staff member required psychiatric treatment, and Pete assisted with her admitting herself to the hospital. His follow-up care in both situations is an ongoing part of the chaplain's job.

One of the most rewarding parts of the job comes when

an employee responds to the Gospel. Ron, a street sweeper on the groundskeeping crew, had been attending worship services and occasionally sought Pete out to share a prayer request. Pete made a point of visiting Ron as he saw him at the park and was getting to know him better. After worship one Sunday, Ron flagged Pete down.

Pete's text that day was Proverbs 16:25: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

"Ron didn't know if he was on the right road or not; he just wasn't sure," says Pete. "I had the opportunity then to share the road to salvation, and Ron made a profession of faith." Pete gave Ron a New Testament and continues to visit with him and to encourage him in his decision to follow Christ.

Renewal and new life comes to the ministry in other ways. After one North Carolina family experienced an outstanding week of day camp at a local campground, they scheduled the following year's vacation for the same week, making sure that the group of Acteens who led day camp the first year would be returning. When their two children made professions of faith during camp the second year, both the Acteens and the parents were overjoyed.

Campground ministry is a major part of the summer outreach. Several of the camps house semi-permanent residents who purchase lots and return for the season or for frequent visits. Bill, Cindy and local volunteers get to know these campers well over time and see them regularly in wor-

ship. From Easter through October, SMRM leads weekly worship services in fourteen campgrounds. They also offer day camps and family evening programs reaching more than five thousand campers last year in day camps alone.

*My Neighbor?
In My Reach!*

Easter is the beginning of the busy spring and summer seasons. Services at LeConte this past Easter were marked by a full winter storm on Good Friday. Bill assisted Stephanie on Good Friday, but he hiked out in the snow to continue his Easter responsibilities. Cindy and Pete began worship at two campgrounds and were met with exceptional response from the owners. Volunteers joined Bill in leading the Gatlinburg Ministerial Association's sunrise service at Ober Gatlinburg, site of SMRM's winter ski ministry. After a creative worship service with 400 participants there, Bill led services in three more campgrounds. After one of the services, twelve-year-old Tiffany asked Bill for guidance in saying yes to Jesus as her Lord and Savior. With her parents holding her hands, Tiffany made her personal commitment to Christ.

It was a beautiful day of new life in the mountains. People come to find rest and renewal, challenge and adventure. With the help of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries, they find all of this and more. They find the life-giving presence of God.

A Little Better than We Found It

If you were among the first parents to take children to camp this past summer at Camp Linden, you may have noticed a sparkling clean facility. Volunteers descend on the grounds in late spring each year, readying it for the summer season by painting playground equipment, mowing grass, cutting weeds and taking care of general maintenance needs.

"Every window was washed, inside and out. All the curtains were taken down, laundered and put back up," says volunteer Joe Little. "While our wives were

working on that, we roofed a building."

Campers on Mission, a volunteer missions force primarily composed of retired people, take on projects to assist other ministries as needed. Sometimes they also do mission projects of their own. The group is open to any Christian camper, but it is predominantly Southern Baptist. Little, a retired pharmacist from Sweetwater, serves as president of the Tennessee chapter. He and his wife, Louise, travel an average of three weeks each year as Campers on Mission.

Last year, Campers on Mission did painting, electrical and carpentry work at the Tennessee Baptist

Children Homes' Franklin site. Their positive work ethic and generous spirit earn high praise from those who benefit from their work.

"We try to leave things in better shape. We just take on a project when they need us," says Little.

The Tennessee group has two full time travelers, but most members go on the road for short periods of time. Campground programs in the summer months keep some members busy, while others work in truck stop ministries throughout the year. Campers on Mission also lead in flea market and county fair ministries at various sites across the state.

Digging Wells and Building Bridges

Jake is small for his age. Short, cropped brown hair frames his tanned face and dark eyes. His sister, Grace, has straight blond hair and large bright eyes. They are beautiful children.

When the men from Appalachian Outreach finished installing the water heater in the modest trailer Jake and Grace call home, Jake wanted to know what it was for.

"It's a water heater," replied Shannon Washam, director of Appalachian Outreach. "It will heat the water so you can take a hot bath."

"I've never had a hot bath," said the wide-eyed four-year-old.

"It'll break your heart to see how these people live," admits Shannon. "No electricity, no running water. They've lived like this for years, and they're so humble about what they ask for. It's just amazing."

Jake and Grace live with their mother, Sarah. When Sarah first called Appalachian Outreach last year, she asked if someone could put plastic over her windows. It was a modest request, well within the types of projects that Appalachian Outreach takes on

drums as it poured off the roof. There was no bathroom.

Although many Appalachian Outreach projects are small enough to be done in a day or two—building a wheelchair ramp, adding on a small porch, or roofing a house—other projects are massive undertakings. In spite of Sarah's humble request for window coverings, Appalachian Outreach really



went to work.

A mission work team from first Baptist Church, McKinney, Texas was on-site with Appalachian Outreach when Sarah's project began. A newer trailer was secured for a very modest price, and plans were made to set it up in place of

endurance and wisdom, while also asking for God to bless their work with supplies, good weather and the necessary resources to get the job done. Sarah's well was no exception. With little more than a keen awareness of the need and a firm belief that God was leading them to meet the need, Appalachian Outreach added Sarah's well to an ever-growing project list. The Texans were moved by Sarah's situation, but their volunteer week was complete. They went home, raised money and sent it back to Appalachian Outreach with a request that it be used to dig a well for Sarah.

A local well drilling company dug the well, and Appalachian Outreach staff and volunteers did the rest—drains, a septic system, a pump and electricity to run the pump. In spite of the great need and the eagerness of the volunteers, it took many months to finish the project for Sarah, Grace and Jake. The well was complete and the water was running by late May. It was the first time Sarah and her children had ever had running water.

Sarah insisted on paying at least part of the expense for the new trailer. Living on a very meager subsistence check, Sarah faithfully paid \$50 each month. Even when she needed help to purchase heating oil last winter, she did not forego the monthly payment.

"It's really overwhelming to think about what she's done," notes Shannon. "Her income is so small, but this was her decision. She intended to pay for the trailer, at least a down payment, and she's paid off her part of it already."

Although Sarah's situation is startling, she is not unique. Appalachian Outreach sees case after case, many as bad or worse than Sarah's. In most instances, the residents do not ask for a new house or trailer, or for the massive reconstruction that would be needed to make their homes livable. They ask for a wall to be fixed or a leak to be stopped; they need a bed or a heater. When it is feasible, Appalachian Outreach does more. They reinforce foundations, re-root houses, upgrade wiring and plumbing, in addition to general home repair. They also dig outhouses for people living in such remote areas that indoor plumbing is not possible. It is an eye-open-

ing experience for the volunteers, most of whom have never even seen an outhouse before.

Twenty-two projects were scheduled for this past summer. In August, Appalachian Outreach began a follow-up program to revisit families and continue ministering to them. The goal for 1998 was to

ably stooped, and he wheezes when he talks.

"My truck is bigger than the RV he's living in, but he's so humble. He'd just like to be able to enjoy sitting outside; so we're going to build him a little porch," notes Shannon. Staff and volunteers will follow up, along with home health care, to continue to provide for



This group is building a wheelchair ramp for an elderly lady in Strawberry Plains, Tennessee.

reach 100 families, working with 24 churches. Two hundred students from Carson-Newman College have been enlisted to continue both projects and ministry follow-up throughout the year.

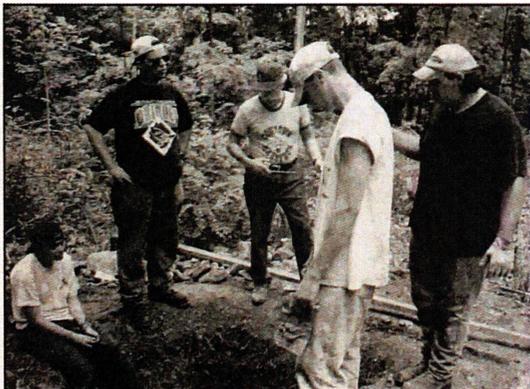
"The saddest thing I've seen since I've been here is Mr. Rawlings," says Shannon. "He's living in a little RV, about three feet by sixteen feet. He's been living in it three years, has a little stove and an out-

Mr. Rawlings.

For Appalachian Outreach, the challenge does not come in answering the question, "Who is my neighbor?" They know their neighbors are out there in need, and they are committed to meeting the needs in whatever ways they can. The challenge lies sometimes in finding the neighbors who live so far back in the hills and valleys and in helping these proud, independent folk accept assistance when offered.

"You wouldn't believe some of the things we see," says Shannon. "But when we see a need and begin to pray about it, God always provides even when we can't see how to get it done. It's just a miracle to watch how people respond when God is at work."

Whether digging a well or adding a porch, Appalachian Outreach is building bridges between people so they can get to know their neighbors.



Amanda, Chris, Paul, John and Nate are taking a break from digging a new outhouse for a family in New Market, Tennessee.

regularly. A site inspection of Sarah's home surprised even the Appalachian Outreach staff.

Sarah and her children lived in a ramshackle trailer, more than thirty years old. The windows were broken and the roof was peeling back. There was no running water, and the only source of electricity was an extension cord run from her mother's house about 150 yards away. Sarah had been gathering water in 50 gallon

Sarah's old one. Without electricity and water, the new trailer would not be too much better than the previous one. Electricity could be run to Sarah's new place, but water was a more difficult proposition. Sarah needed a well.

Every project is a matter of prayer for Shannon and his wife, Jean Ann, director of Samaritan House (see adjacent story.) Staff members and work crews pray for strength,

Appalachian and Ocoee Outreach is a construction ministry led by two Baptist Student Unions who use mission teams in carpentry and Christian witness to persons with substandard housing.

\$10,000

house. He asked us to build him a porch so he can sit outside and watch the cars go by."

The elderly gentleman was referred to Appalachian Outreach by a home health care nurse, a common practice through which Shannon finds people in need. Mr. Rawlings is in poor health; he is notice-



J Chaplain James Powers claims the Civil Air Patrol is one of this country's best kept secrets. He may be right. If other members of this U.S. Air Force auxiliary are as committed to their work as is Chaplain Powers, the Civil Air Patrol is an undiscovered treasure.

After retiring from the pastorate, James Powers wanted to be involved and useful in some sort of ministry, but he had never heard of the Civil Air Patrol until a CAP officer spoke at a senior citizen's meeting Powers was attending. He inquired about the group, was invited to check it out and signed up as a chaplain at the second meeting he attended.

Now deputy wing chaplain for Tennessee, Powers attends a local composite CAP group each Tuesday evening in Humboldt, Tennessee. A composite group includes both senior members (adults) and cadets (youth ages 12-17). Working with the cadets is Powers' favorite part of his job.

"I don't preach to them. We're a pluralistic group of all types of people, all beliefs. I try to teach them, counsel with them," says the chaplain.

Cadets' course of instruction in the Civil Air Patrol includes three basic programs: search

and rescue, aerospace education and moral leadership. The chaplain's leadership and teaching comes in the area of moral leadership which he addresses with cadets once a month in their meeting time.

"Each cadet fills out a religious interview card which is confidential, just between the cadet and the chaplain. This gives me a way to know about them, their hobbies, their family, their church affiliation. I'm there to minister to the people," notes Powers.

Powers is one of 150 chaplains in Tennessee who serve in military, hospital, prison and industry settings. All Southern Baptist chaplains must be endorsed by the North American Mission Board.

Civil Air Patrol cadets participate along with senior members in field training exercises using maps, a compass and ground team strategies. Two groups of cadets proved their training in practice searches, finding the hidden "victim" in less than two hours. Chaplain Powers and other adult observers were impressed by the skill and determination of the young people.

Thankfully, the cadets have not been called on for a real ground search. The only search and rescue Powers has been involved with was for a Civil Air Patrol senior member from Memphis. Retired minister, Larry George flew his

Cessna 172 to Humboldt for a Group 4 (West Tennessee) meeting. Powers drove George back to the airport after the meeting and dropped him off at the gate, about thirty yards from the plane.

Powers says, "I started to leave but thought I'd wait. George was about half way to

Powers a perfect flight. When officials called on Friday morning to ask if George had left the Humboldt airport, Powers joined the search and rescue teams looking for his friend. George had not filed a flight plan, so search and rescue teams were left to comb the entire area from Humboldt to Memphis. On Monday, Memphis radar unexpectedly reported that George's plane appeared to have left Humboldt and landed in Arlington. Rescue efforts were redirected toward Arlington, and George's downed plane was discovered within a few hours. It appears he had approached Arlington airport to land, but his plane was too low. As he tried to pull up, he crashed into nearby trees.

"It was difficult—emotional—to report to the cadets during our Tuesday night meeting. No one else in our squadron knew him, but I'd gotten to know him since we were both retired ministers. It was hard to lose a friend," says Powers.

It's also hard to watch the cadets struggle with personal difficulties. Chaplain Powers works to prepare them for how they will respond in crisis. During one encampment exercise with about ninety cadets, Powers addressed the topic "Trauma Happens." In small group discussions following his initial comments, one

female cadet began to cry aloud. Obviously concerned, the chaplain went to her side and learned that she had lost a close friend to suicide, but she had not been able to express her grief until that point.

"You just go ahead and cry," he told her.

On the field the next day, the cadet sought out Chaplain Powers to thank him for letting her cry.

"I see these kids and I know they are looking for discipline and structure in their lives. I don't offer advice; it's a matter of listening to them and being there for them. It's amazing to see them take over in leadership, the ones that you never expect when you first see them. They're looking for strong role models," says Powers. "Sometimes I can be a counselor, sort of, between the cadet and his folks. Parents will pour out their hearts about troubles with their son, and I listen, and then I think we're not talking about the same young man. I can help them both to see another side."

The Civil Air Patrol may be an incredibly good organization that few of us know much about, but the quiet ministry of chaplains like James Powers is the best kept secret in these parts.

Chaplaincy reaches into hospitals, businesses, industry and the military to provide professional caregivers to people in need. This allocation provides a retreat for chaplains for training and inspiration and assists in addressing certain needs on the field.

\$6,000

the plane, and I hollered, "I'm gonna hold on here 'til you get in the air," and he answered, "Thank you; that'll be great." Those were the last words anyone heard from him."

Lt. George checked the outside of his plane, climbed in, checked the gauges, taxied down the runway and took off for what looked to Chaplain

Who is my neighbor?

“Who is my neighbor?” the man asks Jesus in Luke 10:29. Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

"Which man was a neighbor to the one who was beaten?" Jesus asks in return at the end of the story. "The one who shows mercy," replies the man.

"Go and do likewise," Jesus says.

Samaritan House is one of many opportunities for Christians in East Tennessee to go and do likewise. It is a poverty relief ministry in Jefferson City, beginning its twelfth year this fall. Samaritan House provides temporary shelter—up to 45 days—for single women and families in need.

Unlike many relief programs, Samaritan House attempts to keep families together during their stay. The facility is an older, renovated home with four bedrooms; it can house up to fifteen people but averages about ten per week. Samaritan House is a safety net for those who find themselves in crisis situations, needing short-term assistance from mounting bills or unexpected financial problems. The stress of such crises is lessened, at least a little, if residents can remain together as a family unit.

Samaritan House provides food, clothing and personal hygiene needs as well as budgeting help and computer access. Staff members serve as a liaison within the community between residents and other relief programs. Most residents come to Samaritan House as a result of poor budgeting or a lost job, but even careful budgeting on minimal wages does not allow for an unexpected crisis. People need time to get back on their feet; Samaritan House works with them to find jobs, save money and get their financial situations in order. When residents are ready to leave, Samaritan House helps them resettle in a home or apartment by providing furniture and house-keeping supplies.

Last year, Samaritan House provided shelter to 119 individuals including 54 children with an average stay of 30 days. They served 8,083 meals to residents, staff and individuals in the community. Through Hope House, their clothing and furniture distribution ministry, 145 families received furniture and 239 received clothing. The community food pantry, also part of Samaritan House ministries, provided groceries to 505 families.

The Great Food Fight of 1997

When Samaritan House director, Jean Ann Washam, approached students at Jefferson County High School about a food drive, she did not think it would turn into a food fight. But it did!

"While I was speaking to a group of students, one girl raised her hand and really complimented Samaritan House," says Jean Ann. "She said it was a great place, doing a great service in the community. I thanked her, and continued, but she repeated her comments about her high regard for Samaritan House. She told her classmates she had been a resident four years earlier; so she knew firsthand what we were about."

Hearing from one of their own classmates made an impression on the students. They took Jean Ann's idea for a food drive and ran with it. They challenged a neighboring high school to a food drive showdown and "The Great Food Fight of 1997" began.

When the contestants were finally calmed down and the dust allowed to settle, students at JCHS had collected more than 7,000 cans of food, enough to keep the food pantry at Samaritan House going for six months. They did not stop there; students collected toys for children at Samaritan House, and when they learned that some residents had little to read, they began a book drive to start a library. A collection of pocket change netted more than \$1,500.

"The students were so motivated by the needs they discovered," says Jean Ann. "They got excited by the possibilities, finding ways they could help."

Because We've Been Obedient to God

Rogelio Soto is a changed man. He is an illegal alien, and the immigration officers are on his case. He has been in the United States for more than ten years; his two youngest children are American citizens. His case is pending before the authorities, and the people of Henry, Tennessee who know Rogelio Soto as Roy, have rallied around him.

It all started two years ago in September, 1996, when immigration officials came looking for a Mexican boy who had two brothers and a cousin working at the sawmill in Henry. Roy was called in to translate for the men. They asked for identification, and he showed them his drivers' license. They asked for a Social Security card which he also showed them, but Roy Soto did not have the required work permit they asked for. Immigration officials did not find the Mexican boy they were looking for, but they found Rogelio Soto. He lost his job on the spot.

The Sotos had moved to Henry in March, 1993. It was a small community, unlike their former home of Dallas, Texas. Roy was sure this was a place they would be safe; he settled into the town, joining the volunteer fire department and translating for the circuit court. He and his wife, Anna Maria, bought a lot and built a home for their three children.

Folks in Henry liked the Sotos and immediately began to offer assistance while the problems with immigration were straightened out. Roy continued to work with the fire department and the courts; he translated for his former boss when necessary so that other Hispanic men could be hired at the sawmill. Roy and Anna Maria were amazed at the outpouring of love and concern from their friends and neighbors. They knew they had made the right choice to move to Henry, and thanks to help from the community, they survived the difficult months that stretched into a second year of unemployment for Roy.

Brian Anderson, pastor of Henry Baptist Church, was eager to reach the non-church going people in Henry, and he knew Roy Soto.

"Brother Brian was sort of chasing me," says Roy. "He would always be asking me to come to church and I'd say, 'Yes, I'll come,' but I never did. One Saturday night in August, Brother Brian invited me to a Seeker service, and my wife and I didn't have any other plans; so, I told him I'd come. We went, and I knew I'd been living wrong. I surrendered everything to the Lord. My life changed completely."

Brian and Roy shared a desire to reach the Hispanic community in Henry. Brian was leading two services on Sunday mornings and the Seeker ser-

vice once a month on Saturday nights. Roy was studying and growing; he knew God had changed his life, and he wanted to know more.

Chuy Avila did not know these Hispanics in West Tennessee. Avila is a home missionary based in Midland, Texas. His ministry is focused

Language Missions Ministries provides programs, ministries, conferences and materials that assist in evangelizing ethnic people, starting new ethnic congregations, training ethnic leaders and development of existing ethnic ministries and churches.

\$20,000

on reaching Hispanics in Texas, but when the call came to go to Paris, Tennessee to do a World Missions Conference with Bill Smith, Avila responded. Smith, the Director of Missions for Western District, had specifically requested a Spanish-speaking home missionary to reach two distinct groups of Hispanics in his associations: migrant workers on the north end of the association near Puryear and resident workers in Henry. Chuy Avila was the

perfect man for the job.

Avila is a bold witness, particularly among his fellow Hispanics. On Sunday morning, the first day of the World Missions Conference, he taught a Sunday School class for Hispanic men at Puryear Baptist Church. Fourteen of the twenty-two attending made professions of faith. Avila preached in the worship service that morning, and ten more Hispanics accepted Christ as Savior. A weekday visit to one of the migrant farms brought two more professions of faith during a work break.

At Henry Baptist Church the next Sunday, the last day of the conference, ten Hispanics made professions of faith. With no opportunity to follow up, Brian Anderson invited Avila to come back in November and to bring some of his friends and family. Avila agreed, and plans for "Fiesta Mexicana" shifted into high gear. The November event was such a success that Henry Baptist Church plans to make it an annual event.

In May, Roy Soto had an unusual feeling during a Sunday evening church service. He sensed that something significant was going to happen, and he recruited Brian to go with him the following morning to ask for his work permit. Within fifteen minutes in the immigration services office, Roy Soto got his permit. He was back at work the next day. Brian Anderson is praying for

Roy Soto to become the coordinator of outreach ministries into the Hispanic community. If immigration officials decide to send the Sotos back to Mexico, Roy will work with Baptist missionaries there.

"We always thought that missions had to do with sending missionaries somewhere else, but we've learned a lot by getting to know that these people are just like us," says Brian Anderson. "And the young kids don't even know that there's any differences between us."

Roy Soto's life has been changed, and even bigger changes may be in store. Regardless of the outcome of the immigration hearing, Roy knows that God is in control of his life. "I think it's a miracle," says Roy.

"Lives have been changed because we've been obedient to God," says Anderson. "A lot of neat things have happened here, but the neatest thing is to see these people get saved."

(Note: Roy Soto's immigration hearing is set for July 30 at 1:00 in Memphis. He thinks he'll get his green card, but worries over the status of his wife and oldest child. Local and national news outlets have picked up the story, and the folks in Henry are asking for permission to let the Sotos stay. Roy and Anna Maria have no criminal records and are model citizens.)

Independent Living in a Safe Haven

ha-ven (ha'v'n), *n.* 1. a port; harbor. 2. any place of shelter and safety; refuge.

It is a large, new house with plenty of room for a growing family, and that is just what it was built for. Shepherd's Haven is Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes' newest residential facility for mildly mentally retarded men.

Partnering with Christian Homes for Retarded Individuals (CHRI), Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes provides this haven of shelter and safety.

Located in Arlington, twenty miles east of Memphis, the home has eight resident bedrooms and four baths; men have a private bedroom while sharing a bath with one other resident. In addition, the home features a separate apartment for the live-in managers with three bedrooms and two baths.

Joe and Carol Barker are the resident managers. They moved in last fall to begin preparing for the residents who would be arriving in January. The parents of two girls, the Barkers bring more than a dozen years of experience to the job.

Like residents at the other adult homes in Lebanon and Jacksboro, the men at Shepherd's Haven enjoy spending time together as a family. They love sports and outdoor activities, particularly fishing. Family night once a week gives them time for games, crafts, a movie or sharing stories with one another.

Group homes, like the ones operated by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, offer a chance for these adults to lead semi-independent lives. They work every day, get to make some of their own decisions and have at least limited control over their own lives. For the mentally retarded, these are monumental opportunities. In the family setting, they learn to share responsibilities and often for the first time in their lives, they get to give something to others.

"At Easter and at Mother's Day, we made gifts," explains Carol Barker. "They were so proud of their flower arrangements for their mothers, because they made something special with their own hands. They all decided that they wanted their flowers to really smell like flowers, so we sprayed them with some of my perfume. Now that they are on their own, they like being a little sneaky about presents, giving families gifts they don't already know about."

Another favorite project was tie-dye T-shirts which Carol says were worn with great pride by the residents.

"They're like family to us, but their own families are so active and involved in their lives. Every week, we

see someone's family coming for a visit. They are loving and caring, really interested in what goes in the men's lives," says Carol.

Shepherd's Haven Program Coordinator, June Stewart, explains the group home as a place to care for people who need assistance. CHRI began looking for a way to build a group home about 10 years ago, and the dream became a reality when Shepherd's Haven opened this year. Although the project took years of planning and close to eighteen months to build, it was debt free by the time it was finished. Donations, volunteers, and consistent and fervent prayers helped to build the house in spite of numerous potential setbacks.

Developmentally Disabled Ministry of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes provides homes for mentally handicapped men and women.

\$10,000

For instance, a workteam secured through the Brotherhood Commission managed to frame the house within one week's time, even though the area was experiencing flooding rains.

Stoneway in Lebanon includes two homes on 6.5 acres. It provides a home for up to 16 residents. Rainbow Acres in Jacksboro, 30 miles northwest of Knoxville, houses eight women and six men.

A Chip off the Old Block

My Neighbor?
In My Reach!

When the houses went up for sale and families started to move away, the transition began. It probably began long before that, but these economic signs were the most easy to recognize. It became clearer and clearer with each realty sign posted in a neighbor's front yard. The neighborhood was changing. The church began a steady decline. Everyone knew that changes

Nashville.

The fabric of the neighborhood faded, and a new tapestry began to weave itself together; brightly colored indigos mingled with rich vibrant silks and mottled batiks.

The face of the city was transformed; Southern blacks and whites were joined by Ethiopians, Indians, Koreans, Nigerians, Laotians, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Hispanics.

In the middle of this multi-

Laotians were the first group the Woodbine church identified. Six Laotian teenagers were participating in activities at Woodbine, so the church began a youth ministry open to whoever wanted to come no matter what nationality they were, no matter what color their skin. As the youth ministry began to grow, Woodbine members realized they needed help. Working through the association, state convention and North American Mission Board, they were assigned a Laotian pastor, and a Laotian congregation began to grow.

Additional steps into the community required planning and personnel. Key Church worker, Don Whatley, joined the staff as associate pastor and minister of missions. Again, with help from the association, state and NAMB, Woodbine was preparing to reach out.

Last fall, they hosted a neighborhood block party. The

Free hamburgers and ice cream welcomed the local residents who found themselves enjoying the festive activities and music. Shy boys watched as one Woodbine

into the community.

Seventeen people, trained to share their faith, walked through the crowds talking with neighbors, re-introducing them to Woodbine and telling them about Christ. New Testaments marked with the plan of salvation were distributed. At the end of the day, seven hundred thirteen people had attended the block party, and forty-seven had made professions of faith. Church members had hoped for a hundred. Pastor (no longer interim), Barry Sneed, and associate pastor, Don Whatley, had set higher goals, they expected five hundred. Everyone was stunned by the success of the day's activities, and Woodbine was taking giant steps toward re-claiming its role in the community.

As they went out to visit prospects after the block party, Woodbine members located a small group of Ethiopian Christians having Bible study in a nearby home. Outreach to these fellow believers and their Ethiopian friends has led to the formation of an Ethiopian congregation also meeting at Woodbine, along with the Laotian group. The church is growing, looking for more ways to reach out to her neighbors. A flame has been rekindled in the heart of the folks at Woodbine, and things are changing again. This is definitely a neighborhood in transition.

Key Church seeks to enlist and enable strong churches to employ a minister of missions with responsibility of starting and maintaining five missions/ministries each year.

\$25,000

member demonstrated his Karate skills. Giggling little girls sat transfixed as rainbows and flowers were carefully painted on their sweet faces. Parents nodded their approval, of both the face painting and the neighborly church that was turning this Saturday into something special.

More than 1,500 items of clothing had been donated for a free clothes closet; neighbors took home more than 1,200 shirts, coats, pants and dresses. Loads of merchandise such as bikes, boom boxes and sports equipment kept children and teenagers interested; drawings each half hour distributed the merchandise



Shopping for clothes at the Block Party, Woodbine Baptist Church

were bound to happen. They had read about "transitional neighborhoods," and they had watched it happen in similar settings across the state and across the country. The migration of the middle class to the suburbs and the resettling of urban neighborhoods by ethnic groups and immigrants was a favorite topic of sociologists on TV talk shows and cable news shows. It was happening in Boston and in Birmingham. It was happening in Dallas and in Detroit. It was happening in Newark: of course it was happening in

cultural swirl of change sat Woodbine Baptist Church. When they called Barry Sneed as interim pastor three years ago, he saw a struggling congregation with three options: they could sell the property and relocate to a more "comfortable" place, they could refocus their vision and reach out to the community around them, or they could maintain the status quo and die. Almost at the point of desperation, Woodbine choose the second option. Unsure of what steps to take, they began to open their doors to the community.



Bro. Don Whatley witnessing to people at the Block Party

carnival-like atmosphere overshadowed both worried church members and wary neighbors.

Standing Tall for Christ

Lots of people like to go to camp, but the almost 200 mentally and physically handicapped adults who attend Special Friends Camp each summer really

Special Friends Camp provides a Christian camping experience for mentally handicapped persons who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Camp also provides a brief respite for families who care for these individuals year-round.

\$40,000

love it. For many of them, it is one of few opportunities to participate in organized recreational activities, particularly swimming. At both Camp Linden and Camp Carson, pools are outfitted with the necessary ramps and lifts to allow physically handicapped campers

in the water with the rest of the Special Friends.

Each camp hosts up to one hundred participants for one week. Six daily activity periods keep campers active, and camp staffers work in teams to insure their safety, assist with self-help needs, coordinate visits to the nurse for medications at the appropriate times and lead in worship and Bible study.

Camp participants are grouped into six families, and two families each night share talents with the whole camp during the evening "Fun Spot." Singing is the most popular talent in evidence, but there are surprises on occasion, such as interpretive movement or even a stand-up comedy routine.

This past summer marked the fifteenth year of Special Friends Camp. Of the many who have attended several years is Gail. Gail considers camp one of the high points of the year. She looks forward to renewing friendships with other campers each summer.

Gail also welcomes the opportunity to sing at camp, and after a magnificent performance of "We Believe in God," staffers asked if she would sing at the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention. Last year, in Jackson, Gail gratefully thanked Tennessee Baptists for their

contributions to the Golden State Missions Offering which makes Special Friends Camp possible. Sitting on stage in her wheelchair, she sang the same song that had so moved the camp staff. The Convention erupted into applause and a standing ovation. It was another high point for Gail as well as the Convention.

Later that evening as folks expressed thanks for her music and for her willingness to come to Jackson, Gail responded, "Well, don't go gettin' the big head! I did it for God; not for you."

In her wheelchair, Gail stands tall for Christ.



Gail Kennedy with Joy Schleifer, Director of Special Friends Camp



■ A reception will be held for **Greer Ruble** on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Church,

Kingsport. Ruble is celebrating 40 years of ministry. He formerly served on the staff of First Church and is retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff.

■ **Bruce Osborn**, activi-

ties minister at Alpha Church, Morristown, received the master of divinity degree with a specialization in pastoral ministries July 24 from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Lawrence Scott Hanberry**, associate pastor at Hope well Church, Savannah, received the master of divinity degree with a specialization in pastoral ministries July 24 at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.



HANBERRY

■ **Kenneth A. Stevens** of McMinnville received the bachelor of general studies degree with a major in pastoral ministries July 24 at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently is a pastoral intern at First Church, Marrero, La. He is the son of Kenneth Stevens and Thelma Brown of Crossville.



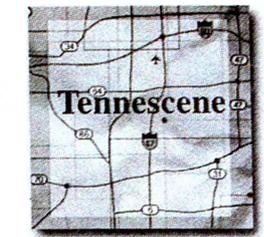
STEVENS

■ **Lonnie Ball** recently began serving as pastor of Olive Hill Church East, Olive Hill.

■ **Scott Pearl**, minister of youth at Falcon Church, Selmer, was recently called as associate pastor/youth director at Dixie Hills Church, Bolivar.

■ **Lenox Church**, Lenox, recently called **Rudy Ring** as pastor.

■ **Jeff Rone** resigned as pastor of Mary's Chapel Church,



Ripley, effective June 21.

■ **David Fowlkes** resigned recently as music director at Macedonia Church, Ripley.



FIRST CHURCH, HIXSON, recently sent two teams to the Ukraine this summer. In May Gordon and Gail Roderick, Barry Bangson, and Chuck Baker went on the Riverboat II that ministered to several Ukrainian cities through evangelistic crusades and Bible distribution. In July the church sent 14 youth and adults, pictured above, to work in children's camps for two weeks in the Ukraine. They saw 110 people come to accept Jesus as Lord. The group was led by Richard Young, associate pastor/minister of youth. Other team members included Melvin and Sherrill Holt, Ashley Brooks, Tim and Sarah Gonser, Tiffany Guess, Melanie Holt, Cody Maxwell, Vicki Cullins, Carrie Shannon, Rob Schumann, Cameron Smalley, and Ronnie White.



THE LATE Robert E. Mulloy was recently inducted into Collegiatas at Belmont University, Nashville Collegiatas. Belmont's highest honor, is the equivalent to an honorary doctorate degree. Accepting the award from Belmont President Bill Troutt on behalf of her late husband who died Jan. 22 is Pat Mulloy. The Bob Mulloy Music Business Enrichment Fund has been established in his memory at Belmont. Mulloy served on the faculty from 1961 until his death.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,



Share Christ's love
Give through the
Cooperative
Program

that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

For more information about the Cooperative Program contact:
Gary Rickman, ministry coordinator ■ 615/371-2009
Jane Garvin, ministry assistant ■ 615/371-7912
www.tbaptist.org/whowe/coop.htm



"The Cooperative Program is a river of hope that is helping to bring life to a parched world."
—Doug Sager, president, Tennessee Baptist Convention



"The Cooperative Program is our church's handle on world missions, which allows our people to support thousands of missionaries around the world through their tithe every Lord's Day."
—Roger P. Freeman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Clarksville



"Red Bank Baptist Church has historically been involved in missions through the Cooperative Program, and over many decades millions of dollars have been given because we believe in the Cooperative Program."
—Fred Steelman, pastor, Red Bank Baptist Church

Tennessee Baptist Convention ■ James M. Parch, executive director-treasurer ■ P.O. Box 728 ■ Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-0728



SBC CP gifts increase in July

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for July increased nearly 6 percent over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

July gifts totaled \$13,797,941, compared to last July's total of \$13,036,519, a 5.84 percent increase.

Year-to-date receipts after 10 months of the current fiscal year total \$132,927,617, an increase of \$3,032,770, or 2.32 percent over the same time last year.

For the first 10 months of the fiscal year the budget allocation requirement of \$124,487,564 has been surpassed by \$8,440,053, or 6.78 percent.

Designated gifts for the year total \$144,364,306, an increase of \$8,767,787 or 6.47 percent over the same time last year. ■

Unmarried couples total 4.1 million

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — More than 4.1 million American couples live together out of wedlock, according to a Census Bureau report.

More than a third of those households also have children under 15 in the home.

According to a population survey, there were about 4,130,000 unmarried-couple households in the United States in 1997. That was

172,000 more than the previous year's count. The number of unmarried-couple households has more than doubled since 1985, the study said.

One reason for the increase appears to be that couples are delaying marriage.

More than 109 million adults were married and living with their spouse in 1997, the study also reported, roughly 56 percent of the adult population.

About one in four American adults, 57 million, have never been married.

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville and member of Woodmont Church, called the data both "a painful reminder of the real situation of the American family" and "an energizing opportunity" for churches to "meet the needs of fatherless children, selfish individuals, divorced couples, and widows." ■

Slain officer was active So. Baptist

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Jacob J. Chestnut, who gave his life to stop a gunman in the nation's Capitol July 24, was an active Southern Baptist layman.

Chestnut was fatally wounded when he stopped the gunman and told him to go through the metal detector at the entrance that he guarded.

Neighbors, friends, and law-makers described Chestnut as a "wonderful and cheerful man." His pastor called him committed.

"He took his job seriously," said Jack Marcom, pastor of Fort Washington (Md.) Church, where Chestnut was a member. "He was a very fine man, committed to his family and his community," Marcom added. ■

AB assets near \$7 billion; trustees change companies

Baptist Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board met here Aug. 3-4 and received a series of record-setting financial and statistical reports from the agency's president, O.S. Hawkins.

In his report for the second quarter of 1998, Hawkins said total assets of the board stood at a new record high of \$6.969 billion on June 30. Net income of \$626.2 million in the January-June period was the highest in history for the first half of a year.

Trustees also discussed a change in administrative services for the board's comprehensive medical, group dental, and long-term disability plans.

The board will move its administrative services only contract from Prudential Insurance Company to Kirke-Van Orsdel (KVI) in a three-step process to be completed at the end of 1998.

Each participant in the plan will receive information in a special mailing this month, according to Douglas Day, managing director of Insurance Services. ■

Promise Keepers to turn to smaller venues, Phillips says

Associated Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The days when regional Promise Keepers events fill massive stadiums may be over, the organization's president told reporters July 25 as more than 50,000 men gathered in the RCA Dome here.

"The days of Promise Keepers having a general invitation of opening stadiums are over," said Randy Phillips, a former pastor who serves as administrative head of Promise Keepers operations in Denver. "We've fulfilled that aspect of God's grace."

Beginning in 1999, Promise Keepers will move beyond hosting massive regional rallies to working in partnership with local groups to support smaller, citywide events, he said. The difference could mean filling basketball arenas or civic auditoriums rather than 60,000-seat stadiums.

The new approach means Promise Keepers is becoming more focused on serving local churches and building local leadership, Phillips said. ■

Four LifeWay staffers named IMB consultants

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Four employees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention have been named international consultants for the International Mission Board. The four will begin overseas service in 1999 in different regions of the world as a first step in a cooperative church development initiated between the two agencies.

The consultants, who will be appointed as IMB missionaries and funded by LifeWay, will report to IMB regional leaders and to LifeWay's international department.

Consultants and their assignments are: Steve Cretin, Singapore (Asia); Michael Woolridge, Kenya (Eastern Africa); Ernest McAninch,

Quito (South America); and Neal Cordle, Frankfurt (central and Eastern Europe).

The consultants will work with churches and missionaries in their regions to identify and prioritize needs and opportunities in church development and discipleship. They also will design, coordinate, promote and conduct training seminars, workshops, and other field service events.

The consultants will begin seven weeks of orientation the IMB Missionary Learning Center in late October as a move to their respective fields in early 1999. ■

Missouri Baptists urged to oppose 'Boats in Moats' vote

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. Baptists in Missouri are urged to oppose a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would legalize casino gambling in "boats moats."

The MBC executive board approved unanimously a resolution in mid-July opposing efforts to expand casino gambling beyond riverboats on Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

The executive board also voted to allocate \$25,000 in spent budget funds to be used in efforts to defeat the gambling initiative.

"It's a moral issue and ways has been," said Wen Page, MBC president and pastor of First Church, Lee's Summit. "The facts prove why casinos are located, incomes are limited. There are even increased suicides." Page said will take a "grassroots effort to defeat the amendment." ■

Classified

YOUTH/MUSIC: First Baptist Church seeks a part-time youth/music minister. Send resume to P.O. Box 276, Celina, TN 38551, Attn: Pastor.

WANTED: Full-time church secretary with bookkeeping, computer, word processing, and receptionist skills. Submit resume to Broadway Baptist Church, c/o Personnel Committee, 815 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917.

EDUCATION/CHILDREN: Church seeks full-time minister of education and children with some church staff experience to oversee adult education and coordinate children's ministry. Send resumes with references to New Vision Baptist Church, 1750 N. Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Attn: Michael Thomas, or fax to (615) 849-3764.

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Director of Residential Services

The Baptist Home for Children, Jacksonville, Fla., is seeking qualified candidates for Director of Residential Services. Our camp 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.



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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, minister 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.

Messengers

By Paul Medley

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 28:1-2, 5-13, 15-17

Who is telling the truth? The Baptists, the Catholics, the Mormons, the Buddhists, all claim to know the truth and to be proclaiming the Word of God. Which is right?

Is the crusade preacher, or the evangelist, or the T.V. preacher, or the local pastor telling the truth of the word of God? Does any one of these have God's ear more than another?

How do we know which person is giving us the message of God? Jeremiah stood before the people with a message that contradicted Hananiah. They were both prophets, both claiming to speak the truth. But Hananiah tried to preach to the pleasures of the people while Jeremiah spoke only the truth of God.

In some cases it is easy to discern the false messenger of God. If the messenger is teaching or preaching a word that is contrary to the Word of God then we know that he is a false teacher. If the messenger is drawing more attention to himself than to the message he is speaking then he too might be false.

But not all false messengers are as easily identified. Some have the charisma to draw crowds and attract loyal followings. In recent years we have read of those who followed David Koresh. Koresh claimed to be the messiah and more than 80 of his followers so believed him that they went to their death with him.

The lesson this week gives five principles to use in determining the true messengers from the false. I want to add to this the sixth principle found in I John 4:2. John said, "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not of God," (NIV). The message and the messenger that is true will be sharing the Gospel of Jesus and centering on him.

The size of the church nor the prestige of the position will enable one person to be more capable of speaking the truth than another. Only those messengers that center on Jesus are delivering the Word of God. In a day and time when peripheral matters seem more important than Jesus, we must be reminded to center on him.

The true messengers of God will have had a personal experience with the Lord Jesus. That experience will have developed into a love relationship with him that will last for eternity. The emphasis of their lives will have shifted from their desires to his. The point of their message will direct others to meeting him.

An old farmer in the First Baptist Church of Ferriday, Louisiana, told a young preacher boy, "Son, if you don't want to speak falsely then preach Jesus and you'll do all right." Words that I have remembered and tried to heed. Words that point to the true messengers of God.

One other way to be able to discern the true messenger of God from the false is by being secure in your knowledge of the Word of God. Rather than relying on others to interpret the Bible for us we should be studying and learning the Word for ourselves. You don't have to be a preacher to own a set of commentaries. You don't even have to have a seminary degree to read and study for yourselves. Each of us can be more prepared to discern the true from the false when we have studied the Truth and allowed the Truth to set us free. — Medley is pastor, First Church, Jasper.

Think before you speak

By Richard Skidmore

Focal Passage — Proverbs 11:12-13; 12:18; 13:3; 15:1-2, 23, 28; 16:24; 17:27; 21:23; 26:21, 28

One of the terms that appears frequently in Scripture to describe sin has the root meaning of twisted or perverse. The idea is that we can so abuse or misuse something that it becomes sinful. One illustration of this is money. Often I Timothy 6:10 is misquoted as saying, "Money is the root of all evil." The verse actually reads, "For the love of money is the root of all evil." There is nothing wrong with money. We use it to buy groceries, pay for our homes, provide clothing, education, medical treatment for our families. Money is not evil, but when we begin to love money, we are twisting and abusing the place it should have in our lives. This week's lesson is about another of those natural things that we determine how to use or abuse.

Family Bible Lesson

Words should mean something. We should speak truthfully. Many of us remember when your word was your bond. Before pages and pages of legal documents, one person simply said to another, "You have my word on it."

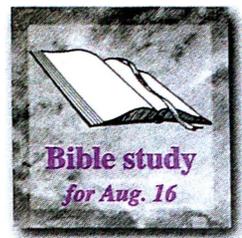
Words can be wonderful. One of life's greatest joys is to have someone tell you, "I love you." Even after more than 30 years of marriage, I still am thrilled to hear my wife say these words to me. Words can be used to express sympathy, bear good news to someone, comfort, bring laughter, make peace, promise, pass along wisdom. Words set to music are one of our greatest tools in worship. Many of us who cannot sing well still sing loudly week after week as we verbally express our love for our Savior, our faith in his promises, our commitment to him. One of the encouragements of

this week's text is to remember how much our speech can be a blessing.

Words can be destructive. Just as surely as we can bring joy, comfort, hope with our words, we can also cause great damage with them. Our speech can foster anger, sorrow, despair. Family members have gone years separated from one another over words spoken between them. Gossip is a most destructive use of words. In Romans 3:13-14, when describing the sinfulness of man, Paul quotes the Psalms about our speech, "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." One of the reminders of this week's text is that our speech can cause great damage.

Words should be chosen carefully. The verses under consideration this week encourage us to hold our peace, to study before we answer. Many times, we do not think before we speak. We usually wish we had waited for we realize there was a better way to express ourselves.

Often I have asked couples to write down their thoughts before discussing with each other important matters in their relationship. There are several reasons for this. Our emotions sometimes make it very difficult for us to express ourselves. We have a difficult time concentrating on what someone else is saying to us if we are continually having to remember all we want to say to them. It is not easy to remember all you want to say. Even more, when you write down what you want to say, you are compelled to sort of listen to yourself. You wind up wondering, "Is this the best way to say this? Can the other person understand what I want them to know? Does this need to be said at all?" To write it out beforehand is one of the best ways I know to think before you speak. — Skidmore is director of missions, Weakley Association, Dresden.



Pay attention to the Scripture

By Jim Powers

Focal Passage — II Peter 1:12-21

According to the Baptist Faith and Message the Bible is the infallible Word of God. Peter reminds the church to pay attention to Scripture. Three times Peter reminds Christians of the truth he has shared. The reason he is so insistent in this arena is that we can lose sight of the importance of persevering to the end. This epistle is still a reminder of God's truth and the kind of life the Father wants us to live. Feeling that he was about ready to vacate his "earthly dwelling" Peter felt it imperative to emphasize the value of following Scripture.

Next the author gives an eyewitness account of his experience with Christ. This was necessary to counter the false teachers that were devaluing the power and coming of Jesus Christ. Involved in verse 16 is the twofold themes of this letter: the power of Jesus available for holy living and the coming of Jesus as the glorious

Explore the Bible Lesson

hope of every believer.

Because he was present with James and John at the transfiguration, Peter heard the voice of Father, God as he conferred honor on Jesus, the beloved Son.

Along with Jesus' own statements about his unique nature as the Son of God we also have written Scripture which is reliable. The truth of the Bible always points to the source of truth, Christ Jesus. By using the prophetic word Peter is saying that when Jesus comes his light will dispel the darkness caused by the heretical teachings of the false teachers.

The dawning day refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ. The "morning star" will bring light in the final day of Jesus. Peter is encouraging us to bring our doctrine and understanding before the searchlight of Scripture

truth. Our actions and convictions should be according to God's revealed will. The truths in the Bible always point to the source of all truth, Christ, until he returns.

Scripture is not meant to support our own perceived ideas of doctrines. Rather it is meant to be the source of our doctrine. Scripture's origin is from God and it's truth can best be revealed by the inspiration and revelation of the Holy Spirit to the honest biblical student. Because the Holy Spirit worked in the Scripture writers it is essential to its understanding that we seek the Holy Spirit's leadership to interpret the Holy Word of God.

Peter agrees with Paul's statement in II Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murfreesboro.

churches

■ **Grace Covenant Church, Knoxville**, recently completed missions efforts in Atlanta, Ga., and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro Baptist Partnership. In the efforts, a total of 85 people made professions of faith and more than 100 other people made other spiritual decisions.

■ **Donelson View Church, Nashville**, will celebrate its 110th anniversary by holding Homecoming activities Aug. 30.

■ **Broadmoor Church, Nashville**, held revival recently which resulted in 20 people making professions of faith, 50 people making other spiritual decisions, and four people joining the church. Evangelists Henry Linginfelter and Carolyn Reed led the services.

■ **Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville**, held revival recently. As a result, 19 people made professions of faith, 90 people made other spiritual decisions, and six joined the church. Henry Linginfelter, evangelist of Alcoa, spoke.

■ **Grace Church, Springfield**, will hold an Open House Aug. 23 from 2-4 p.m. at its new facilities. For more information, call (615) 384-3393.

■ **Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier**, dedicated its first church library on Aug. 9. The church elected Susan Randolph as librarian. Assistants are Barbara Harris, Penny Fulcher, and Amber Fulcher.

■ **First Church, Oakdale**, will celebrate 105 years of serving Jesus Christ on Sept. 13 with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Testimonies and singing will follow lunch at noon.

■ **Byerleys Chapel Church, Mascot**, held a Dedication/Homecoming July 26. The church dedicated a new Fellowship Hall. Jim Dockins, former pastor, spoke during the morning worship service. The activities drew more than 175 people. The new building seats 135 people. Much of the interior work was completed by members, reported Arthur Pedigo, pastor.

■ Several members of **First Church, Jacksboro**, have been involved in missions work this summer. Charles Parker, pastor, and his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Joy, worked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro Baptist Partnership. Missaha Baird of the church served in Romania. And Billy Smith, minister of education, led an annual youth project involving youth from First Church, Jacksboro, and First Church, Elk Valley. The group led a Vacation Bible School in Campbell County.

leaders

■ **Eastwood Church, Cookeville**, has called **Mike Wry** as youth director, effective Aug. 16. He is a student at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and is from First Church, Kingsport.

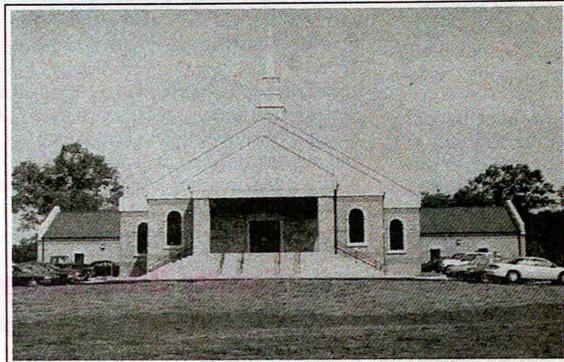
■ **Wm. Fletcher Allen**, who retired as editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* earlier this year, is living at 616 Sugartree Lane, Franklin 37064. He is available for pulpit supply and leadership of some retreats.

■ **First Church, Savannah**, has called **Eric Jones** as pastor effective Aug. 2.

■ **Valley Grove Church, Knoxville**, has called **Paul Bowman** as minister of activities, effective July 13. He will



SHILOH CHURCH, Kingston, celebrated its 175th anniversary on July 26. In photo to left, Pastor Paul Lloyd presents a gift to Jack Raby, 88, who has been a member of Shiloh for 65 years. The celebration was another milestone for the congregation. Just a few months earlier the church dedicated its new sanctuary (below) which includes office and educational space.



oversee ministries at the church's new Christian Life Center, which is scheduled to open this fall. He also will serve as part-time youth minister. Bowman is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Northeastern State University, Okla. He has served as minister of activities and education at Brownsville Church, Brownsville.

■ **Tony Michael**, pastor, Bethpage Church, Kenton, recently graduated from Union University, Jackson. Michael earned a Pastoral Ministries degree. He was honored by members of the church.

■ **Todd Maino and Jason Hogan** were recently licensed

into the ministry at Audubon Park Church, Memphis.

■ **East Ridge Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Ed Falcomata** of Vandalia, Ill., as minister of music/senior adults.

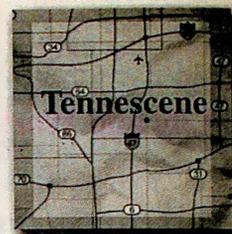
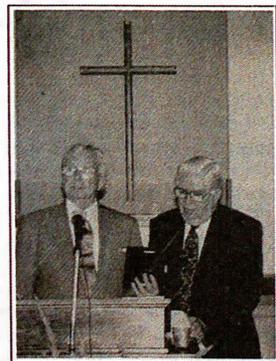
■ **Pastor Jerry Poe** of Beech Grove Church, Lawrenceburg, recently received an honorary doctorate from Emmanuel Baptist University.

■ **Bob Weldon** of Brevard, N.C., is the new pastor at Copperas Branch Church, Leoma.

■ **Todd Fannin** of Oklahoma City, Okla., is the new minister of youth and children at Leoma Church, Leoma.

■ **Teresa Pace** has been called as director of creative

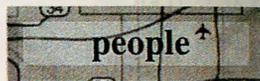
NEW HOME CHURCH, Baxter, celebrated its 100th anniversary on July 26. In photo to left, Stone Association Director of Missions Michael Prowse, left, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor Shelby Mainers. **BELOW**, joining Mainers, left, in the celebration were former pastors Mont Hooper of Al-lardt, second from left, and Ernest Blair, Baxter; and a pastor who was called to the ministry at New Home, Tim Adams of Rayon City.



ministries at New Prospect Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ **Glynn Copeland** has resigned as pastor of O K Church, Lawrenceburg, to accept a pastorate in Illinois.

■ **Jeff Rogers** began duties Aug. 2 as minister of adult education/missions at First Church, Cleveland.



■ **Dwight Fincher** and **Billy Joe Phillips** recently were ordained as deacons at First Church, Loretto.

■ **Edgefield Church, Nashville**, recently elected **Lewie Austin** and **Joe Crockrell** as deacons.

Exalt team aids VBS at Victory

For Baptist and Reflector

MANCHESTER — Victory Church, a small rural church in Duck River Association, with an average Sunday School attendance of 25, reported an exceptional Vacation Bible School.

With the help of an eXalt summer missionary team from the TBC in Brentwood, the church reached out into the community to pre-enroll children for VBS.

Total enrollment for VBS, held in early July, reached 54 with a daily average of 49 pupils, teachers, and helpers.

Pastor Jake Stricklin challenged the boys against the girls to bring their offerings, in change, each day. A balance scale was constructed with buckets on each side in which the money was placed and weighed.

Friday was the largest offering. It broke the scale and set a record for VBS at the church. The girls won the challenge as the offering totaled \$798.75. By bringing the most money the girls were entitled to throw water balloons at the boys.

More importantly, eight children made decisions to accept Christ as Savior. Two already have been baptized. ■

Welcome new readers!

Because many churches are observing Aug. 16 as *Baptist and Reflector* Day, many Tennessee Baptists are seeing the paper for the first time. For only \$8 per year, you can have the paper delivered to your home each week. Subscribe today to your Baptist state newsjournal!

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