

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 32

Statewide Edition

August 19, 1998

## this week's news

- ▶ John Holland ministers 30 years with Salem congregation. — Page 2
- ▶ Pastors enjoy annual retreat at Camp Carson. — Page 2
- ▶ Courage in Ministry series continues. — Page 3
- ▶ Readers offer opinions. — Page 4

## Aug. 26 issue skipped; next paper is Sept. 2

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In accordance with the publication schedule of the *Baptist and Reflector* which calls for 48 issues each year, the paper will not be published Aug. 26.

The next issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will be dated Sept. 2. ■

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

#01499375# REG  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3628

### From Relationship Focus Group

## Report acknowledges diversity; calls for unity

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Relationship Focus Group, appointed last November by then-TBC President Herbert Higdon of Jackson, has come to a consensus agreement that "while we won't always agree, we will work together and love one another," Higdon said.

The 17-member focus group acknowledged diversity in the Tennessee Baptist Convention and called for unity, said Higdon, who along with current TBC President Doug Sager of Knoxville, served as ex-officio members.

Higdon noted all spectrums from across the state were represented on the focus group and "everyone expressed themselves without pulling any punches," Higdon said. "We have discussed every aspect of TBC life from finances and funding to relationships with institutions and trusteeship," he said.

It was done, however, in "a good spirit. No one got mad or angry," Higdon noted.

"We have gotten a lot of things out in the open that needed to be in the open. It has been a good group to work with," he said.

Following is the full text of the report.

(1) **We acknowledge the diversity\* of Tennessee Baptists and we also acknowledge the differences\*\* which could divide us and damage our witness for Christ.**

*\*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.* — I Corinthians 12:12

*\*\*For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.* — I Corinthians 1:11

(2) **However, we believe the common goals and beliefs we cherish are stronger and more important than the issues that separate us.**

*"And Jesus came and spake*

*unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'* — Matthew 18:18-20

(3) **We desire Tennessee Baptists to remain one con-**

**gregation) even while we may approach the implementation of these ministries differently.\*\***

*"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord." — Philippians 4:1-2*

*\*\*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a*

*ers." — Ephesians 4:29*

▶ Praying earnestly for one another in our respective ministries.

*"I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." — I Timothy 2:8*

▶ Building more personal relationships in order to nurture our bond of unity.

*"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." — Ephesians 4:1-3*

▶ Repenting individually as well as collectively of labeling one another for the purpose of political gain (fundamentalists, liberals, loyalists, SBC & CBF, etc.), and repenting of any divisive unChristian spirit.

*"Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." — James 5:16*

▶ Seeking continual-ly to balance representation in leadership within the TBC on Boards, Committees, and platform assignments.

*"Be ye affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." — Romans 12:10-11*

▶ Celebrating our victories and commonality in the future as much as we have emphasized differences in the past.

*"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." — I Thessalonians 5:15*

May we heed the wisdom of those who have gone before us: In essentials — unity, In non-essentials — liberty, In all things — love.

The Relationship Focus Group will present its findings to the Executive Board at their Sept. 15 meeting, according to Higdon. *BR*



Relationship Focus Group

**vention together and not experience division as some of the other state conventions.**

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" — Psalm 33:1*

(4) **In order for this to take place, we call upon Tennessee Baptists to join us in modeling the following:**

▶ Accepting one another in Christ as Tennessee Baptists.

*"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded toward another according to Christ Jesus. That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." — Romans 15:5-7*

▶ Cooperating with one another for the higher purposes\* of the Kingdom (missions, evangelism, benevolence, edu-

*living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office." — Romans 12:1-4*

▶ Affirming one another and discouraging any unwholesome words to be spoken about another believer in Christ.

*"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hear-*

## about your newsjournal

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

Printed on recycled paper

## At Salem Church, Knoxville

# Holland celebrates 30-year ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — When one considers the average tenure of a Southern Baptist pastor at one church is less than three years, that makes John Holland's 30 years as pastor of Salem Church here even more significant.

Church members recognized Holland's 30th anniversary and accomplishments with a special service Aug. 9.

A native of Knoxville Holland and his wife, Pat, began his ministry at Salem on Aug. 11, 1968. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Holland served as pastor of a church in Hawesville, Ky., and Washington Avenue Church, Knoxville, before joining the Salem congregation.

When he arrived at Salem



JOHN AND PAT HOLLAND

the church had a membership of 696 and a budget of just over \$46,000. The church has since grown to a membership of 2,000 and an annual budget of more than \$691,000.

Under Holland's leadership the church completed the building of a new sanctuary in 1970, a new education building in 1979, and an extensive remodeling of the 1955 education

building in 1993. Under his leadership the church purchased 25 and one-half acres near their present location and is currently developing plans for new worship and education facilities.

Holland told the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* he has thoroughly enjoyed his 30 years at Salem. "They are just a great people to work with. They are a loving and caring people and I have loved and cared for them. It has been a mutual relationship. I have been totally satisfied and completely happy."

Among those participating in the Aug. 9 celebration were Knoxville pastors Hershel Chevallier and James Robertson, TBC Executive Board staffer Aubrey Hay, Knox County Association Director of Missions Walter Taylor, and retired TBC Foundation President Earl Wilson. ■

## Church annuity specialist sought

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Applications are being accepted for the position of Church Ministers Financial Support/Single Church Staff Leadership specialist to work with the Church Staff Leadership Group of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The position is designed to work with small churches and serve as the state Annuity Board representative.

Candidates should demonstrate skills in the following areas: church administration, business administration, public relations, communication skills, knowledge and understanding of small, medium, and large churches, and experience in the single church staff.

Applications should be submitted to Human Resources, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024 by Sept. 18. *B&R*

## Tennessee ministers enjoy mountain retreat at Camp Carson

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — The 1998 Tennessee Pastor's Retreat at Camp Carson here drew 124 registered participants last week. Approximately 36 others attended various portions of the program sponsored by the TBC Executive Board's Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group.

The retreat gave ministers the opportunity for relaxation, Bible study, recreation, and fellowship.

Guest speakers included Tim Beougher, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Alabama evangelist Fred Wolfe. *B&R*



**JOINING KEN WEATHERS-BY**, TBC evangelism specialist, left center, at the annual Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Retreat were, from left, Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association; Verlon Moore, pastor, Hilldale Church, Clarksville; and Gary Bailey, pastor, Mooresville Pike Church, Columbia.



**GILES COUNTY ASSOCIATION** Director of Missions Carl Bond, right, enjoys watermelon with Pastor Don Russell of Parks City Church, Fayetteville, during the Pastor's Retreat at Camp Carson. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



PARTICIPANTS AT THE 1998 Tennessee Pastor's Retreat gather in the amphitheater.



**EVANGELIST JIM LINDSAY**, left, of Elizabethton, who is also interim pastor of First Church, Newport, visits with another Newport pastor, Jerry Nash of Trinity Church.

## Strengthened by prayers during battle with cancer

# Lynn Porch continues prayer ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

TULLAHOMA — Few people could know the power of prayer better than Lynn Porch. As the daughter and later wife of a Baptist minister she

has witnessed the results of prayer all her life.

She has actively prayed for countless people and continues to do so regularly despite her own bout with cancer and daily battle with pain. She calls First Church here where she is a member on a regular basis to find out who's sick or in the hospital.

And, she doesn't fail to pray daily for her husband, TBC Executive Director James Porch, and her other family members which include son Scott and daughter Terri.

Now, she is on the receiving end of literally thousands of prayers daily.

Porch first was diagnosed with cancer in 1972, but after surgery and chemotherapy the cancer was not detected again until 1995.

Despite numerous chemotherapy treatments the cancer does not appear to be going into re-

### '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*

mission. The Porches left Aug. 15 for San Antonio, Texas, to see if she will qualify for an experimental treatment from the Cancer Therapy and Research Center at the University of Texas — San Antonio.

"We feel real positive," she said before her trip. "If it doesn't work out for us to go there for the treatment, they will make recommendations for additional treatments here," she noted.

Prayer has sustained her through the past three years, Porch affirmed, although she admits it is a tough transition going from "being the minister to one who is being ministered to."

"The most dramatic change

is to learn how to accept other people doing things for you," she noted.

Not a day goes by when she does not receive a call or card from somewhere, she said.

Many have let her know she is on a churchwide prayer chain and that her name is posted in prayer rooms.

"It's very refreshing when I hear from people all over the country telling me I am being prayed for," said Porch, who is the daughter of retired Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) president James Sullivan and the late Velma Sullivan.

Porch especially credits her mother for being a good role model, not only for being a minister's wife, but on how to cope with cancer. She died a few years ago from liver pancreatic cancer.

"My mother lived what she taught me. She had a tremendous impact on me," Porch affirmed.

She also affirmed her husband. It's hard to stay "up" with a chronic illness, she admitted. "James has been my cheerleader. He tells me times will get better. That's a comfort because I know he and I are in it for the long haul."



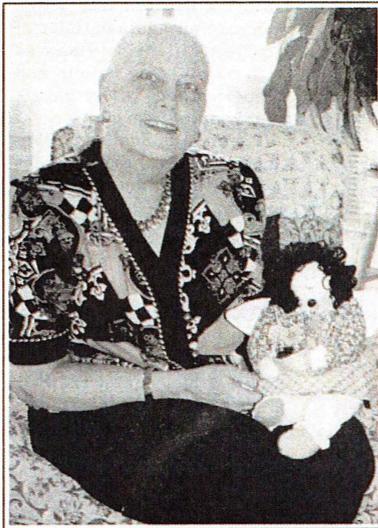
Porch also is able to cope with her illness because of her tremendous faith in God. "I know this is the worse it will ever get. I have something better to look forward to," she said. "This is the only hell I will ever know."

She is the first to tell people God did not cause her cancer. "I could never say God made me have cancer," she affirmed. "But God will allow me to use this to witness to others and to strengthen my relationship with him," she said.

"I don't see how people can face life in general, but especially a chronic illness, without a faith relationship to God that is precious and deep," she said.

"My relationship to the Lord is the most important thing in life." And though she wants to be healed, she is determined to let that witness shine forth no matter what.

"In spite of what happens to me, I want to be a witness or lighthouse to someone who does not have a relationship with God," she said. *B&R*



LYNN PORCH displays a doll she received recently with written messages of encouragement from wives of various Baptist state convention executive directors.

## Sister church aids Roan Mountain FBC

# Army tents make VBS unusual

By Joe Ledford  
Special to Baptist and Reflector

ROAN MOUNTAIN — Vacation Bible School is always fun for kids, but having classes in big Army tents increased the excitement last week at First Church here.

Members of Mountain View Church, Johnson City, assisted Roan Mountain with their VBS this summer. In January First Church, Roan Mountain, lost its main building when a flash flood swept through.

"After the flood, we thought 'Let's help our neighbors,'" said Shonnie Long, chairwoman of Mountain View's mission committee.

She first thought they would help the church reconstruct, but Long found out the church was not quite ready.

When they asked Roan Mountain pastor Richard Stout what the church needed, he replied Vacation Bible School. That was going to be a problem, however, because the fellowship hall, which has been used since the flood, is full of pews for Sunday services. Long's mission team first thought of tarpaulins and funeral home tents before contacting the Tennessee National Guard which provided and set up three huge green tents.

On Aug. 11, about 35 children were singing, playing games, and hearing Bible stories in the tent. Some of

them had lost their homes in the flood, Stout said, noting "just about everyone was affected by the flood."

He said the mission team's efforts have given his church a boost. "I really feel VBS, if not vital, is essential," the pastor said.

Mountain View brought its own team to feed the VBS staff, the children, and construction workers who are repairing some homes for the Doe River Interfaith Flood Recovery Team. Construction mission projects, especially constructing church buildings, is something dear to members of Mountain View, whose own building on Bristol Highway was constructed by a volunteer mission team 11 years ago.

Going into the next county allowed some of Mountain View's members to take a mission trip for the first time. "This way, people who can't take a whole week off from work can come for a day and help," Long said.

Stout said First Church, Roan Mountain, began grading last week for a new church building. "The big need is money for construction. Donations are coming in real slow," he said. The church did not have flood insurance. The church received a grant from the Tennessee Baptist Convention earlier this year to help rebuild. ■ — Ledford is chief of the Elizabethton bureau of the Johnson City Press. Story is used with permission.

# Kingsport FBC youth turn annual choir tour into missions experience

By William D. Simpson  
For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSFORT — Over the course of three weeks this summer, youth from First Church, Kingsport, had the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in a wide range of mission settings.

In late June a group of 28 youth and their sponsors went on their annual youth choir mission tour.

Rather than simply a concert tour, the trip included serving meals at an inner-city rescue mission, ministry in a Louisiana prison, and an opportunity to encourage a Kingsport boy and his family as the young man checked into St. Jude's Hospital for treatment of

leukemia. Other experiences included concerts in a nursing home and two churches.

In mid-July a group of 45 youth and adults departed Kingsport for M-Fuge, a missions-based Centrifuge experience, at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla. During that week members served on various ministry teams that built homes for the needy, led Backyard Bible Clubs and day camps, ministered to the elderly and disabled, and helped to clean up the environment. The intense M-Fuge format also included Bible study and worship experiences for the participants.

The impact of the experiences was shared equally by those who served as well as those they served. Emotion is often a part of youth summer experiences, but "it was really refreshing to see these kids shedding tears for the people they were working with each day," said James Jackson, minister to students at First Church.

"The firsthand experience these kids gained this summer will impact them for life," he said. ■ — Simpson is minister of music at First Church, Kingsport.



MEMBERS OF THE youth group at First Church, Kingsport, prepare meals to be served at the Memphis Union Mission during their annual youth choir mission tour.



## letters from readers

### about letters

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

### Giving in to God

I had not come to camp expecting anything extraordinary to occur. Only one-fifth of my youth group had come, so I assumed it would be a week for me to relax and to meet new people. But from the first night I could tell things would not go according to my plan.

The secluded little hillside on which Camp Carson sits was covered with people, and as we gathered in the chapel to begin worship I felt excited. We used that first night only to get to know each other.

The next day was filled with activities and Bible study and I loved it. Somehow God was so close to me and for the first time in months I was close to him. That night at chapel I sang so loud and prayed so fervently. After the message a girl came to sing the invitational, but I did not hear her; I was talking, or rather listening, to God. He told me from now on I was to use my music only to glorify him and that I would never be happy unless I joined a music ministry.

I gave in to God's will that night and now I have such peace and joy in my life.

He is blessing my efforts to reach people through my voice. And I grow closer to him with every passing day. That is not to say I do not have doubts, but I hold to the promise found in II Timothy 1:6-7.

Heather Pollitt  
McMinnville 37110

### Thanks for article

Thank you for the excellent article about our one-day VBS at First Baptist Church, Savannah. Several have requested additional information which we are happy to provide to anyone interested.

Another ministry of our church that may be of interest to others is our missionaries e-mail prayer support. All Southern Baptist missionaries, both International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, who have e-mail addresses on the personnel directory pages of the internet were contacted and invited to participate.

At the present there are about 100 missionaries who have responded and send occasional or frequent prayer requests.

As needs arise or they have time, they e-mail special prayer concerns to us.

Every Wednesday, we summarize the requests received that week and print them on a single sheet which is duplicated and passed out at our prayer service that night.

Depending on the agenda for the evening, some needs are addressed in corporate prayer during the service and then the sheets are taken home by members to be used in private and family prayer time. Copies are also e-mailed to anyone, including many of the missionaries, who request a copy.

Again, thank you for the dedicated service you render to our Lord and to Tennessee Baptists.

Marjorie Casteel  
Savannah 38372

### Secure feeling

Pastor Linginfelter's letter (July 29, *B&R*) only strengthened my good feelings about the recent actions by the Carson-Newman College Board of trustees!

His stats indicating that Carson-Newman has a "board of 42 percent CBF supporters" (and I am operating under the assumption that his data is correct) gives me a very secure feeling about the future of this institution. I hope upcoming news reports will show other Baptist colleges and universities moving in similar directions!

Steve Cates  
Murfreesboro 37130

### Great camp

I had the privilege to be at Youth Music Camp July 20-25 at Camp Carson. I would be highly remiss if I did not take an opportunity to hand out a few bouquets.

To Dr. (Julian) Suggs (TBC church music specialist), the clinicians, the camp director, and the personnel that work at the Camp, I cannot remember a time when I was around a group of people who tried harder to make an event work. The camp was handled in an effective, professional manner. The camp leadership motivated the young people and led them to learn and sing and play some beautiful music.

In a day when we hear so much about what's wrong with young people, it was wonderful to take part in an event that pointed to so much good about young people. If these young

people are an example of Tennessee Baptist youth we need to praise God.

To say the least, God willing, I will have my young people involved in that camp again next year. So to Dr. Suggs and personnel of the Music Department, may God bless you for a job well done. Thank you and you will continue to be in our prayers.

Danny Moss  
Bolivar 38008

### Troubled by attitudes

This note is in response to a letter published in the July 29 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* from Pastor Steve Linginfelter, First Church, Benton.

Mr. Linginfelter stated that the Carson-Newman trustees, currently 33 in number, included "at least 14 are from churches who financially support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship either by budget or by allowing members to designate offerings to CBF."

I would like to point out to your readers that Mr. Linginfelter failed to state the source of the present board of trustees at Carson-Newman. Since my pastor is one of the trustees, not one of the 14, I believe the present board is now, and will be until November 1998, made up of members appointed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, NOT by the trustees themselves.

Carson-Newman College is, therefore, not responsible for the percentage of CBF "influence" on the present board of trustees.

I am greatly troubled by the attitudes of many South-

ern Baptists. We have no qualms about supporting other groups and associating with them. We do seem to have a problem associating with or helping support, or even being helped in support by, those who associate themselves with the CBF.

My home church supports missionaries of other denominations and several other groups who are not SBC or CBF. Yet we are guilty of discrimination against those of our own faith who disagree with us on some beliefs and support others whose beliefs greatly differ from our own.

I fear that Southern Baptists will face these attitudes before the judgment seat of Christ.

Robert C. Nichols  
Athens 37303

### Great blessing

Once again, our Lord proved Himself mightily to save. The greatest blessing of the SBC annual meeting is "Crossover." I am absolutely amazed at the response to the glorious Gospel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Over 1,700 precious souls were saved through the "Crossover" effort of faithful SBC ministers and lay people.

As for me and my church, it was our privilege to lead in "block parties" and door-to-door witnessing.

Please allow me to encourage your church to take a group to "Crossover" in Atlanta, GA. 1999. I can promise — you'll be blessed.

David Thompson, senior pastor  
Alta Loma Church  
Madison 37115

## Near drowning incident strengthens faith

I just wanted to share an experience that recently happened to me.

Probably too many times we are guilty of saying words like, "Where are you God?" As a pastor in a mission church, I probably say it too much or more than most.

Coming through the summer slump where the crowds are either up or down (you know, up at the mountains or down at the lake), we decided to take a much-needed vacation.

Our daughter Dana invited her friend, Athena, and our son Matthew invited his friend, David, and we headed off to Panama City Beach.

The girls were doing their thing and the guys were out jumping waves in the ocean. I told my wife I was going out to harass the boys awhile. We were jumping waves and playing around. A storm a few days earlier had the seaweed out so we decided to swim on out further to get away from it and play at the outer sand bar.

As we almost reached the sand bar, we grew tired and turned to go back in. Matthew was about 15 feet ahead of me and David was about the same ahead of him. There was the old man of course bringing up the rear. About half way back, I gave out. It seemed I would go forward two feet

and back four feet.

Then I just couldn't go at all. I realized that without help, I wasn't going to make it in. I yelled out to my son and he turned around and came back to help me. He was trying his best but we just were not making any headway. He yelled for David to come and help. I remember seeing David turn around and start swimming toward us, but don't remember him making it to us.

On the following Monday I started having flashbacks. As I broke down and started crying, I shared with my family gathered around me all the things I could remember about my near drowning.

I asked Matthew who it was that kept pushing me from behind, was it him or David? I could remember that and how sick I was when I made it to the shore.

Matthew replied that it was neither of them. When David got to me they each grabbed an arm and drug me in. Matthew said that it seemed like we were so far out and then all of a sudden we were to the shore.

I immediately began to praise the Lord and thank him for my guardian angel who pushed us to shore and that he made it so lifeless in the ocean that I didn't panic and drown all three of us.

After a lot of crying and more sharing we decided God must have a few more sermons for me to preach and some lost souls to win for his glory. The old saying that many of us use, "Where are you God?" has taken a new meaning in my life.

God has renewed my faith and has refreshed me when I needed it so much. All of those little things that troubled me does not have the same effect or control on my life now. Life is so precious and time truly is running out.

Not only do I feel my life has changed, but once again I have the new fire that only God can give. My preaching has changed, the way I view others, and how I love and show that love has changed. I am indebted to Matthew and David and they are thankful they were in a place to be used by God.

The experience also helped me to remember the debt of gratitude I had for Christ after he saved me. Now that urgency to share the Gospel is fresh in my heart burning to be released.

I feel like the kid that's just got to tell somebody about what God has done for me.

Jerry Jenkins, pastor  
Faith Church  
Vanleer 37181

# RFG offers sound advice: act like Christians

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Interim Editor

Over the past several months, the Relationship Focus Group (RFG) has met and worked diligently to develop a means of strengthening relationships within the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

I encourage Tennessee Baptists to prayerfully read the story on page one and to study the committee's findings.

The report can be condensed into four words: just act like Christians.

The 17-member committee, appointed by last year's convention president Herbert Higdon of Jackson, unanimously agreed on the document.

One must realize these 17 members were not of like mind. Higdon did an excellent job of intentionally choosing members of this committee who hold differing

views within our convention. The committee was comprised of men and women (names are listed on page one) of integrity — people who have been involved in various aspects of convention life.

According to Higdon members were encouraged to be open, honest, and to say what was on their mind. Higdon reported they discussed every aspect of Tennessee Baptist life.

The committee acknowledges there are differences of opinion in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. One would be naive to think we will ever agree on everything. Tennessee Baptists are indeed a diverse group. But the RFG also acknowledges those differences can be overcome if we all act like Jesus expects believers to act. In other words, we don't all have to dot our "i's" and cross our "t's" the same way to get along with each other. We have too

much in common to let our differences keep us apart.

Part (2) of their report says it well: "However, we believe the common goals and beliefs we cherish are stronger and more important than the issues that separate us."

For Tennessee Baptists who believe in God's word, it will be hard to argue with the RFG's findings. They document every element with Scripture, and in some cases, more than one verse. The report is biblically-based and biblically-sound.

Tennessee Baptists, we cannot just say we believe the Bible. We have to live it as well. How can we preach God's love to a lost world, when we can't love ourselves?

Please read and think about the RFG report. Then commit it to prayer. What the Relationship Focus Group asks Tennessee Baptists to do not only makes good sense, it is the Christian thing to do. **B&R**



just for today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



## Start with a smile

Grandma (running to the back door to check on her grandson after a severe earthquake tremor): "Johnny, Johnny, come here quick." Johnny: "I didn't do it grandma, honest!"

## Take this truth

Syrus Publilius said, "Nothing is more wretched than the mind of a man conscious of guilt." Charles Stubbs said he knew of no future so dreadful as to sit alone with his conscience. How's yours today?

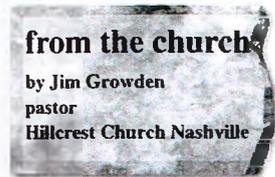
## Memorize this Scripture

"For ... my sin is ever before me" — Psalm 51:3.

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, give my sin, bury it in the deepest part of the sea, and remember it against me no longer. Help me then to forgive myself and likewise remember it no more except as a lesson and warning never to do it again. ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

# Sermons should be measured by response: pastor



At an association meeting, a good friend asked me, "How did you like Bro. Joe's sermon. My friend and I had known Bro. Joe for 20 or so years. This got me to thinking. I preach over 100 sermons per year. Question — How did you like that sermon?"

This question is often asked as one seeks to gain impressions of the worship services.

It appears to be a thing uppermost in the mind of the worshipper.

Most preachers like to have their sermons liked; they are just that human. But seriously, is this the important thing? Should a preacher slant his sermons for the pleasure of the people? Should he gear his message so that people will like what he says? Paul asked this question: "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God, or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10, ASV).

Many evaluate religious services, preaching in particular,

as they evaluate a play, a game, or a TV program. The preacher is on the stage and the people are spectators. God never intended that such criteria be used in the evaluation of worship or in preaching the Gospel.

Sermons are preached by faithful preachers, not to be liked, but to be lived. The big question in the heart of most preachers is: "What does God want?" This must be the supreme and constant consideration of the Gospel preacher.

Suppose a person does not like a specific sermon. What of it? Does the hypocrite like to be told of his hypocrisy? Does the liar like to be told he is ly-

ing? Or, the lukewarm church member, that God is not happy with him?

True Christians will not be too much concerned whether people like the sermon. Rather, the questions will be: "Did it help you? Did it convict you of sin? Did it inspire you to holy living? Did it move you nearer to God?"

Sermons are to be measured not by approval or pleasure of the people, but by their response.

So, how did you respond to the last sermon you heard? Have you changed? Did it move you nearer to God? Listen with your ears and heart, then respond. ■

life just couldn't be any better, a fact the whole kingdom is preparing to celebrate at a special festival.

With all this merrymaking and happiness, I couldn't help but say aloud, "Cue the bad guy," as the music ended. Well, I wasn't totally right. It was a bad girl — the evil witch Zelda (what is it about that name?).

In flashbacks, Zelda helps us try to remember the first two movies where the evil Rothbart was in charge of the Forbidden Arts with a trio of sweet recipes that gave him power far beyond the kitchen. We thought Derek destroyed that classified information, but it turns out he only hid the formulas. Now Zelda wants them.

I'm being nice putting this movie into the B category. While there's little in here that will bother or disturb your children, there is also little to entertain, enlighten, or teach. At best you could argue that the film demonstrates teamwork when all the talking animal buddies help to save the

day. And Derek does overcome a somewhat prideful attitude, although this factor may be too subtle for children to see without help. ■

## Movie: U.S. Marshals

U.S. Rating: PG-13

Time: 131 minutes

Overall: C

Violence: D

Sexual Content: A-

Language: D

This is the recycle decade, and Hollywood's in style. In "U.S. Marshals," Tommy Lee Jones' Oscar-winning character Marshall Sam Gerard from "The Fugitive" is still on the hunt.

This time Gerard is after a man called Sheridan (Wesley Snipes), a tow-truck driver whose fingerprints have shown up on a gun used in a New York City shooting. Gerard is certain that Sheridan is his man and determinedly chases him through swamps, cemeteries, and a care home for the el-

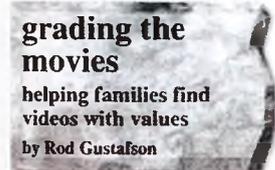
derly; but the audience is still wondering who the real criminal is.

Like "The Fugitive," "U.S. Marshals" is full of intense action and violence. Many are killed, shot, and otherwise disposed of in the name of plot advancement. Some shootings are fairly explicit, with the victims being shown full on with generous amounts of movie blood.

Language is rough and includes the singular use of a sexual expletive (as most PG-13 films do) along with many other lesser profanities and terms of deity.

This movie is rated PG-13. Most movies of this genre are rated R, but parents will want to be cautious showing "U.S. Marshals" even to older teens.

Justice may prevail in the end, but at an exceptional cost. If Gerard was as good a cop as he claims to be, he should have had this case locked up at the one-hour mark and think how many lives that would have saved. ■ — © 1998, One Voice Communications



## Movie: The Swan Princess III

U.S. Rating: G

Time: 71 minutes

Overall: B-

Violence: B

Sexual Content: A

Language: A

Much like the "The Land Before Time," "The Swan Princess" has become a never ending franchise. Here we are at the third edition. See if it sounds like any children's movies you've seen before.

We open on an idyllic kingdom, where Prince Derek and Princess Odette are living happily ever after with their friends in the kingdom of Swan Lake. The lyrics of the opening song emphasize that

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### August

- 19 — Pray for a Christian detoxification center to be established in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where youth may be filled by God and not by drugs.
- 20 — Pray for churches in Michigan that are without pastors.
- 21 — Pray for IMB missionary Janelle Ganey and her work with Recreio Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 22 — Pray for the ministries of the HOPE Baptist Center in Detroit, Mich.
- 23 — Pray for Gina Blackaby, wife of Canadian Baptist pastor Mel Blackaby. She is recuperating from two recent surgeries.
- 24 — Pray for Jeff Davis, interim at Dix Avenue Church in Lincoln Park, Mich.
- 25 — Pray for a spiritual awakening among the youth of Costa Rica.
- 26 — Pray for Baptist work in Costa Rica, Michigan, and Brazil.
- 27 — Praise God for the Loudon County team that worked in Costa Rica this month.

# Ministry to divorced is essential: Cleary

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — "Often a church wanting to hold up the ideal pushes away the people who have not lived up to the ideal," a national consultant told participants in a recent Discipleship and Family Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Emphasizing the biblical ideal is one marriage lasting for a lifetime, Tim Cleary said many people still fall short and experience divorce. Cleary is single adult specialist for the discipleship and family adult department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said churches are becoming more aware of the need to conduct responsible divorce recovery and blended-family ministry.

"This helps people to deal with their grief, emotional baggage, and complex issues of remarriage," he continued. "For the church, these are essential ministries in today's world. Re-

sponsible divorce recovery can prevent hasty rebound relationships and marriages.

"Half of all marriages annually are remarriages. If people don't recover and deal with the baggage in their lives, they are going to repeat the divorce pattern."

Divorce recovery is the number one outreach to people in many churches that are aggressive in that ministry, Cleary said.

Approximately 50 percent of new marriages end in divorce today and "the rate is the same inside the church as it is in the secular world," he said. "When people divorce, you cannot really put them back the way they were before. It isn't an easy ministry to help divorced

people find wholeness again."

He said the first strategy should be to help couples save their marriages if at all possible. "If you can reclaim any marriages, do it, so that a divorce is not necessary," he said. "God favors this more than anything else." ■

Call for Free BROCHURE

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

Screenprint & Embroidery  
Customized caps, shirts, etc.  
**Appealing Apparel**  
1-800-728-9530  
"Each Product Becomes A Walking Billboard"  
Best Prices in the Industry!

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



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

**Church Buses**

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

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

**Wilson's Church Interiors** since 1982!  
Pews - New + Refinishing + Upholstering  
Steeple, Baptistry, Furniture, Carpet, Chairs  
CALL 1-800-844-1911  
www.pews.net  
e-mail: wilway@peop.tdsnet.com

**Pastor Sought**  
Pastor of membership and ministry for non-traditional, vision-driven church in rapid growing community.  
Send resumes to:  
**Cross Point Baptist Church**  
14965 Airline Hwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

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

**VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY**  
Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

## Classified

**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.

**SECRETARY:** Church seeks to fill full-time secretary positions to work 8-5, M-F. Skills in phone etiquette, bookkeeping, word processing, desktop publishing, and other traditional secretarial duties are preferable. Send resumes with references to Doug Campbell, New Vision Baptist Church, 1750 N. Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

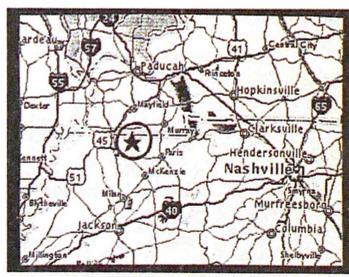


## You are invited to A Day of Remembrance and Recognition

honoring  
**Dr. Gerald L. Stow**  
President/Treasurer  
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

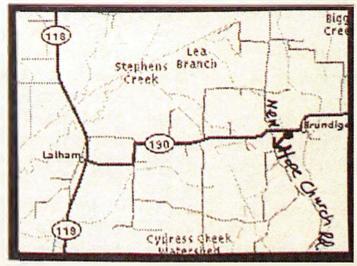
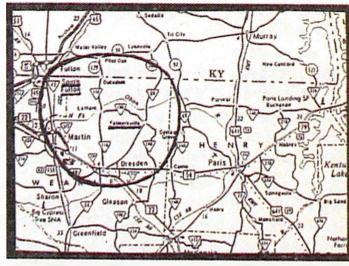
Saturday, September 12, 1998  
10:30 a.m.  
New Hope Baptist Church  
(Dr. Stow's home church)  
Palmer'sville, Tennessee

Following the service, we will enjoy fellowship and lunch at the church. Directions to the church are given below. If you cannot attend, you are invited to send a personal letter of appreciation for Dr. Stow to: Nancy Wells, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024 prior to the event.



From Nashville, take I-40 West to Highway 22. Go north to Dresden. Out of Dresden, go north on Highway 118 to Latham. At Latham, go east on Highway 190 to Palmer'sville and New Hope Church Rd.

New Hope Baptist Church  
1949 New Hope Church Road  
Palmer'sville, TN  
(Weakley County)



Sponsored by TBCH Board of Trustees  
For more information, call Nancy Wells at 1-800-624-8591

**PASSION PLAY OBERAMMERGAU 2000**  
(WE HAVE ACCOMMODATIONS, TICKETS, AND TOURS)

BAVARIAN HIGHLIGHTS - Germany, Austria, Switzerland  
BEST OF ITALY - Rome, Florence, Venice, plus Salzburg and Munich  
IMPERIAL CAPITALS - Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Cruise to Dresden, Berlin  
*(All Bryan Tours stay in the village of Oberammergau in a first-class hotel!)*

**BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS**  
Melbourne, Australia  
January 5-9, 2000  
Extensions to Sydney, Cairns, Ayers Rock, Alice Springs.

Call, write, or fax for brochures:  
**BRYAN TOURS**  
PO Box 5221, Jackson, MS 39296  
(601) 981-1345 or (800) 647-5296  
Fax: 601-981-9335  
E-Mail bryantours@aol.com

## Life and Work Lesson

### True or false hope — Aug. 23

By Paul Medley

**Focal Passage — Jeremiah 29:1-2, 4-14**

I was pastoring a church in Atlanta, Ga. when a man asked if he could see me following the evening worship service. He had been attending our services for a while and I knew that he was estranged from his wife and children. We entered my office and sat down to talk. The man said, "Preacher, do you do funerals?" I replied, "Yes, why do you ask?" He then reached into his coat, pulled out a pistol, and laid it between us. "I want you to do mine," he said.

Fortunately I did not have to do his funeral. After much talking and praying, the man entered a hospital later that same evening. Through our conversation I learned that his wife and children had abandoned him. He had lost his home, his job, and his self-respect. He had come to a time of hopelessness in his life.

This same sense of hopelessness was found among the Hebrew people who had been deported in the days of Nebuchadnezzar.

There are three basic ideas that when placed together give the Christian hope today. The first is to look at life and prepare for the long haul. This is basically what Jeremiah told the people in verses 5 and 6.

A second idea that brings the Christian hope is to learn to ask "how" instead of "why" when times seem bleak. Hope comes in knowing that our trials and troubles can be used to help others through similar times.

The third idea that brings the Christian hope is found in verse 13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." When we remember "whose we are" rather than who we are, or what we have, then we will find hope.

Hope is based on finding the personal relationship with Jesus.

### Living by faith or sight — Aug. 30

**Focal Passage — Jeremiah 31:33-34; 32:1-3, 6-7, 8b-9, 13-15, 21-22**

A college classmate of mine was completely blind. He used a walking cane or an individual to help him move about unfamiliar areas. At the beginning of every semester he would challenge any new student to race him cross the campus of Louisiana College and back again. However, none were ever able to beat him. Indeed, I cannot remember any one of them that even finished the race.

My friend would always tell his challengers, "You lost because you were trying to walk by sight and not by faith." He went on to explain that they looked where they stepped and when they could not see, they fell. He, on the other hand, walked by remembering and trusting that what had been would continue to be.

The message of Jeremiah to the people was a message of faith and of hope. Even when they could not see the hand of God at work they could be assured that he was paving the way for them to repossess the land. They were to live by faith in what God could do and not by what they could see God doing.

What really determines if we are living by faith or sight is not our circumstances but our heart relationship with our Heavenly Father. When we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior then we have begun the faith experience. If we seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives then we will be living by faith daily.

Living by faith allows us to remember the blessings of God, bear the troubles of the world today, and still have the hope of eternity with Jesus. — Medley is pastor, First Church, Jasper.

### Control your anger — Aug. 23

By Richard Skidmore

**Focal Passage — Proverbs 12:16; 14:17, 29; 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; 22:24-25; 25:28; 27:4; 29:20, 22**

One excellent backdrop for this week's study is Ephesians 4:26, "Be ye angry and sin not." It seems inconceivable that one could go through life and not be irritated or upset at all. The verses under consideration this week do not prohibit anger, they counsel us how to deal with anger. There are some things worth getting angry about. It should upset us that children are abused, people are mistreated, evil abounds. As last week's study cautioned us to think before we speak, so this week's Scriptures counsel that we think before we take action caused by anger.

## Family Bible Lesson

We are encouraged to curb or restrain our anger. There is a place for anger, but we should not allow it to run unrestrained in our lives. To do so, to be "hasty," is to act foolishly.

Rather than stirring up strife with our anger, we are called upon to be peacemakers. The word translated "appeaseth" in Proverbs 15:18 can be translated "quiets" or "pacifies." When Jesus spoke of peacemakers, he said they were blessed and would be recognized as the children of God.

To restrain our anger, to seek solutions rather than compounding the problem, is behavior worth cultivating.

We are advised to avoid angry people. Much of Proverbs is in the form of a wise father instructing his son. One recurring theme is the warning against associating with evil people. Peer pressure leads to behavior that is contrary to what we know is right, to what we would choose to do if we were in different company. This is not a modern phenomenon, nor is it confined to young people. All of us are strongly influenced by our friends and associates.

We are urged to act out forgiveness rather than anger. Paul wrote of his having "learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." How is one to learn to face injustice, shameful treatment, anger, and exercise self-control, be a

### Watch out — Aug. 23

By Jim Powers

**Focal Passage — II Peter 2**

Peter is trying in chapter two to prepare his readers for some unusual event in their spiritual future. In our society we also have a large group of religious persons trying to pass off false teachings in the name of true Christianity.

Just as false prophets were opposed in the Old Testament so are they opposed in the New Testament. The false teachers are easily recognized by their secretive ways of introducing heresies.

These false teachers will glory in the privileges of Christianity but refuse to accept its moral restraints. The truth of Christian redemption is rejected by false teachers because they practice immoral behavior.

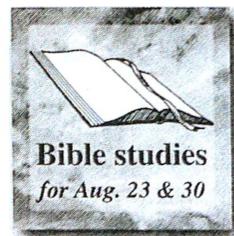
Before a true believer endorses any "ministry," an examination must take place to judge all the teachings by biblical standards and doctrine. We are bombarded through our TVs and our radios with half-truths and untruths that have as their main focus to separate a man from his money.

Peter, with three illustrations in verses four and 10, writes about how the judgment of evil is inevitable.

Firstly, if God punished sin in his angels and cast them into hell, he will certainly punish false teachings in the present.

Secondly, Peter refers to the worldwide destruction of the flood as God's means for punishing evil.

peacemaker, forgive? Two verses following his testimony of learning, Paul told us how. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).



### Respect one another — Aug. 30

**Focal Passage — Proverbs 4:1-5; 6:20; 10:1; 22:6; 31:26-28**

Humorist Dennis Swanberg tells a story of leaving for school one morning with a remark from his mother ringing in his ears. Dennis was dressed in his usual sloppy sweatshirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes. As he was about to go out the door, his mother told him she wondered what his teachers must think of her when they looked at him. She told him "You are a reflection of your mother." It was a disturbing thought for one of the high school's star football players to be told he looked like his mother. There is, however, an important truth for us in her remark. Parents should realize that their children resemble their mothers and fathers in more ways than physical appearance. This week's lesson focuses on the responsibilities of parents and of children.

Parents have tremendous responsibility. The primary place of instruction mentioned in Scripture is the home. It is parents who are to teach their children diligently, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This instruction can take the form of correction and it also can take the form of an exemplary life.

Children have tremendous responsibility. Various words in the text speak of this: hear, attend, forsake not, retain, keep, live, get, forget not, neither decline.

The teaching, discipline, and example provided by parents is foundational to the lives of children. Without this vital background, children face an awesome, uphill struggle as adults. Parents and children then have a mutual obligation to see that a child trained up in the way he should go does not depart from that way when he is older. We must keep in mind, however, that children are individuals who have volition and are ultimately responsible for their own way of life. — Skidmore is director of missions, Weakley Association, Dresden.

## Explore the Bible Lesson

Thirdly, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah serves as an example of how God deals with false teachings, especially in the area of sexual failure. An interesting sidelight is the reference to Lot as a righteous man. The only reason Lot could have been considered righteous is that he refused to join the immorality of Sodom.

The wrong ways of the false teachers are listed so all can examine what they are taught. These false teachers are brave, self-willed, arrogant, non-respectful, reviling blasphemers of the truth of God. Peter encourages his readers not to follow the examples of the false teachers. The false teachers are utterly depraved deceitful teachers who are headed for destruction.

The conclusion is that the false teachers bring doom to their followers. Although the false teachers appear to be genuine, their true colors will be revealed. Believers today need to know the truth because the real Gospel, tried and proven, sets one free.

### Living by the high standard — Aug. 30

**Focal Passage — II Peter 3:1-18**  
After using the major part of this

epistle to warn against false teachers and their false doctrines, Peter gives the purpose of the epistle. The primary thrust of the epistle is to remind them of things they already knew.

Until this point the errors of the false teachers had been pointed out in general terms but now Peter gets specific by reporting the false teachers deny events of the last days. Peter again points out that immorality is the lifestyle of the heretical teachers.

God is faithful to his promises. His greatest desire is that all come to him in repentance. God is patiently waiting until the appropriate time to send Jesus the second time. God knows the day of Jesus' return and he can't be rushed by our feeble predictions.

Just as a thief does not announce his arrival, neither will the second coming of Christ be announced.

Anticipation of Christ's imminent return should produce godly lives in us. We are looking for a new heaven and a new earth. In this new order righteousness will prevail.

Personal holiness should be practiced and reached for as a goal as we wait on Jesus' coming.

Because we live in an age of cults and false teachings, believers must be cautious. Some of these teachings may seem plausible until they are tested with Scripture. Perseverance and steadfastness are important if God's people are to avoid becoming victims of deceit. — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murrefreestboro.



■ **Tony Brannon** and **Larry Kennedy** were ordained recently as deacons of Puryear Church, Puryear.

■ **Green Hill Church**, Mount Juliet, ordained **Jonathan Atchely** into the ministry Aug. 2.

■ **Liberty Church**, Bristol, recently ordained **Ken Phipps**, **Tony Stout**, and **Alex Turner** as deacons.

■ **Stones River Church**, Smyrna, recently ordained **Grady Anderson** as a deacon.



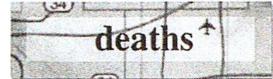
■ **Swan Creek Church**, Hampshire, called **Chris Gowan** as pastor, effective Aug. 2. **Elmer Crosby**, retired director of missions, Maury Association, served as interim pastor.

■ **Randy McCloud** of Sevier County Association would like to serve a church. He can be reached at (423) 436-9352.

■ **Hudson Chesteen** recently celebrated his eight year anniversary as pastor of Henderson's Chapel Church, Pigeon Forge.

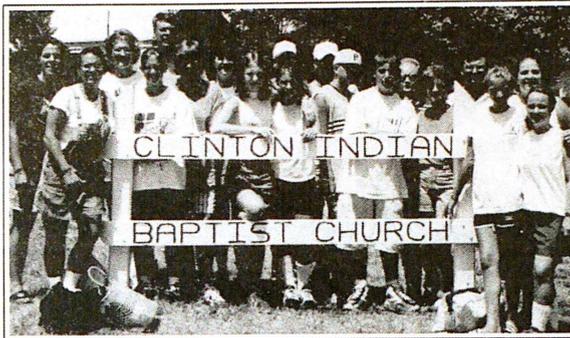
■ **Don Aycock**, pastor, McLean Church, Memphis, has written the book, *Prayer 101: What It Is. What It Isn't. How to Do It*. It is published by Broadman and Holman of LifeWay Christians Resources in Nashville. Examining the biblical precedents, the book demonstrates the power of praying, the spiritual necessity of prayer, and the boundless benefits of speaking openly to the Lord.

■ **G. Ross Maroney Sr.**, pastor, Stones River Church, Smyrna, recently celebrated his 10th anniversary of service there.



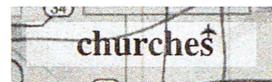
■ **Howard T. Chandler**, 85, father of Joe W. Chandler, associate director, Knox County Association, died Aug. 4 of injuries from an automobile accident.

■ **Guy Farris**, 75, of Cookeville, pastor, Woodcliff Church, Monterey, died Aug. 6. He had served the church for six years. Farris ministered for 40 years. He retired as pastor of First Church, Gainesboro. During his retirement he served as pastor of Wilhite Church, Cookeville; Elizabeth Chapel, Smithville; Pistole Church, Sparta; New Home



**MEMBERS OF A TEAM** from Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, pause during their work at Clinton Indian Church, Clinton, Okla. The Tennesseans led Vacation Bible School, a revival, did construction, and visited homes. As a result of their efforts, 53 people made professions of faith and six made other spiritual commitments.

Church, Boma; Nash Grove Church, Baxter; and Hampton's Crossroads Church, Cookeville. Prior to retirement he was pastor of Wilhite Church; Hilham Road Mission (now Bangham Heights Church, Cookeville); First Church, Baxter; and Pond Grove Church, Rockwood. Farris served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board 1984-91.



■ **Jones Chapel Church**, Paris, will hold a Fall Harvest of Women at Paris Landing Convention Center Nov. 6-7. **Becky Freeman**, a regular contributor for *Home Life* magazine, will speak along with author **Lindsey O'Connor**. She wrote *Working at Home* and *If Mama Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy*. For more information, call (901) 642-6271.

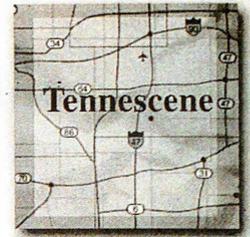
■ **Walnut Hill Church**, Harriman, will celebrate its centennial anniversary Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. **Claude Kelly** of Lawrenceburg, pastor of the church from 1957-62, will speak. A luncheon also will be held.

■ **Bethlehem Church**, Greenfield, held revival recently which resulted in 29 people making professions of faith, 75 people making other spiritual decisions,

and five joining the church. **Henry Linginfelter**, evangelist of Alcoa, spoke.

■ **Grace Church**, Nashville, will hold its third annual Back to School Bash for youth Aug. 26 from 6-8 p.m. **Jeff Spooner**, youth evangelist of Pensacola, Fla., will speak and **Amanda Washington** will lead praise and worship. Youth will receive free refreshments and gifts. For more information, contact the church at (615) 865-6262.

■ The Baptist student ministry of **South Seminole Church**, East Ridge, sent 48 youth and adults to Port Maria, Jamaica, July 20-29. The group led Vacation Bible Schools at three different churches, built a



second floor on a Christian school, and led an open-air crusade in three areas. Team members also ministered at an infirmary, a hospital, a prison, and a health care clinic. As a result, about 200 people made initial commitments to God. The group, which raised \$48,000 for the project, was led by **Ted Gocke**, minister to students, and **Ron Perry**, pastor. The group is planning another project in Jamaica in 2000.



■ **Cumberland Gap Association** is hosting a Skills Development Workshop led by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries Aug. 29. **Jerry Chapman** of the TBC office will address "Developing Lay Leaders." Another workshop, "Time Management," will be held on Sept. 26 and be led by **Lloyd Elder**, retired president, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. For more information, call the association at (423) 869-8716.



**RECEIVING A PLAQUE** for 20 years of service as pastor of Madison Church, Jackson, is **Gerald O. Smith**, left, from **James Johnson**, chairman of deacons. Smith and his wife, **Linda Graves Smith**, were honored July 19. He has led the congregation and served as director of Vacation Bible School and she has taught Sunday School, VBS, First Place, participated in Women on Mission, and arranged many floral arrangements for the church.

## Dyer Association churches assist Indiana congregation

For Baptist and Reflector

**DYERSBURG** — For five years, Dyer Association churches have been assisting a congregation in Syracuse, Ind.

The relationship began when a director of missions speaking at a World Missions Conference reported on the needs of Syracuse Church. The Tennesseans learned the church was needed because no Baptist congregations are located within a 20-mile area of Syracuse, a resort area which is home to many wealthy people.

During a visit there, the Tennesseans became acquainted with **Terry White**, pastor of Syracuse Church, and began trying to help the congregation find a building. It was renting meeting space.

In May of 1997 the association voted to buy a used church building

for the congregation. Since then, many Baptists from the association have traveled there to help members of the church.

A group of men helped renovate the new building. Then **Acteens** did evangelism and conducted Backyard Bible Clubs. Next, 10 Woman's Missionary Union members led by **Edith Estes**, associational WMU director, trained women at Syracuse Church to lead WMU groups, Acteens, and Girls in Action.

This spring, **Steve Williams**, pastor, Macedonia Church, Ripley, and his wife, conducted a Winter Bible Study for the church.

Efforts escalated this past summer. Forty members of Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, served there. They did construction and conducted block parties and music programs. Then **McCullough's**

Chapel Church, Dyersburg, sent a group to do construction and lead a Vacation Bible School. Finally, members of Springhill Church, Dyersburg, and Westside Church, Halls, formed a group. They led a revival, presented music, and led a VBS.

The relationship between the Tennesseans and Indians has become so close that the Whites decided to send their daughter, **Faith**, to Union University, Jackson. And the Tennesseans responded by sup-

porting her financially.

Despite challenges faced by the Indiana Baptists, they know and express love, said **Estes**.

**Joe Naylor**, director of missions, said the relationship has been good for both the association and the church. ■



**THE 15 GIRLS IN ACTION** of First Church, Winchester, who attended GA Camp at Camp Linden pause with leaders **Jeannie Amacher**, **Ginger Hall**, and **Cherie Williams**.



**TERRY WHITE** and his family, from left, **Faith**, **Judith**, and **Linette**, pause inside the building of Syracuse Church, Syracuse, Ind., where he serves as pastor.