

# T E N N E S S E E ' S B A P T I S T & REFLECTOR

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## Tennesseans travel to aid hurricane victims

By Marcia Knox  
For Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief feeding unit ministered over the weekend to victims of Hurricane Bonnie here.

Instead of serving food, however, the Tennessee volunteers assessed the damage and shared their faith.

The feeding operation was turned over to Corinth Church. Tennessee Baptists left food for more than 20,000 meals to assist victims.

"We were deployed by the American Red Cross to Eliza-

beth City, but we found out after assessment that other than some clean up needs, there were few additional needs which could not be handled by the local people," said Tim Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director.

Damage was minimal in the Elizabeth City coastal area after Hurricane Bonnie came ashore Aug. 26. Power in the area was out for three days before being restored.

"Events like this show that humans can make all the predictions, yet no one but God knows what is actually going to happen," Bearden said.

In other areas of North Car-

olina, two deaths occurred, thousands were without electricity, and many houses were damaged or destroyed due to torrential rains, floods, and high winds which swept through the region.

Prior to going to Elizabeth City Aug. 28, the feeding unit was staged at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Cary on Aug. 27.

The TBC unit left Aug. 26. A tractor trailer, donated by Tennessee Steel Haulers of Nashville, owned by Sid Stanley, carrying the food also left. Bobby Case of South Carolina donated his time and drove the truck.

Tennessee volunteers who participated included Jim Jones, Roscoe England, Curtis Fowler, and Don Byrd of West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; Bob Stephenson, First Church, Hendersonville; Gilbert Ray, Moran Church, Clinton; John Paul and Virginia Cole, First Church, Huntingdon; Joyce and Bill Curington, Roseberry Church, Mascot; Ray Siler, Demory Church, LaFollette; Dick Staggs, First Church, Bemis; Ronnie Snoderly, Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville; L. O. Miller, First Church, Erwin; Ray and Elberta Roberts, First Church, Concord, Knoxville; and Tim Bearden, Clearview Church, Franklin. ■

### Amid 'Y2K' problem

## Suggested steps Christians can take to minister

By Ken Walker  
For Baptist Press

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

ATLANTA — While few can agree on the severity of the computer problems society will face on Jan. 1, 2000, two evangelical Christian authors agree the church must prepare to face the worst.

Shaunti Feldhahn and Mike Hyatt, who have written books on the so-called "Y2K problem" or "millennium bug," say congregations should be ready with supplies of food, water, electricity, and other emergency measures.

Feldhahn, of Atlanta, compared the sit-

uation to a tornado that swept through central Georgia in April. The church and the Red Cross helped feed people and restore order, she said. Christians remained to minister among the victims for the longest period of time, which helped many see the presence of Christ, she added.

However, if the church doesn't wake up to the possible crisis posed by potential computer malfunctions at the turn of the century, she said it will be unprepared for a technological tornado.

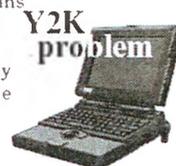
"Christians are less aware of this situation than the average small business," she said. "Individually, people need to pray

and prepare. They need to turn their hearts to the Lord. As Henry Blackaby says, 'If you're in an intimate relationship with the Lord, that's the most important thing.'

"This is not a moment where, as Christians, our hearts need to fail us," echoed Hyatt, who lives in the Nashville area.

"We need to be examples to our communities," he said of the approaching Y2K problem. "We need to take the moral high ground and be willing to share, be involved in mercy ministries and meet human needs. We have a responsibility for the people around us, both Christian and non-Christian"

— See Steps, page 2



### Associational secretaries gather

Forty-three associational secretaries attended the first annual Associational Secretaries Celebration Aug. 27-28 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The event was sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group. Program leader Donna Gandy, left, a consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources, visits with secretaries, from left, Della Ayers, Bledsoe Association; Evelyn Jones, Shelby Association; and Linda Williams, Holston Valley Association. — Photo by Connie Davis

### Lynn Porch begins new treatment

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Lynn Porch, wife of TBC Executive Director James Porch, has been accepted for inclusion in a pharmaceutical research program at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The protocol calls for infusion every 21 days at the center.

The Porches flew to San Antonio Aug. 30 to begin treatment.

Continue to remember Mrs. Porch and her family in prayer. *B&R*

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# Suggested steps Christians can take to ...

— Continued from page 1

Thus, both recommend believers store food, water and other supplies in advance of Jan. 1, 2000, to help provide for their families and several neighbors. When you help others you will be able to tell them why you were prepared, Feldhahn said.

As for churches, she suggested they are equipped to meet the potential crisis in ways individuals can't, such as:

- ▶ purchasing expensive electric generators for emergency power.

- ▶ storing large supplies of food and providing temporary living quarters for those caught without heat in the dead of winter.

- ▶ maintaining emergency cooking facilities that families would find too costly or would require too much space in their homes.

Just providing the essentials of food and water can reduce disease rates by two-thirds during a disaster, she pointed out.

"They also need to think about what if their church

community is the community around them," she said. "Right now my pastor drives 10 miles to church. But what if suddenly people can't get gasoline and can only walk or ride a bike? Think about reaching out to the people in your neighborhood."

Hyatt, who has spoken in recent months to a number of churches and other community organizations, said he stresses two messages in churches:

- ▶ Build awareness in the congregation and encourage people to take responsibility for themselves. Don't depend on government, private industry, or even the church to meet individual needs, he said.

- ▶ Be ready to help those who either don't have the resources or the foresight to prepare for the crisis.

"I know of churches that are laying up food banks, clothing closets, tool chests, and all the rest," Hyatt said. "Even in our church we've divided up (mem-

bers) geographically, into sectors. We have a coordinator in every sector to serve as a resource point for members and the community."

While some may question taking extraordinary steps and say they trust in God's miraculous provision, Hyatt said preparing for calamity doesn't

show a lack of faith.

God could have eased the famine in Egypt, but the Lord chose to work through Joseph by directing him to store up grain for seven years, Hyatt said.

"If we're prepared, we may not have had an evangelism opportunity like this since the Civil War," said the vice president of Thomas Nelson Publishers.

"But we're not going to be able to take advantage of that and do the kind of evangelism we need to do if we're not prepared. If we become victims, we're going to be in the same stew with everybody else."

Feldhahn likens the pending crisis to two historical situ-

ations that sparked explosive growth for Christianity.

The first occurred in 165 A.D., when a plague swept the Roman Empire. Christians stayed in the cities to help victims when many in the ruling class fled to the countryside, she said.

In the 1660s, English Puritans were persecuted by ruling Anglicans, she said, for refusing to bow down and agree that the king was the head of the church. However, when a severe plague hit London around the end of that decade, the Puritans came into the city to minister while high church officials, doctors, and others left.

Afterwards, the Puritans had the people's respect, Feldhahn said.

"Instead of being oppressed, they were beloved by society. It led to the First Great Awakening. That's where Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches came from.

"The abolition of slavery, free hospitals, and building orphanages to help kids dying on the streets — all that arose from this period." ■



## Union ethics professor calls for president to resign

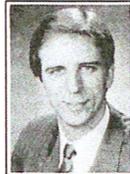
Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A Union University ethics professor is among people nationwide calling for the resignation of President Bill Clinton

David Gushee, vice president of Evangelicals for Social Action and professor of ethics and director of the Center for Christian Leadership at Union University, Jackson, issued a two-page statement to media dated Aug. 20. "Perhaps Clinton's gravest offense against the nation," Gushee wrote, "has been his contribution to our moral coarsening.

"For seven months we have all witnessed legitimate news stories that by their very nature were unsuitable for dinner table conversation. The talk of sex and all its definitions and variations has proven a feast for late-night comics, radio

jocks, and others who make a living out of appealing to our baser selves. We must remember that at any moment on any day President Clinton could have ended that. But to protect himself, he did not, and so we are all soiled."



GUSHEE

Gushee wrote.

"What a waste. Clinton's recklessness and lack of integrity have destroyed his ability to govern this nation effectively.

"I doubt he will be impeached. But I believe that for the good of the nation, he

should resign."

Describing himself "a pro-life Democrat," Gushee added that he is not "a graceless legalist. I believe in forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and I have every hope that the president will make peace with his God, his family, and every person he has wronged in this process. But Christians misunderstand the meaning of forgiveness when we use the concept as a way to avoid naming wrongdoing for exactly what it is and as a way to move quickly toward premature closure in the name of 'putting the past behind us.'"

Gushee, meanwhile, voiced appreciation for what he described as "the best" of the Clinton administration's contributions to the nation which include reducing the federal deficit, and expanding "health coverage for poor kids." ■



### 90-year-old minister honored

W. L. Baker, right, former pastor of First Church, Donelson and now senior associate pastor of Immanuel Church, Lebanon, celebrated his 90th birthday and 66 faithful years of ministry Aug. 9. In a service of celebration, Baker preached the *Sermon on the Mount* from memory. Here he receives a plaque from Immanuel pastor Donald Owens. A reception followed the service.

## NAMB rolls out new paradigm

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Dropping the "s" from missions education signals a big change in how the North American Mission Board intends to generate interest and support for building the kingdom of God at home and around the world.

Evangelism, domestic and international missions, and volunteer mobilization are all tied into the awareness concept now being called "mission education" instead of "missions education" as it once was known.

The goal is part of a broader emphasis at NAMB to help mobilize a growing force of "on-

mission" Christians eager to join God in his mission of reconciling the world to himself — in whatever way they are uniquely equipped to do so.

Tim Seanor, NAMB director of mission education, said one way of describing the new approach is "You can discover your mission through mission education.

"Christians can participate in the mission of God. That's why we drop the 's' from missions education," Seanor said.

"Missions becomes more than just a collection of projects and works. The mission God gives us becomes a passion," he said. ■

**With help from fellow Baptists**

# Pastor, wife grieve, deal with son's suicide

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

**FRIENDSHIP** — The fact it was Good Friday when it happened was even more difficult for Mike and Sandra Melton. Their only child, Jeff, 22, took his life on the day when God allowed his own son to die.

The couple doesn't think Jeff chose the day or should be considered any better a person because of the coincidence.

In fact, they realize now Jeff was so depressed he wasn't aware of the date and its significance.

But they are sure he was a good son, although he didn't believe it according to his farewell note and conversations held just prior to his death. And they are sure they will be reunited with him in heaven because he was a Christian.

**Jeff Melton**

Like many young adults, Jeff was trying to find his place in the world, explained Mike Melton, pastor, Friendship Church here.

After several years of trying to find his niche in college, he moved to Dyersburg and began working. At the first of this year he lost his job. Then Jeff started working for a company in sales work. He became discouraged when potential clients canceled appointments and sales were slow, said Melton.

Jeff also had some personal problems he had discussed several times with his father, including the evening prior to his death. Mike left their last encounter encouraged, with the impression Jeff had reached a turning point in his life.

Unfortunately, Jeff either didn't feel that way or changed his mind. His parents will never know.

**'A blur' of support**

Learning about Jeff's death and the fact he took his own life was the hardest thing Mike and Sandra Melton ever endured, they said.

"It was all a blur," said Mike. But he



**MIKE AND SANDRA MELTON** pause in Mike's office at Friendship Church.

remembers some things. He recalls when his friend, a member of Friendship Church and mayor of Friendship, told him Jeff had committed suicide. The man prefaced his report with the warning that Melton was about to hear the toughest fact he would ever hear.

That level of understanding was found in every interaction of the Meltons during the next couple of months, they said.

And people were not only sensitive, they were available, the Meltons added.

"Within a matter of minutes (of when they learned about Jeff's death), the whole town was here," said Sandra.

Part of the reason for the amount of support they received was their long tenure, they explained. Mike has served as pastor of Friendship Church for 12 years. And the town is close-knit, with a population of about 600.

That evening, the deacons met with Mike and told him they understood Jeff didn't have insurance to cover funeral expenses. The church would cover those expenses, they assured him.

The next morning, people returned, Sandra added. They arrived with food, their prayers, and offers of help in preparation for the funeral. And the couple got many phone calls from

friends, some who live in other areas and even other states.

Another reason for the response was that people knew Jeff, who had grown up in the community. He was known for his love of children, they said.

The next day, Easter, was Jeff's funeral. And people came again. The sanctuary was filled with one of the largest crowds it had held in 12 years. All of the pastors in Crockett Association attended along with others from the area and from out of state. And another crowd attended the graveside service.

The couple received more than 300 cards and gifts. And they continued to receive other contacts, some following an announcement

which appeared in the *Baptist and Reflector*. A few of the contacts were eerie in terms of their relevance to their situation, explained Mike.

For example, a friend who had lost a son by suicide traveled some distance to attend the graveside service. And he came despite the fact Melton didn't contact him. Friends who had lost their children through accidents also comforted the couple.

Sandra recalled several contacts from people who had relationships with Jeff. One woman wrote to tell the couple how much Jeff's friendship had meant to her son, a fellow classmate who had endured ostracism because of the family's poverty. And a friend called to say he was thankful for Jeff's witness to him.

**Recipients of ministry**

The Meltons realize they may be rare among ministers, whose job is to minister, because they have been the recipients of ministry.

They realize they are a living example of what they have known throughout their min-



istry — that pastors and their families are human despite the expectations by others and themselves to be superhuman. In fact, the expectations of pastors and their families concerning themselves may sabotage their efforts, said Mike.

They feel guilt over Jeff's death, but they have come to realize guilt is associated with suicide and it doesn't mean they were failures as parents. Mike added he is comforted by people "who don't look at me in any different way."

Church members have modeled that acceptance, they said.

The deacons gave Mike time off, as much as he felt he needed, in addition to providing the funeral. And on Father's Day and Mother's Day, the deacons held a prayertime for Mike to strengthen him during those sensitive days.

The congregation was assisted in its ministry to the Meltons by Conroy Ryan of Madison-Chester and Crockett associations. Ryan, who was a staff member at a church where the pastor committed suicide, spoke at the church and conducted a question and answer period for members.

The Meltons have resumed their ministries different people.

Mike reported he is a better pastor having experienced this loss. And Mike and Sandra have learned how many friends they have and how great God is.

"If God can help us through this, then God can lead us through anything," explained Mike Melton. *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*

**CML conferences planned this month**

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Four fall regional church media library conferences are planned by the TBC Executive Board's Christian Growth Development Group for September and early October.

Dates and locations are:

Sept. 12 — First Church, Lenoir City

Sept. 19 — Two Rivers Church, Nashville

Sept. 26 — Bellevue Church, Cordova

Oct. 3 — Brainerd Church, Chattanooga

The sessions begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

Registration is \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Registration fee includes lunch. For more information, call Jan Moye at (615) 781-8921. ■

## New writers enlisted for SS lesson comments

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Three new writers have been enlisted to write Sunday School commentaries for the September-November quarter.

Long-time Tennessee Baptist leader Calvin S. Metcalf will write the Explore the Bible series. Metcalf, pastor emeritus of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1989.

He has served on the TBC Executive Board and is currently a trustee at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

In addition to Central, where he served from 1975-97, Metcalf was pastor of Emmanuel Church, Elizabethton, from 1964-70 and also has served as pastor of churches in North and South Carolina. He is a graduate of Mars

Hill (N.C.) College, Carson-Newman, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., where he earned the master of divinity and doctor of divinity degrees.

Metcalf and his wife, Barbara, have three grown children and three grandchildren.

West Tennessee pastor Dale Denning will write the Life and Work series. Denning has been pastor of Chapel Hill Church, Milan, since 1991. Prior to that he was interim pastor of Old Bethlehem Church, Rutherford.

He has also served on the staffs of Whitehall Church, Trenton; Avondale Church, Humboldt; and Bethel Church, Greenfield, primarily in the ar-



**DENNING**



**METCALF**



**NIMMO**

ea of music and youth.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned the master of divinity degree.

Denning serves on the finance committee of Gibson County Association.

Denning and his wife, Christi, have two sons, Drew and Drake.

Hendersonville layman Darrell Nimmo will write the Family Bible series.

A native of Kentucky, Nim-

mo is district service manager for Simplex Time Recorder Company.

He is a former employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) and has served on church staffs in Kentucky and Texas.

Nimmo is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned the master of arts in religious education degree.

He is an active member of First Church, Hendersonville, where he teaches a ninth grade boys Sunday School class and a weekly preparation class for leaders. Nimmo and his wife, Mary, have two children, Sarah and Adam. Mary Nimmo is church pages coordinator for the *Baptist and Reflector*. *B&R*



## 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.

### Born sinners

I read there is a plan to periodically publish the plan of salvation in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

I noticed that no published plan includes the information that we are born sinners and condemned to die (Romans 5:19). We sin because we are sinners and not sinners because we sin. As Adam condemned us to die, Jesus died to save us from condemnation (Romans 5:19).

Instead of turning from our sins and turning to Jesus, we need to turn to Jesus and turn away from our sins. We need the Holy Spirit to turn away from our sins (Romans 8:26) and we don't have the Spirit until we accept Jesus for salvation. "Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9b). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31a).

There is no turning from sin to save us since we continue to sin. "If any man (Christian) sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1b).

Jesus died so I wouldn't have to.

Still a sinner, but saved by grace.

Fern V. Holloway  
White Pine 37890

### Dedicated group

For the past several months it has been my privilege to work with a dedicated and concerned group known as the Relationship Focus Group. This group has been ably and efficiently assisted by the executive staff of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and additional expert leadership was provided by Speed Leas of the Alban Institute. He has been a knowledgeable resource and a constant source of encouragement.

This group, representing a cross-section of theological and polity views across our state convention, has accepted its role and sought to act redemptively and responsibly. There has been total involvement by each member of the group. Each has spoken honestly and openly about concerns that touch our lives as Tennessee Baptists. All this has been done in a Christian spirit and with a desire that we serve our Lord in harmony and unity. This diverse group is a model of what the world ought to see in our personal relations and our relationships as Tennessee Baptists representing our Lord and the kingdom enterprise.

A consensus agreement, signed by each member of the group, was printed in the Aug. 19 edition of the *Baptist and Reflector*. It is my plea that every Baptist in Tennessee will study this agreement and adopt it as a guide — for personal life and for denominational relationships.

I have never worked with a group more dedicated to modeling mutual respect, love, trust, and unity. I am grateful for each of them.

Herbert Higdon  
Jackson 38305

### True friend dies

A friend of Tennessee Baptists, Southern Baptists, and the world has died.

Christian country comedian

Jerry Clower was known and loved by one and all. Devoted family man, Southern Baptist layman, and true friend are but a few of many ways he could be described.

Jerry's testimony influenced millions — on the Grand Ole Opry, during the Southern Baptist Convention, Royal Ambassador breakfasts, playing at country fairs, and numerous other events. Wherever you encountered Jerry, you were overwhelmed, not only by his stature, but by his genuineness and his warmth — his big heart.

We, as Tennessee Baptists, were privileged, maybe even more than any other group (outside of his beloved Mississippi) to have had many occasions to see and hear Jerry. Jerry's manager, Tandy Rice, was here in Nashville and very supportive of Jerry's visits in Tennessee. Jerry spoke for our TBC State Evangelism Conference and in many of our churches. His church engagements were considered a tithe of his time.

I believe Tennessee Baptists can unite in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Jerry's family, Tandy, and other close friends.

Listen! Does it sound like the angels laughing? Oh, that must be Jerry sitting right in the middle of a big group of them!

Barbara Owen  
Brentwood 37024

### Great joy

It was with interest and great joy that I read about the 30-year ministry of Brook Hollow Church (Aug. 12 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*) in conducting Vacation Bible Schools in eastern Kentucky. It triggered a memory of mine from the summer of 1962.

During that summer I led a group of youth from East Church, Louisville, Ky., to conduct two Bible schools in east Kentucky. It was at the old Magoffin Baptist Institute

where I had preached a revival and had been encouraged by staff members there to bring such a group.

From 1963-66 I led youth to the same area from Ballardsville (Ky.) Church where I had subsequently moved. During this period the VBSs expanded to four. Following my departure from Ballardsville, the association there took up the project for the next two years.

By 1969, Gary Anderson, a pastor from that association, had moved to Nashville to become a prison chaplain. He united with Brook Hollow Church and I recall his telling me that he was suggesting it as a ministry for the church.

Now, after 30 years, it is good to know that they not only did the project, but are still doing it. It is also good to know that David and Mary Lu Smith, with whom I attended Carson-Newman, were the first leaders and are still active in the program. So that makes a 37-year string.

Two verses come to mind: "My word ... shall not return unto me void" (Isaiah 55:11), and "Cast your bread upon the water for you will find it after many days" (Ecclesiastes 11:1).

W. Clyde Tilley  
Seymour 37865

### Appreciates feature

I enjoy reading state papers for news and information. Also, in noting that the *Baptist and Reflector* carries weekly Sunday School lesson commentaries that parallel our lines of curriculum, I wanted to express my gratitude for this feature.

I'm sure many Sunday School teachers benefit from insights in these commentaries as they prepare their lessons.

Thank you for all you do to keep Southern Baptists informed.

James T. Draper Jr., president  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
Nashville 37274

### Wrong standards

I read with interest and appreciation the full report of the Relationship Focus Group appointed by former TBC president Herbert Higdon. I would like to offer my explanation of our contentions and lack of respect for each other.

We are guilty of the same mistakes that plagued the Corinthians. They made the mistake of using the wrong standards of measurements for comparisons. They compared themselves with the Apostle Paul (Corinthians 10:10). They said his written word was powerful, but his spoken word was contemptible, and his bodily presence weak. There was no way Paul could measure up to the standards of speech and physical appearance held by the Corinthians.

We do not want to accept people as they are. We want to change them to comply with our beliefs. It seems that I have heard it all in over 50 years of ministry.

We voice our thoughts on how people should dress, sing, pray, give, support programs, and almost everything about church activities. I had a church search committee to hear me, and when they did not contact me, the director of missions told me the chairman thought my hair was too long. I recalled that he was almost bald.

Paul said that if we measure ourselves among ourselves we are not wise. This criticism, using the wrong standard of measurement, is wrong. It is done by individuals, churches, associations, state conventions, the Southern Baptist Convention, and many other groups. Why not use the Lord Jesus Christ as our standard of measurement?

Believe me. Healing will not come until we quit measuring ourselves by ourselves.

Virgil Peters  
Spring City 37381

## Accident following missions trip is reminder of God's timing

A man recently died while I held him in my arms. Eighteen people from East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, were traveling home from Baltimore, Md., where we had an incredible week in missions with a sister Baptist church while doing backyard Bible schools in two lower class areas. We experienced many miracles that week beginning with the task of packing a ton of stuff into half of a 15-passenger van, not including the 18 of us in that one and a small bus.

The incident occurred about 35 miles north of Roanoke, Va. In the pouring rain, there was a two-vehicle accident that happened in between our two buses. Narrowly we escaped damage and harm literally by inches.

Sixty yards from us was a car that looked like it was flattened. I got out and ran to the car while I called on my mobile for assistance. As I approached the car, three people were already there. One

asked if anyone knew what to do. I stated I was an EMT/paramedic and they moved aside. The man was bleeding profusely and was pinned inside the two-door car. Both doors were crushed and every window was shattered in the car. His left leg and hip were obviously broken and he was having serious difficulty breathing.

Even though I knew he didn't have long, I did what I could to comfort him in his remaining moments. Three of our youth bowed on their knees at the edge of the interstate and began praying. It was pouring rain and no one had asked them to do that. Even though help was on the way I knew it was no use. The man died in a cold desolate ditch with his head in the hands of a stranger. He never regained consciousness, even though I kept talking to him. This was not the first time someone had died in my arms. In my years as a policeman and fireman it had happened two other times. I

prayed each time it would be my last.

I learned later he was 34 years old and was traveling through the area on business. He left a wife and two children. I pray he was a Christian, but we will never know. Please pray for this man's family.

After such a magnificent week of praise, sharing the Gospel, and youth missions, how could it end the way it did? Just a reminder that God's timing is the important time, not ours.

Later in sharing with the youth I reminded them that despite my knowledge I did not have the tools I needed on the scene that may could have saved the man's life.

In everyday Christian life God gives us the tools we need to make a difference in the lives of others. There are times, however, we fail to use those tools. We all need to use the tools God makes available to us.

Andy Mullins  
East Ridge 37412

# Christians beware, the water is getting hotter

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Interim Editor

Most everyone has heard about the frog in the kettle. Place a live frog in water, slowly turn up the heat, and the frog will be boiled before he knows it.

I became more convinced each day that Christians are in a huge bowl of water and the secular world is turning up the heat.

Secularism is swallowing us up and too often Christians do not realize it.

It took a weekend "getaway" for me to notice things that happen around me all the time.

My family and I joined some friends and traveled to Atlanta to see a couple of Braves games. On Friday night I was settled in my seat watching John Smoltz set down the San Diego Padres.

Directly ahead of me, with only one row between us, was a lesbian couple being overly affectionate. After my eyes popped back into my head I observed reactions of people sitting around them. No one seemed to notice, or care.

I was hoping my kids and the other

children in the group would not notice, but my 12-year-old daughter Joanna did. She was not shocked, however. She told her mother there is a girl in her school who claims to be a lesbian. My heart sank when I heard that news.

Then later a friend brought to my attention the "HBO Guide" which was in all the hotel rooms. The guide gives the programs and a brief description of some for the Home Box Office movie channel. Listed under the heading "HBO Family" was the description of a show named "Trevor."

According to the description it "is the poignant and funny story of a boy trying to come to terms with being gay in a society that too often frowns on homosexuality." Neither my friend nor I could believe HBO had the audacity to list that program under a "family" heading.

Then on Saturday morning I was reading *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. On one of the inside sections was a lengthy front-page article entitled "Expletive (No Longer) Deleted" by John Blake, a staff writer for the paper.

The article stated: "Like a verbal fungus, profanity has seeped into the every-

day fabric of American life. Damn and hell are now common on network television. And there seems to be no limit to the use of such language on cable TV, radio, and in the movies." The article went on to note: "Teenagers curse aloud in the mall. Drivers display profane bumper stickers. Radio talk show host Howard Stern spews profanity at his guests and audience, and grows rich and famous."

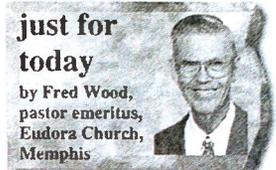
Profanity and immorality are around us so much we are becoming immune, probably so we can just remain sane among all the insanity around us.

And when Christians do have the courage to speak out, we are automatically labeled as "fanatics" or "zealots."

As Christians we must be witnesses to those around us who do not know Christ as Lord and Savior. We must do what we can to convey the message of God's love to a lost and dying world.

We can sit in our bowl of water and end up like the frog, or we can hop out now and make a difference.

It's up to each individual Christian. But we must hurry. The water gets hotter every day. *B&R*



## Start with a smile

Traveler to gas station attendant in a midwestern plain state town: "Can you direct me to the nearest motel with a swimming pool?" Attendant: "Sure. Continue on this street and take a right at the stop sign. Then go about 230 miles. You can't miss it."

## Take this truth

Some people don't know how to adjust to a difficult situation. They want the best out of life and demand it on all occasions. The old cliché "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" also applies to getting along with the inconveniences the Romans have when we are living with them. Make the other person feel at ease!

## Memorize this Scripture

"Then I came to them of the captivity ... and I sat where they sat." — Ezekiel 3:15

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to remember the feelings of others and never make them feel embarrassed because of anything I say or do.— Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

# Jesus provides path through, not bridge over stress



Our American music of the early 1970s included a haunting ballad entitled "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." Possibly, the hit tune signaled a reaction to the recent decade of protest and rest.

For me the lyrics presented an intriguing challenge. I won-

dered if the song title was compatible with the Christian life. Did the Gospel include ways to bypass the tough times? A scene from Exodus initially answered my question. God's people faced the Red Sea and at the same time heard the sounds of the advancing Egyptian Army behind them growing louder and louder. Suddenly, God acted and immediately his chosen people faced a dry and broad path ahead.

Indeed — our God makes a way through.

During the past 25 years af-

ter that song, I have lived through a series of night seasons or stress times. I have asked for and even begged for a bridge. Consistently, through his grace, his answer has always been the same — a path through, never a bridge over. And along that way at some point, I happened to remember that he never even allowed his son the luxury of a bridge over. Apparently, to be a follower of Jesus Christ includes the willingness to accept a path through.

"Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,

"God leads his dear children along;

"Sometimes in the valley in the darkest of night,

"God leads his dear children along.

"Some thro' the waters, ... but all thro' the Blood;

"Some thro' great sorrow, but God gives a song,

"In the night season and all the day long."

Assuredly, G. A. Young, a songwriter of another tough era, the 1930s, in his song "God Leads Us Along," discovered the truth of his way — through. ■

# Churches can assist families in financial planning



When adults compare themselves with their parents at the same age, 72 percent have more possessions, 66 percent are more financially secure, and only 49 percent are happier.

Many families possess more than their parents. Certainly, they have acquired more of one thing than their parents did — debt.

For families equating success with more and bigger stuff, money rules their lives. To accumulate more stuff, parents work harder and longer. Some stuff initially makes children happy, but gradually they want more of it.

Parents often give children

stuff in an attempt to make them happy and compensate for time parents do not spend with them, creating an exhausting cycle. Little wonder that in 1996, teenagers spent \$36.7 billion on clothes and \$23.4 billion on entertainment. They have learned well.

Will the cycle be broken? Not without help. Families are trapped in the debt spiral before they recognize its devastating effects. In their pursuit of happiness, they are stressed, indebted, trapped, and unhappy.

Churches cannot avoid the money talk or confine it to one month a year. Christians need guidance from the pulpit and

## Opinion polls show:

- ▶ 69 percent of Americans want to slow down and live a more relaxed life.
- ▶ 72 percent of people between the ages of 40 and 49 want to simplify life.
- ▶ 62 percent of all other ages also want to simplify life.
- ▶ 61 percent agree that earning a living requires so much effort that it is difficult to enjoy living.

special study groups encouraging families to be lifestyle stewards.

How can churches help?

▶ Take stock of how much it costs your average family to be members of your church. What do they pay each year for youth trips, choir outfits, children's camp, and more?

▶ Provide money management training for newly and newly married couples, single parents, families facing college costs, and soon-to-be retirees.

▶ Enlist volunteers to plan special studies for teenagers. Youth need to learn to balance a checkbook, spend wisely, and save before they get an ATM card or leave for college.

▶ Encourage members to regard their giving as a significant act of worship.

▶ Emphasize a simplified lifestyle that allows for spontaneous charitable giving. ■ — Lanford, a member of First Church, Nashville, edits FamilyFax for Acacia Resources, a division of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics. FamilyFax is available at no cost from BCE. A dedicated FAX line is needed. For information, FAX request to (615) 383-0915.

## Prayer Requests

### September

- 2 — Pray for the Week of Prayer for state missions in Michigan Sept. 13-20.
- 3 — Praise God for the recent "Embracing the Future" conference held in Canada.
- 4 — Pray for McLean Church, Memphis, in the Mississippi River Ministry area that needs resources to repair the church and its property and Estribito Britton, TBC Hispanic Church Extension specialist, who is teaching leadership workshops Sept. 4-14 in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 5 — Pray for "Music and Missions," a music resource group, who teach praise teams in Costa Rica.
- 6 — Pray for the Michigan convention's effort to expand its conference facilities.
- 7 — Pray for the family of Daniel Johnston, the infant twin son of Gail and Alan Johnston of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, who died Aug. 1.
- 8 — Pray for Mullins Station Church, Memphis, a part of Mississippi River Ministry area. Ask God to bless the church's Conversational English class.

## At Polish children's camp

# Nashville mission team leads 20 to Christ

By Russ Dilday  
Special to Baptist and Reflector

RADOSC, Poland — A 12-member missions team from Forest Hills Church in Nashville led a children's day camp Aug. 3-8 at the Polish Baptist Theological Seminary in which more than 50 children participated, 20 declaring that they had made personal decisions for Christ.

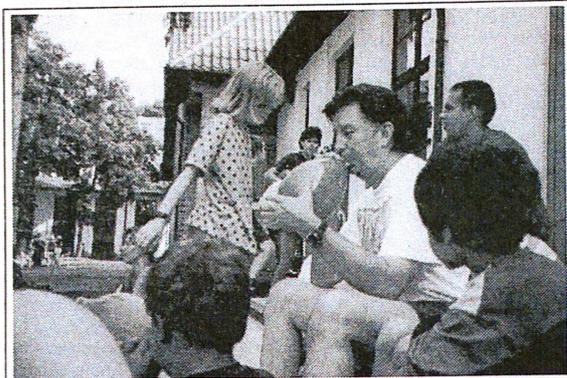
It was the second year Forest Hills had conducted a day camp as an extension of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's three-year missions partnership with the Polish Baptist Union.

Team leader Leanne Robbins said the group felt led to again conduct a day camp "for children around the seminary and Polish pastors' and seminary students' children" although the partnership ended in 1997.

"Last year we had 35 and this year we averaged 45 to 50 each day," noted Robbins, who is ministry assistant for the TBC's Christian Growth Development Group. "The camp was a success last year and many were excited and told their friends."

Each day of the camp, said Robbins, the team "started the day with music combined together, then we split the children into three groups by ages and rotated the kids between Bible study and recreation. We ended each day with a recap of what we learned at Bible study."

"On Friday, a pastor from Bialystok, Eric, had the children raise their hands if they felt they had accepted Christ," she said. "We had more than 20 children accept Christ. That was our purpose — to share Je-



**TOM BAKER** of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, entertains children in Poland. He was part of a 12-member team from the church that ministered in Poland in early August.

sus with the children."

In addition to the camp held at the seminary, the team made side trips to a nearby farm to hold similar activities for Ukrainian children on a retreat at the farm.

Craft team leader Christie Hendricks, who served as team leader for last year's group, said this year's trip was different in tone and results from the 1997 camp. "The first trip was unexpected. The children were more reserved, we were cautious and a little more hesitant. In this year's preparation, we had more information"

"For instance," Hendricks explained, "we knew the children would come, whereas last year we didn't know if we'd have a child or not. The biggest change has been the realization that what we are really doing here is opening the door for (seminary president) Gustave Cieslag and others at the seminary to come back, giving them the ability to go in and talk to the families."

Hendricks, an executive assistant at Word Entertainment in Nashville, emphasized that the repeat performance of the team built trust with the community in Radosc that signaled

to them that "we're not just a fly-by-night group or tourists. We appear dedicated to their cause to return, and it makes our message more credible."

Credibility is an important factor in Baptist missions to the country, which has an estimated Catholic population of more than 90 percent. Regardless, many opened their homes to the group.

"They don't have a lot," said Robbins, "but they are a proud people. They wanted us to come into the homes and they are open to the Gospel. We were able to share our testimonies."

In addition to sharing testimonies and love, Bible teaching was central to the camp's message, noted Bible story leader Cathy Dunn, a Nashville nurse, who explained that the group used drama, puppets, murals, and props to tell the story of Jesus to the Polish children.

"This year, we wanted to focus more on the New Testament," she said, "Three of us used the theme, 'What Would Jesus Do?' to give them a basis of who Jesus is. We went through the Children's Bible, giving simple Bible stories and used literature called *Storying*

the Bible."

Dunn added that Cieslag's wife, Hanja, is seeking to reach children in the community. "She sees a great inroad to families through kids, so by offering something for the children, the parents feel somehow more connected or open to the presence of the seminary in this neighborhood."

"If one child grasped what forgiveness is and has a desire to walk with Jesus," added Dunn, "it was worth the whole trip."

While the team affected many of the children, during the week, the day camp also affected many of the Nashville group, such as recreation team member Tom Baker, who was on his first overseas mission trip. An associate regional representative for LifeWay Christian Resources, he concluded that "we planted some new seeds and fertilized seeds we had planted last year."

"In recreation more than other areas, you can really have fun, give hugs and laugh and cut up a little more," he said. "I came as a direct result of *Experiencing God*. Right in the middle of the study, Penny (a fellow team member) came to me and said, 'We don't have a man to go for the boys to relate to.'"

"That was when I was in the study that says, 'God invites you to join him where he's working,'" Baker recalled.

"I knew that night if I was faithful to let my love flow through me, he would bless. He's done so even more so than I could have imagined. The beauty of the county and people have blessed me."

Other team members included Pennye Sisk, Jackie Ferguson, Mary Jo Bradshaw, Marilu White, Patricia Pedigo, Dianne Rhea, Bill Hendricks, and Mary Hendricks. ■ — Dilday is associate editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.



## Segrest named TBCH southeast vice president

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Robert Ward "Bob" Segrest assumed the position of vice president of the southeast region of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Sept. 1.

He succeeds Burl McMillan who will retire Dec. 31.

Segrest, a former pastor in Chattanooga and Texas, comes to the post from the pastorate of Avondale Church, Jacksonville, Fla., where he has served since 1992.

A native of Waco, Texas, Segrest is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned the doctor of ministry degree.

Segrest and his wife, Barbara, have two adult children.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Segrest join our ministry to orphaned, abandoned, abused, and neglected children," said Gerald L. Stow, TBCH president/treasurer. "He and his wife, Barbara, bring a genuine love for children and families to southeast Tennessee ...." ■



**SEGREST**

## 'Life in the Spirit' conference planned

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A "Life in the Spirit" Conference will be held Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Baptist Center here.

The conference will explore activities of the Holy Spirit and how those activities touch the lives of believers.

Author Robertson McQuilkin, former president of Columbia International University, will lead the study.

The registration fee is \$25 and includes a member's book, leader's guide, and lunch.

For more information or a registration form, contact Jerry Chapman TBC Executive Board discipling coordinator, at (1800) 558-2090, ext. 7932. Deadline for registration is Sept. 16. ■

## Knoxville church's clown troupe maintains active schedule

**MEMBERS OF** the Jest for Jesus clown troupe of Fellowship Church, Knoxville, include Laurel Mosher, seated, Betty Stoots, kneeling, and standing, from left, Karen Noe, Betty Hicks, Matthew Francis (back), Linda Francis, and Jama Mosher.



For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The clown troupe "Jest for Jesus" from Fellowship Church here has been in high demand this year.

On Aug. 22 they returned from Benton where they ministered with a support group for children with cancer only to go out the next day to lead services at Bethel Church in Sevierville.

The heavy schedule

of appearances has been the norm for the clowning ministry from Fellowship Church.

Since last September the troupe has attended two mission fairs, led several training sessions, entertained at organizational events, entertained prospective elementary students at The King's Academy on the campus of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, and led morning or evening services for at least 10 churches in Knox, Blount, and Sevier counties.

In April the clown troupe was honored with a Community Citizen Award for their participation in events for children in south Knox County by the Volunteer Grange #1250. ■

# Chaplain finds special friends at center

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

GREENEVILLE — Don Peek claims he's learned a lot the past 13 years as chaplain of Greene Valley Development Center here.

This is despite the fact the residents are mentally and physically challenged.

For instance, his concept of a normal person has changed as a result of working with the center's residents.

"I've begun to see them as normal. I don't know what normal is anymore."

He is certain many of the residents know God. Their prayers are the most sincere he has heard in his 50 years of ministry as a Tennessee pastor. Peek currently is bivocational pastor of New Lebanon Church here.

He's also sure the residents are honest, loving, and intuitive. "There are no hypocrites here. They know when you love them and they love you back," explained Peek.

In fact, the aides treat the residents like family, he said.



**CHAPLAIN DON PEEK** leads a song for a group of center residents in their cottage. He is helped by two aides. — Photos by Connie Davis

Peek has accompanied workers from the center to baptisms, funerals, and weddings of residents across the state.

Directing these outings is just one example of Peek's involvement in the lives of residents and workers, according to Becky Bible, director of volunteer services at the center. "He contributes greatly to our lives," said Bible.

Peek may give, but he keeps on receiving, he said. He has

learned the gift of peacefulness from the residents. Most of the residents don't worry, and the result is they don't seem to age, said Peek.

He has learned about faith from them. For example, he was stopped one day by a man who asked Peek to pray for his hurt finger. Peek said he would and

then began to move away. The man interrupted his exit by asking him to pray for him right now. The resident's request showed his faith, Peek noted.

The chaplain also has learned humility at the center, said Peek. Just when he thinks he has the residents figured out, one will teach him something



**VISITING** with the workers at the center is another part of Don Peek's job.

else — like the resident who attended a weekly service and gave a dollar to the offering. And it was a gift the resident couldn't even place in the offering plate by himself because of his handicap.

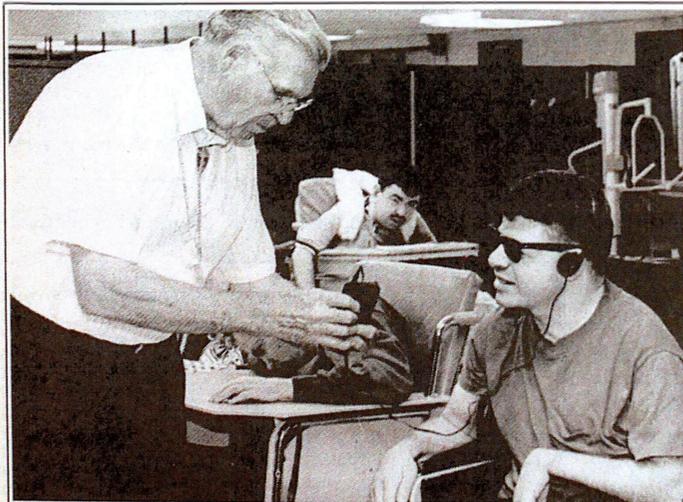
"I love these people," said Peek. **B&R**



**CHECKING ON** Hugh Seaver, case manager at the center, is Chaplain Don Peek.



**THE CHAPLAIN** uses a 'talking' parrot to communicate to a group enjoying a summer afternoon outside.



**GETTING HELP** finding a radio station to listen to through his headset is Jeff Robbins.



**RESIDENT** Debbie House enjoys Chaplain Don Peek's 'talking' parrot.

# Tennesseans play major role in SBCD

By Don M. Aycock  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — "We prayed and wept and asked God to help us reach the deaf with the Gospel," Fay Osborne Lanham remembered about attending the first meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (SBDF) in 1948.

Lanham and two other living SBCD charter members, Leonard and Doris Asbridge, were among more than 900 registrants from around the country who celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the organization of Southern Baptist deaf workers. The meeting was held recently at the University of Memphis in the city where the SBCD's organizational meeting was held in December 1948.

In 1948, Lanham and the Asbridges were among the founding members of the first Southern Baptist conference for deaf people, with a dream of bringing deaf people together to worship and to discuss their common goals of winning

people to Christ, and of helping Southern Baptist leadership catch the vision of working with deaf people.

With the encouragement of R. Paul Caudill, then pastor of Memphis' First Church, the group invited everyone they could think of to a meeting. Twenty-one people from eight states came together that first year. The group has met annually since 1950. Instrumental in the organization of the group was a missionary named J. W. Gardner, who had been a pastor in Texas until he lost his hearing — and took his deafness as a sign that God was moving him into a new area of work.

Asbridge was a printer with a Memphis newspaper but his heart was reaching other deaf people with the Gospel. He had been converted at the Tennessee School for the Deaf in Knoxville under the ministry of Laura Formwalt, a longtime worker with the deaf. Asbridge would work all week at his printing job but would then travel to any location where he felt the leadership of God to

communicate the Gospel to other deaf people.

Like a modern-day Apostle Paul, Asbridge put up with great inconvenience and dangers to take the message of Christ to those without hearing.

"Many times I would catch a train to my destination and end up sleeping in the train station because no one was there to meet me," Asbridge, now in his 90s, recounted. "But I went to the church anyhow and talked to people about the Lord. Sometimes there were only one or two (deaf) people there for me to talk to."

Asbridge remains keenly interested in deaf ministry. When asked about his vision for the future he said without hesitation, "My hope is to have our Baptist work among the deaf grow in foreign countries, to have our work spread here at home, and to help people look up to the Lord."

Asbridge said he has seen so many prayers already answered that he has faith to ask for more.

Asbridge and the others car-

ry on a ministry with a long heritage. Southern Baptists have been involved in deaf ministry since 1905. Myrtle Morris was employed by the Home Mission Board that year to serve as a teacher of the deaf in Cuba. Morris, who was deaf, served only one year before returning to the United States. John Michaels was hired by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to work with the deaf in 1905 and then by the Home Mission Board in 1906.

Michaels was responsible for the spread of ministry to the deaf in the Southern Baptist Convention for nearly four decades.

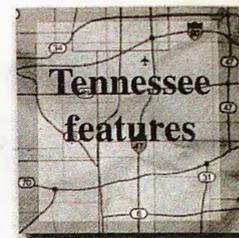
In a soon-to-be published book on the history of the SBCD, Donnie Wiltshire, associate pastor with emphasis on deaf ministry at First Church, Memphis, writes of Michaels, "Everything that we are today as deaf Southern Baptists originated in Michaels and his unsurpassed vision."

Wiltshire's book, titled, *A Celebration of 50 Years: The Southern Baptist Conference of*

*the Deaf — 1948-1998*, is a retrospective look at Baptist attempts to reach the deaf with the Gospel. Wiltshire knows this history intimately. He wrote his doctoral dissertation at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on the work of Southern Baptists with the deaf. His dissertation has been published under the title, *In That Day: An Interpretative History of Southern Baptist Deaf Work*. He is also the editor of a book of memoirs from one of the early pioneers of deaf work, J. W. Gardner.

Officers of the SBCD are quick to point out that although ministry among the deaf has had an inspiring history, enormous work still needs to be done.

Among the officers re-elected during the organization's business session was Tennessean James Gregory, second vice president. ■



## 60 Years of Progress

### Tennessee Baptist Foundation

#### September Is Foundation Month

Many foundation officers are preparing their schedules for sharing the work and ministry of the Baptist Foundations.

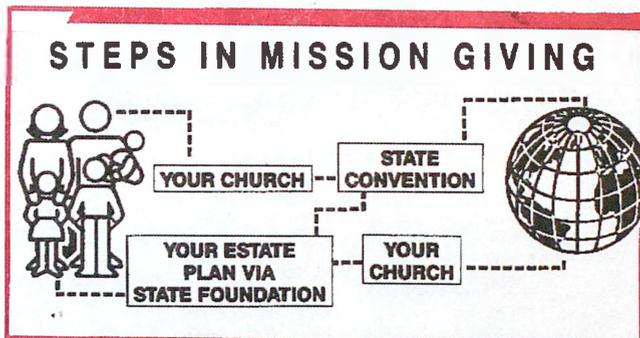
During September, through the Tennessee and Southern Baptist conventions, Baptist Foundations are being recognized as service and trust institutions.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation was established in 1938. The state convention felt a need for a channel through which Baptists could leave gifts to its institutions and causes. The gifts would not be spent, but invested with the income distributed to Baptist charities named by the donors.

Currently, the Tennessee Baptist Foundation is distributing more than three million dollars annually to Tennessee Baptist churches, institutions, and other Baptist causes.

All of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's institutions and many Southern Baptist Convention causes receive support from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

If you would like a representative of the Foundation to share our ministry with your group call us at 800-552-4644.



#### Baptist Causes We Serve

- Your church
- Your Baptist Association
- Belmont University
- Carson-Newman College
- Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy
- Union University
- Executive Board (Cooperative Program)
- Tennessee Baptist Convention
- Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc.
- Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.
- ... and national and international missions

#### Helpful Hints

##### Things to Remember!!!

- Make An Estate Plan
- Consult an Attorney
- Communicate Your Plans
- Maintain Flexibility!
- Name a Final Beneficiary
- Use the Proper Name of the Charity

Clip and mail —  
Order Form for Information Packet about the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

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Tennessee Baptist Foundation  
P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728  
(615) 371-2029; (800) 552-4644; Fax: (615) 371-2049;  
Web Page: [www.tnbaptist.org/foundation](http://www.tnbaptist.org/foundation)

## leaders

■ **Sidney Waits**, pastor, Rugby Hills Church, Memphis, retired Aug. 1. He has served eight churches in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee and five in the Memphis area as interim pastor. They will retire in Collierville, (901) 853-4916 and in Nashville, (615) 832-0613.

■ **Ozzie Ingram**, minister of education and youth, First Church, Elizabethton, has been called as dean of the Weekend College at Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas.

■ **West Hills Mission**, Lebanon, the former Trinity Church, has called **Jonas Taylor** of First Church, Crisfield, Md., as pastor. Taylor will lead the congregation in relocating to newly-purchased property on Leeville Pile. Taylor formerly served churches in Wilson and Smith counties.

## deaths

■ **Joe Harris**, 84, of Huntingdon died recently after a short illness. Harris was director of missions, Carroll-Benton Association based in Huntingdon from 1964-79. During his tenure, the association built its Mission Center and formed four new churches — New Hope Church, McKenzie (now Eastwood), Holladay Unity Church, Holladay (now Holladay), Natchez Trace Church, Camden; and Bethel Church, McKenzie. During his tenure the number of Baptists grew from 6,050 to 7,759. After retirement in 1979, Harris helped form and was pastor of Eastview Church, Huntingdon (then Eastview Mission). Har-

ris also served as pastor of several churches, as a hospice chaplain, and an evangelist. He was a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

## churches

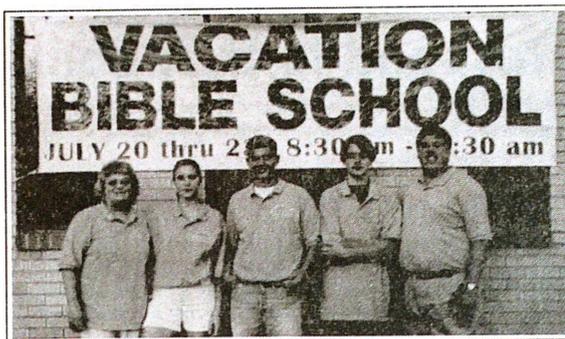
■ Ten members of **Liberty Church, Covington**, served in Jacksonville, Ill. They helped a mission congregation, renovating a kitchen into a classroom, and visiting people door-to-door. Kim Smith, minister of youth, led the effort.

■ The first meeting of the class, "Single by Design," of **Alta Loma Church, Madison**, will be Sept. 13 at 9:15 a.m. The class for singles and singles again will have a barbeque luncheon following the morning worship service. For more information, call the church at (615) 865-8340.

■ **Gibson Church, Gibson**, will host its fourth annual Friendship Festival Sept. 19 beginning at 11 a.m. Activities include a luncheon, games for children, and entertainment beginning at 1 p.m. under a tent on the church lawn. Performers include The Praise Band from Union University; Judy and Joy, a Gospel duo; the Golden Do Da Band, a senior citizens' group from Jackson; and Sgt. Hummer, a toy soldier. For more information, contact Mike Rhodes, pastor, at (901) 787-6725.

■ **Ewtonville Church, Ewtonville**, will hold its eighth Annual Ladies Bible Conference Sept. 11-12. Sandy Cash from Louisiana will speak and sing. She will tell about being injured by an attacker, her recovery, and ministry which is an outgrowth of that experience. Other speakers will be Meredith Spence from Pikeville; Barbara Edgings, Signal Mountain; and Karen Randall, Crossville. For more information, call the church at (423) 949-3141.

■ **Barfield Church, Murfreesboro**, will celebrate its



**MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH** team of Pine Eden Church, Crossville, who served in Greeley, Colo., this summer pause during their work there. They are, from left, Inez Goodwin, Elizabeth Brewer, Eric Applegate, Shaun Hedgecoth, and David Mahan, youth pastor. The team led 64 children in Vacation Bible School at a Colorado church.

centennial anniversary Sept. 13 with homecoming activities. Dave Brown will speak during the morning worship service and a luncheon will follow.

■ **First Church, Iron City**, held revival recently. Carl Bond, director of missions, Giles County Association, spoke.

■ **Big Springs Church, Lebanon**, will dedicate its new sanctuary Sept. 20. Activities include the 11 a.m. worship service, luncheon, and afternoon music program.

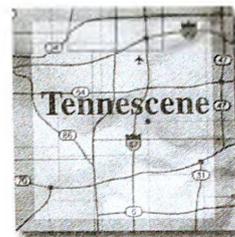
■ **First Church, Waynesboro**, will celebrate its centennial anniversary Sept. 6. Activities include a homecoming emphasis, morning worship service which will feature several former pastors, and a historical display.

■ **McLean Church, Memphis**, will hold revival Sept. 11-13. Mark Sutton will speak and Bill Carver will lead the music. On Sept. 12 a marriage enrichment seminar will be held from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call (901) 274-3766.

■ **Hopewell Church, Savannah**, will hold its 1998 Women's Conference Oct. 9-10. Rhonda Kelley, wife of Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and Renee Coates Scheidt will lead it. For more information, call (901) 925-5842 or e-mail hopewell@centuryinter.net.

■ A tent crusade sponsored by **First Church, Clarkrange, Mt. Union Church, and Friend's Chapel Church**, all in Riverside Association, based in Livingston, was held Aug. 9-13. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Hermitage, spoke. As a result of the effort, about 60 people made professions of faith.

■ **First Church, Clarkrange**, held Vacation Bible School recently and had an average attendance of 107. Additionally, 19 of the youth made professions of faith.



Church, Nashville.

■ The Director of Missions Search Committee of **Madison-Chester & Crockett Associations** based in Jackson is accepting resumes for the position of director of missions. Send resumes to Joe McIntire, DOM Search Committee, 1980 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

■ With 32 member churches present, the executive board of **Chilhowee Association** based in Alcoa unanimously voted July 21 to request the trustees of Carson-Newman College to rescind its present charter and return to its policy of allowing the Tennessee Baptist Convention to elect its trustees. The board informed C-N President Cordell Maddox by letter that "until such action is taken, we regret to inform you that we consider Carson-Newman an independent school and, as such, we will not extend an invitation to our annual meeting nor include a report from Carson-Newman in our minutes."

## schools

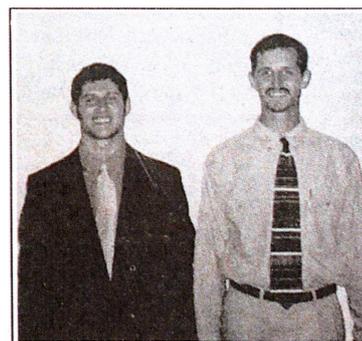
■ **Phil Bredeesen**, Nashville mayor, and **Jerry Nicely**, Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, were among the dignitaries who participated in the dedication of The Hillside of **Belmont University**, Nashville, Aug. 26. The new apartment complex will house 252 students.

■ **Terry and Michaelle Buford**, missionaries to the Philippines, will serve as the 1998-99 missionaries in residence at **Union University, Jackson**. The couple, who has served in the Philippines since 1983, are on furlough. They will interact with students and congregations in the area. Terry is an alumnus of Union and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

## associations

■ **Bradley Association** based in Cleveland is serving as an extension site of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. The classes began Aug. 24 and will apply toward an accredited associate degree in Pastoral Ministries or Christian Education. For more information, contact the association at (423) 476-5493.

■ The staff of **Nashville Association** moved back into its building Aug. 14. It was damaged by tornadoes which struck the Nashville area April 16. The staff relocated temporarily to Dalewood



**LICENSED** to preach recently by **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, were **Jason Hogan**, left, and **Todd Maino**. Hogan, who was a resident of the **Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Bartlett**, has just begun attending **Union University, Jackson**, and Maino is bivocational youth minister at the church.

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# Missionaries respond to U.S. bombing of terrorist targets

By Marty Croll  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptist missionaries living in tense areas of Africa and Asia were responding to U.S. State Department warnings Aug. 20 to stay off the streets and out of sight.

The warnings came as anti-American sentiment rose in response to U.S. cruise missile strikes against suspected terrorist operations in Sudan and Afghanistan. Extremist Muslims were warning of retaliatory attacks against Americans.

The International Mission Board, which maintains some 4,400 Southern Baptist personnel in 126 countries worldwide, issued a worldwide alert to each of its 14 regional offices Aug. 21.

"This is a very dangerous and crucial time for all of our people around the world," said Sam James, the board's vice president for creative leadership. "What we want is for all our missionaries to know that for the foreseeable future no American anywhere in the world is safe."

"There's no country we can say now is beyond the reach of

terrorism. Still, nowhere are we going to say let's shut down the work," he added.

Personnel in some areas where the strikes had intensified anti-American sentiment gathered in emergency meetings Aug. 21 to consider future ministry options and discuss temporarily leaving their posts, said Kenn Shirley, the board's Richmond, Va.,-based associate regional leader for Central and Southern Asia.

"They are evaluating the situation to see where the Lord is leading and to decide what to do as a group, as well as individuals," he said.

IMB officials declined to comment on where these personnel were located specifically.

President Bill Clinton said he ordered the missile strikes to prevent terrorism promised as a follow-up to the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. U.S. Secre-

tary of State Madeleine Albright called the attacks acts of self-defense. "I don't think we had a choice," she said. "These people hit us."

The missiles, launched from U.S. ships in the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, demolished an alleged terrorist training camp in Afghanistan and a manufacturing plant in Sudan that U.S. officials said produced an ingredient for nerve gas.

"What I think is very important for the American people to understand is that there may, in fact, be retaliatory actions," Albright said. "We are very concerned about that."

The independent agency, Crisis Consulting International, issued an advisory Aug. 21 warning missionaries of possible retaliatory attacks. In an electronic advisory to regional offices, Bill Cashion, the IMB's consultant for crisis management, asked personnel to take this danger "very seriously." He encouraged them to review crisis-management plans, which include contingencies related to evacuation, hostage-

taking and home security.

Cashion asked Southern Baptists to pray that missionaries would know how to be alert to possible dangerous situations and not put themselves into unnecessary risk. But at the same time, he asked for prayer that they would possess a calmness of spirit and boldness to seize ministry opportunities. ■

## Classified

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**WANTED:** Full-time minister of music (worship). Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, Ph. - (513) 791-7323, Fax - (513) 791-7326.

**SEARCHING:** First Baptist Church, Moberly, Mo., is searching for a full-time minister of music with other ministry responsibilities. Contact Search Committee of the church, 514 West Rollins, Moberly, MO 65270.

**FOR SALE:** Allen organ and bench for sale by New Salem Baptist Church, Clinton. About 18 years old, good walnut finish. New power unit installed this year but needs other repairs. \$1,000 minimum. Contact Ken Broyles, (423) 457-5866.

**SEEKING:** Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a minister of youth. Position is part-time and temporary, pending call of pastor. Contact Arliss Roaden, chair, Personnel Committee of the church, 2100 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215, (615) 373-8914.

**FOR SALE:** (22) 12' oak pews for sale and 400 theater seats, all in good condition. Call (931) 668-9692 after 5 p.m.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and youth. Housing provided. Contact Immanuel Baptist Church, 701 W. Pine Street, Warren, AR 71671.

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## Life and Work Lesson

# Power to save

By Dale Denning

### Focal Passage — Ephesians 2:1-10

In his book, *An Anthropologist on Mars*, neurologist Oliver Sacks tells about Virgil, a man who had been blind from early childhood. When he was 50, Virgil underwent surgery and was given the gift of sight. But as he and Dr. Sacks found out, having the physical capacity for sight is not the same as seeing.

Virgil's first experiences with sight were confusing. He was able to make out colors and movements, but arranging them into a coherent picture was more difficult. Over time he learned to identify various objects, but his habits — his behaviors — were still those of a blind man. Dr. Sacks asserts, "One must die as a blind person to be born again as a seeing person."

In our text, the apostle Paul is reminding the church at Ephesus that at one time they had been in a state of spiritual blindness and, consequently, moral degradation. But before he begins his discussion about grace, Paul deems it necessary to demonstrate the great orifice that grace had to cross.

The highest spot in the continental United States is Mt. Whitney in California. It stands a majestic 14,495 feet. From its top, a beautiful panorama of landscape unfolds. You can see the Sierra Nevadas and the Mojave desert. But just 80 miles southeast is Death Valley, the lowest spot in the United States at 280 feet below sea level. Death Valley is also the hottest with temperatures ranging to 134 degrees in the shade. It is a stark contrast to Mt. Whitney. Paul takes us into the depths of human sin and depravity before he causes us to rise to the heights of God's deliverance and pardon.

Verse four begins with two glorious words — But God! From the depths of Death Valley we look to the heights of Mt. Whitney. From the lowest point in the U.S., we look to the highest. Here is the contrast. But God! In the midst of human misery God has intervened. When we had hit the bottom, God reached down to pick us up. When we needed deliverance the most, deliverance is precisely what God provided for us. He delivered us because he is rich in mercy, because of his great love, and even when we were dead in our transgressions. At the time of our greatest need, God came through with our deliverance. This is our present position in Christ.

Bob Kuechenberg, formerly of the Miami Dolphins, in an interview with *Newsweek* said, "My father and uncle were human cannonballs in carnivals. My father told me, 'Son, go to college or be a human cannonball.' Then one day my uncle came out of the cannon, missed the net and hit the ferris wheel. I decided to go to college." I would say that Bob Kuechenberg made a logical decision given the circumstances.

When one examines our text and discovers what he/she is without Christ, the only logical decision that remains is to embrace this free gift. The Scripture is very clear concerning salvation. It is not something we can earn or merit; it is "the gift of God." As a matter of fact, it is the greatest gift that has ever been presented in the history of mankind. It is ours. G.W. Knight explains it like this, "When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay, that is a wage. When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy, that is a prize. When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an award. But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award — yet receives such a gift anyway — that is a good picture of God's unmerited favor." — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

# Creation marred by sin

By Darrell Nimmo

### Focal Passage — Genesis 3:1-13

Picture a perfect world. An environment where all you need is in ample supply and everything you ever wanted is accessible. The perfect man, husband, and future father. A perfect woman, wife, and mother of all mankind. What a relationship. A man and woman perfectly matched to each other. Designed to meet each others needs precisely. Everything you could ever want, need, or desire and someone who is the perfect spouse to share it all with for eternity.

This sounds like a fairy tale or fantasy. But this was God's plan in the beginning for man. All this and more. We all will acknowledge this idea is so far from reality that it is difficult for us to even imagine this being possible. Yet it was. What happened?

## Family Bible Lesson

**Temptation (vv. 1-5).** Man was different than any other creature created. He had a soul and something else that made him uniquely special. A choice. A choice to love God without compulsion. Imagine yourself in a similar situation with your spouse, child, or special someone. You love this person with all that is within you and you hope they feel the same. Not because they are forced, manipulated, or do not have another choice. You want their affection to be a deliberate decision on their part. From all the other possible relationships, they choose you. That is what God wanted.

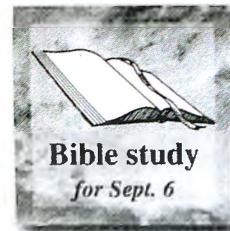
Innocence prevailed until the tempter caused Adam and Eve to focus on the choice. Then temptation was birthed and to this day plagues mankind. The tempter deceives us by getting us to focus on ourselves and convinces us that God is holding out on what will make us happy. Although Adam and Eve had everything, they could not see

what was all around them, only the tree in the midst of the garden. Satan's tactics have not changed since the beginning of time. A person with a loving spouse and children, comfortable home, exciting job is tempted to focus entirely on another man or woman and suddenly becomes blind to all the blessings around them.

**Sin (vv. 6-13).** When the temptation is acted upon, it then becomes sin. Satan used a twisted version of the truth to achieve his purpose. Adam and Eve's eyes were indeed opened. But not in the way they were led to believe. So it is today. One who gives in to the temptation to be unfaithful in their marriage relationship may well see the truth of God's message of destruction with such behavior as they watch their marriage and life crumble before their eyes. They thought the affair would enrich their life, but they discovered it did not.

How much better just to believe God and gain knowledge through Him. Sin changes everything. It changes the present, it changes the past, and it changes the future. It separates us from everything we were meant to be. More importantly it separates us from the very thing that would give us the most joy and happiness in life, fellowship with God.

**Punishment (vv. 14-24).** God made it very clear to Adam and Eve what would happen if they chose disobedience. Death. Satan, as he began to deceive Adam and Eve, used another perverted version of the truth. He got them to focus on the physical rather than the spiritual. The present rather than eternity. They were blinded to all but the moment. He convinced them God loved them too much to ever punish them. Many people believe today that because God carries on his judgment there are no consequences to their disobedience. That God would just over look their rebellion. Just as Adam and Eve discovered the truth of disobedience, so will we if we do not find grace through faith in Jesus Christ. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.



# God hears his people's cries

By Calvin Metcalf

### Focal Passage — Exodus

1:8-11; 2:23-25; 3:7-10

It was a time of oppression for the Israelites in Egypt. A new king had emerged. It was most likely a new dynasty which was not sympathetic to the "Joseph" influence. It marked a new era of persecution for God's people.

Israel had enjoyed peace and prosperity as long as the Pharaohs remembered the contribution of their famous Hebrew ancestor. These "Joseph" people became a threat to the new Egyptian leadership.

Their numbers as well as their influence was a cause for concern. The method of controlling these foreigners was forced labor. Israel, therefore, became a slave nation in Egyptian bondage, subjected to the ruthless treatment of cruel taskmasters.

God took note of the mistreatment of his people and heard their cries for help. He likewise remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In faithfulness to his promise, God began a process of deliverance.

A lesson we learn here and which is prevalent throughout Scripture is that God gravitates towards helpless, hurting humanity. The psalmist made a case for the near-

## Explore the Bible Lesson

ness of God in times of fear and distress. The prophets saw humility as a prerequisite for the godly walk.

Jesus, while on earth, identified with people whose lives, for the most part, had "bottomed out." The prodigal son, who had come to the end of his rope in the far country, was of great concern to the Father. Tax collectors and a variety of sinners were the object of Jesus' affection. The lepers, the lame, the blind, and the mentally deranged were candidates for our Lord's compassion.

Jesus is Lord of the losers. He reaches out to those who have lost their reasons to be proud. Often it takes a broken spirit and a contrite heart to understand how near God wants to be to us and how near he wants us to be to one another.

This generation of Israelites learned firsthand about a God who rescues. Perhaps Hosea expressed it best in later years when he wrote, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I call my son — I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them."

To facilitate his concern for his people, God called Moses to lead

their deliverance. At this time in his life, Moses was a fugitive from Egyptian justice, giving attention to his father-in-law's sheep in the land of Midian. What a shock it must have been for him to encounter God on the far side of the desert. Perhaps he felt he had sinned away any possible contact with the almighty God of his fathers.

In that "holy ground" setting of an unconquered burning bush, Moses took off his shoes and hid his face in fear and reverence. God identified himself to this wayward Hebrew as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses listened with respect as God clarified his purpose. His plan was to rescue Israel from their captivity and lead them to a spacious land flowing with milk and honey.

God's challenge was for Moses to go to Pharaoh and bring his people out of Egypt. It was not an easy assignment. However, God's call always involves risk and responsibility. Bondage was too profitable for Pharaoh to allow a danger-free deliverance of his productive slaves. Moses, as well as his kinpeople, would need fortitude and faith to begin the greatest exodus in human history. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.



## Country comedian Jerry Clower dies

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Jerry Clower, a Mississippi Baptist layman who, as a fertilizer salesman in his 40s, "backed into" a career as a country comedian, died Aug. 24 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center here after undergoing heart bypass surgery five days earlier. He was 71.

Clower, best known for his clean humor, was the best-selling country comedian of all time, recording 31 albums, with sales stretching beyond eight million.



CLOWER

He was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 1973.

Clower, of Liberty, Miss., was a member of East Fork Church, the church where he trusted Christ at age 13 during a revival meeting in 1939. Before returning to his boyhood community in 1988, Clower was an active member of First Church, Yazoo City, Miss., for 34 years.

Clower was the longtime co-host of "Country Crossroads," a Christian-country program heard weekly on 750 radio stations. Now produced by the SBC North American Mission Board, the program was begun in 1969 by the former SBC Radio and Television Commission. Clower joined the broad-

cast in the mid-1970s.

He was a speaker at SBC annual meetings in 1975 and 1979 and was a popular speaker with Baptist groups ranging from Royal Ambassadors to senior adults over the years. Clower also gave the nominating speech at the 1973 convention for Owen Cooper, the last layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clower is survived by his wife of 51 years, Homerline, and four children. ■

## NAMB commissions US/C-2 missionaries

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Twenty-seven men and women were commissioned as US/C-2 missionaries by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board Aug. 23 to serve in 15 states and one Canadian province. The commissioning service was held at Shadowbrook Church in suburban Atlanta.

The missionaries will serve two years in various settings in the United States and Canada.

NAMB President Bob Record challenged the missionaries and the congregation to follow the model of God's call on the life of Jeremiah. "You are called by grace, you are called by name, and you are called by a plan," Record said. "You are not here because you decided it was a great idea. Jesus called you; you didn't call him." ■

## N.C. state paper taps pastor as editor

Baptist Press

BURLINGTON, N.C. — A North Carolina pastor, Tony W. Cartledge, has been named the 18th editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, according to Don E. Bolden, chairman of the state

could represent all Sunday School teachers, members, preachers, or professors who have found themselves in the position of needing to pronounce aloud from the Bible that which appears unpronounceable.

Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, released in 1997 *That's Easy for You to Say: Your Quick Guide to Pronouncing Bible Names* by W. Murray Severance. The book and accompanying CD-ROM include the pronunciations of more than 7,000 words.

When preparing a sermon,

## Study links faith with good health

Associated Baptist Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Going to church is not only good for the soul, it might help the body as well.

Several studies have linked health with faith. The latest suggests religious activity helps maintain lower blood pressure in senior adults.

In a study of 4,000 North Carolina residents age 65 and older, Duke University researchers found the faithful were less likely to have high blood pressure than those who didn't participate in religious activities.

People who attended wor-

ship services and prayed or studied the Bible at least once a week were 40 percent less likely to have diastolic hypertension, which is associated with heart attacks and strokes, according to the study. The findings hold up even when other factors such as sex, race, smoking, and chronic illnesses are taken into the account, said Harold Koenig, who co-authored the study.

Koenig, director of Duke Medical Center's Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality and Health, said researchers aren't sure why religion helps control blood

pressure in older people, but he speculated that churches may provide a support system that helps them during stressful times.

"If you can cope with stress better, your blood pressure isn't going to be as high," Koenig said.

"Religious people have better support systems which keep them healthier," added Linda George, a Duke sociology professor who co-authored the study. "The sense of meaning and kind of comfort that religious beliefs provide make them more resistant to stresses both physical and social." ■

Baptist paper's board of directors.

Cartledge, pastor of Woodhaven Church, Apex, succeeds R. G. Puckett, the paper's editor since 1982. He will retire Dec. 31. Cartledge will join the paper's staff Oct. 1 and work with Puckett until his retirement.

Cartledge serves on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's general board and is vice chair of its Christian life and public affairs council.

He has written teaching commentaries for several years for the "Formations" Bible study curriculum published by Symth & Helwys. ■

## Wallace colleague Ruth Hayes dies

Baptist Press

SALISBURY, Md. — Ruth Everley Hayes, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary nurse who worked alongside martyred missionary doctor Bill Wallace in China, died Aug. 15. She was 81.

Hayes, who retired in 1983, began 35 years of missionary

service with the SBC International Mission Board as director of nursing and dean of the nursing school at Stout Memorial Hospital in Wuchow, China.

Two years into her service there Wallace was accused of espionage and imprisoned and Hayes was placed under house arrest. Two months later, when authorities claimed Wallace hanged himself in his cell, Hayes was required to identify his body. Five months later, she was released and allowed to return to the United States.

Hayes later served in Indonesia. ■

## Jim Futral to lead Mississippi Baptists

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — James R. "Jim" Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church here, was unanimously elected Aug. 5 by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to serve as the convention's next executive director-treasurer.

Futral, 54, will assume his new duties when current executive director Bill Causey retires at the end of September after nine years in the post.

Futral served as convention president from 1987-89 and as chairman of the MBCB executive committee from 1993-96. He also has served on a number of convention boards and currently is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

He is a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. ■

## Marijuana issues face northwest voters

Baptist Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Legalization of marijuana and

partial-birth abortion will be among the ballot issues in the Pacific Northwest in November.

In Oregon, voters also will decide if they want to legalize marijuana for medical use — and whether possession of less than one ounce of marijuana should become a Class C misdemeanor, the lowest infraction in the law, rather than its current status as a "violation," second-lowest, but with criminal status.

In 1997, the Oregon legislature made possession of marijuana a criminal offense. Those who want the law returned to its previous status — no criminal penalties for possession of less than an ounce — were the ones who instigated the petition drive to bring the matter to the voting public.

In Washington, voters will be asked to answer yes or no to the following question: "Shall the medical use of marijuana for certain terminal or debilitating conditions be permitted, and physicians authorized to advise patients about medical use of marijuana?"

Concerning late-term abortion, Washington voters in November also will face the question: "Shall the termination of a fetus' life during the process of birth be a felony crime except when necessary to prevent the pregnant woman's death?" ■

## WCC names Kennedy president

Baptist Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — William Carey College interim president Larry W. Kennedy, has been elevated to the presidency of the Mississippi Baptist college.

Kennedy, 56, WCC's seventh president, had been interim president since the October 1997 departure of James W. Edwards. ■

## Book and CD-ROM ease pronunciation woes

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — So your Sunday School teacher calls on you to read a few verses aloud.

No problem! You turn confidently in your contemporary translation to Judges 10. Suddenly, the request that seemed so easy a moment ago looks impossible. Every other word looks like a foreign language.

There's Abimelech, Is-sachar, Tola, Puah, Dodo, Shamir, Ephraim, Jair, and Gilead. And that's only through verse three.

Do you stumble through it, making up pronunciations the best you can?

This fictional character

lecture, or Sunday School lesson, persons can look up words from the alphabetized listing and find them spelled phonetically. And, using the CD-ROM, they can type in the word, see the phonetic spelling, and hear it pronounced aloud.

Severance acknowledges that the message of the Bible is more important than how the words are pronounced. However, he emphasizes, "mispronunciation of any word always affects the listener's continuity of thought."

Severance realizes some with disagree with pronunciations he has listed. He describes the book as "a guide, not the final authority." ■