

this week's news

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

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Tennesseans needed to start churches in Rio

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Four Tennessee Baptist congregations have committed to start churches needed in Rio de Janeiro, according to Terry Sharp, partnership missions specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The effort is part of Tennessee Baptists' partnership with the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sharp said.

Before asking the TBC to enter partnership, missionaries and nationals in Rio looked at their city of seven million people (two million more than the entire state of Tennessee) and asked the question, "Where do we have evangelical churches," Sharp noted.

They mapped out the city and discovered 50 areas where churches are needed. Areas where churches are needed range from the upper class area of Copa Cabana to one of the largest slums in South America, he observed.

The leaders in Rio found a local church to sponsor the new work and turned to the Tennessee Baptist Convention for additional assistance. In order to help the

Brazilians meet their goal Sharp is looking for 50 churches or associations who will commit to helping start a church in one of those areas during the duration of the partnership which ends Dec. 31, 2000.

What makes the plan workable is its flexibility and opportunity to use almost any age group in the project as well as skills ranging from leadership training and door-to-door surveys to construction work and medical teams, Sharp noted.

Two Tennessee churches have already sent teams to Rio to begin work — First Church, Nashville, and Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

Another congregation, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, is slated to send a team later this month to prayerwalk over the area they have agreed to help begin a church, Sharp said, adding that First Church, Concord, Knoxville, also has agreed to begin a church in Rio.

While there will continue to be general one-time projects that churches can continue to do in Rio and other partnership

countries, the idea of churches or associations starting a church in a partner country is a way to strategically use volunteers, Sharp noted.

Sharp observed a lot of volunteers are wanting what they do to make an impact in a community. By working with nationals and missionaries in Rio they can begin a work that will have long-range implications in helping to reach that city for Jesus Christ, he said.

"Our role is to know the needs of Rio, the demographics, and to match Tennessee churches or associations with the needs there."

In addition to the churches already committed, other churches and associations are exploring the possibilities, Sharp said. He plans to host a meeting during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Kingsport in November for people interested. They will have the opportunity to meet and hear from Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, pastor of First Church, Rio de Janeiro, who will describe in detail the needs of his city.

For more information about the Rio partnership and starting a church there, contact Sharp at *615*371-7927. *B&R*



SHARP

Eighty conduct prayerwalks in Nashville

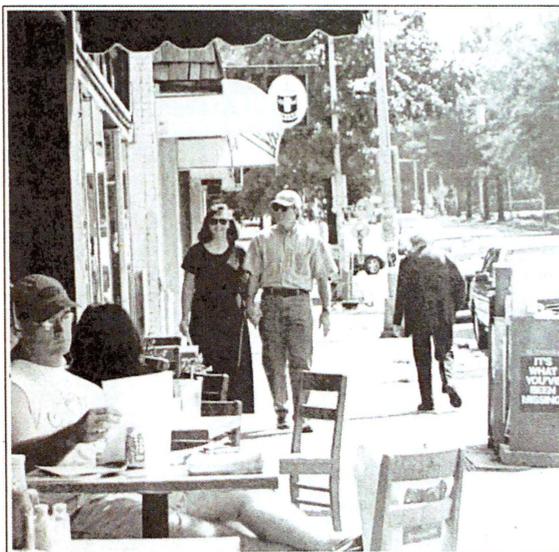
By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Last Saturday about 80 Tennesseans attended a Prayerwalk Practicum at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, and then spread out across the metropolitan area here to experience it.

In a reporting session, Larry and Patsy Bohanan of Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, said they met a man in the downtown area who asked for \$1.07 for food so he could take some medicine. They not only gave him the money, they told the man about their faith and found he was a Christian. Later they were relieved to see the man enter a fast food restaurant.

Dick and Ann German of First Church, Winchester, said they were surprised when after greeting some men outside the Union Rescue Mission in the downtown area, the men asked the couple to pray for them. They were glad to, they reported, especially when they learned one man had just been released from the hospital.

Jeff Rush of First Church, Goodlettsville, helped a college student with her bicycle. He asked her if she knew Jesus



WALKING in Hillsboro Village near Vanderbilt University in Nashville during their prayerwalk are Terry and Vicki York of First Church, Goodlettsville. — Photo by Connie Davis

Christ loved her. When she responded that she was a Buddhist, Rush told her that her religion didn't lessen God's love for her.

Kathy Chapman Sharp of First Church, Nashville, helped a mother preparing for her son's birthday party after

noticing the woman struggling with some balloons. Sharp learned the family attended a church and prayed with the woman for the son and family.

Eric L. Waldon of Feast of the Lord Fellowship in Chattanooga felt drawn to Fisk Uni-
— See Eighty, page 2

Sept. 30 issue to preview annual meeting

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Sept. 30 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will be devoted primarily to previewing the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to be held Nov. 10-11 in Kingsport. The issue will have articles focusing on key issues and information on the annual meeting and related events.

The convention program will be printed as well, along with reports from the TBC Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards. "The goal of this issue is to help Tennessee Baptists who attend the annual meeting to be as informed as possible in order to make responsible decisions," said Lonnie Wilkey, interim editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

In addition to regular subscribers, the issue will be distributed at associational annual meetings this fall. ■

about your newsjournal

- ▶ Lonnie Wilkey, interim editor
- ▶ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$8.00; clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25; church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50.
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- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Paul Medley, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Betty Summers, and Ambers Wilson
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- FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- E-mail** — 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.



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recycled paper

FBC, Sevierville, dedicates new \$8.9 million facility

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — One of the oldest churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention celebrated a "new beginning" Sept. 12-13.

First Church here dedicated its new \$8.9 million worship facility on Saturday, Sept. 12,

with approximately 1,500 people in attendance.

An overflow crowd filled the 2,000-seat sanctuary the next day for the first worship service in the new sanctuary of the 209-year-old church.

The new facility totals 65,000 square feet and provides church administrative offices, new preschool and senior

adult areas, a church library, television studio, and choir room. The structure took 16 months to complete.

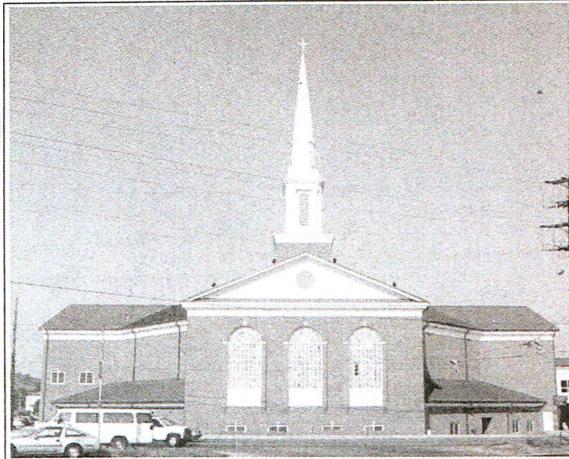
The new structure is linked to the old church by a sky bridge. The old sanctuary will be used as a chapel for weddings, funerals, and other church functions.

Pastor Rich Liner reminded the congregation on Sunday that about 10 million visitors come to the Smoky Mountains each year, and that they will

have the opportunity to tell them about the God "who made these beautiful mountains."

Presenting a sermon entitled "A New Beginning," Liner emphasized "we have a God of second chances and new beginnings."

He praised the church for its past, but urged them to take advantage of the present and future. "As we think about our new beginning we have the opportunity to be Jesus to Sevier County," he said. *B&R*



MEMBERS OF First Church, Sevierville, dedicated their new \$8.9 million worship facility on Saturday, Sept. 12. An overflow crowd attended the first service in the sanctuary the following day.



LOOKING OVER the dedication program for First Church, Sevierville's new facility are, from left, David Goode, business administrator and chairman of the building committee, Pastor Rich Liner, and John B. Waters Jr., chairman of the fundraising committee. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

Eighty conduct prayerwalks in Nashville ...

— Continued from page 1
versity and its surrounding area so he did not choose one of the assigned prayerwalk areas. This was encouraged by instructor Bob McEachern of the International Mission Board based in Richmond, Va., who told participants to try to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit during a prayerwalk.

Waldon reported he felt God leading him to an area which was home to African Americans since he is African American.

Joan and Cherie Rush of First Church, Goodlettsville, also veered off their assigned route. They felt led to Vanderbilt Hospital to pray for patients because they had lost a husband and father to death recently.

Most participants agreed they became more sensitive to the needs of people during their prayerwalks, which were described by McEachern as walking while talking to God.

The training was the first of its kind to be provided by Partnership/Volunteer Missions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Participants from across the state attended including three large groups from churches. First Church, Goodlettsville, had 18 in attendance; Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, had 10 participants; and First Church, Nashville, sent eight for the training.

The team from Wallace Memorial Church will conduct prayerwalks in Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil, Sept. 27 — Oct. 6 to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. (See story about this team in an upcoming issue.)

The Goodlettsville church group was drawn by a prayerwalking experience of some members during a missions effort in Chile, reported Jerry Heflin, associate pastor. During that experience, the members "saw God move," he described.

Heflin believes the large number who attended the training from the church also is due to the number of church members who have completed the *Experiencing God* study. That study leads people to learn about the importance of prayer, which is "God's avenue to power," said Heflin.

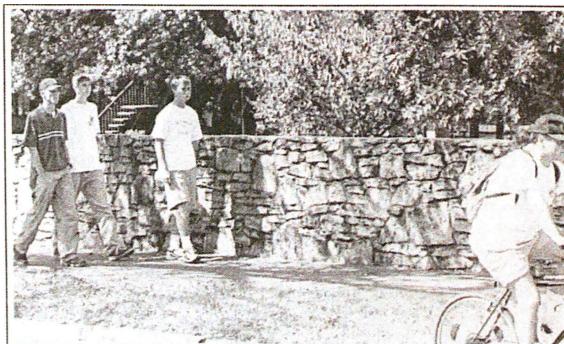
He saw the announcement for the training in the *Baptist and Reflector*, and informed members of the church.

First Church, Goodlettsville, will use prayerwalking in several housing areas the church has decided to strategically target.

Prayerwalking will be the first step of an effort to evangelize residents of the areas, explained Heflin.

McEachern, a former missionary to Korea, described the effectiveness of prayerwalking around the world.

"What do you think happens to Satan when 80 people go out by twos across Nashville, when you're not just on your knees in a closet, but in his yard?" asked McEachern. *B&R*



THE PRAYERWALK of youth from First Church, Goodlettsville, from left, Ben York, John Stegemann, and Michael Alsup, took them by apartment buildings near Vanderbilt University.



DISCUSSING experiences following their prayerwalks are members of First Church, Goodlettsville, from left, Cherie Rush, Joan Rush, Jeraldene Heflin, Willard Smith, and Dottie Smith.

World Changers make a difference in Tennessee

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — More than 1,455 World Changers, including many from Tennessee Baptist churches, helped make a difference in five sites across Tennessee this summer.

World Changers, a program of the North American Mission Board, involves youth and adults in coeducational missions projects that stress hands-on involvement in home construction and renovation work.

World Changers performed a variety of tasks in Kingsport, Memphis, Wilson County, Rhea County, and Knoxville.

Kingsport

More than 300 high school students and leaders served in late June in Kingsport. Materials for the teams were provided by the city of Kingsport. Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions for Sullivan Association, coordinated the effort. Tennessee churches represented included First Church, Franklin, led by Rob Warren Sr., West Hills Church, Knoxville, led by Mari Wiles, and First Church, Clinton, led by Tim Earl.

Memphis

About 350 World Changers from 16 churches participated in a World Changers project in Memphis July 4-11. Known as a World Tour project because of its many-sided tracks, students participated in several different projects ranging from construction, children's ministries, sports camps, and special ministries.

Nine construction projects were provided. Students were divided into 20 work teams that worked throughout the city.

One Tennessee church, Tusculum in Greeneville, partici-



JOHNNIE MADDUX of First Church, Alamo, and **Charlie Dickinson** of First Church, Collierville, cut out materials for a home in Watertown.

ated in the World Tour in Memphis. Sixteen people from the church worked primarily in the south side of the city in the Westmont neighborhood. They did home remodeling and construction, painted a children's home, conducted a sports camp, worked in a low-income trailer park, served in a nursing home, and worked in a daycare facility for Alzheimer's patients.

An air conditioning malfunction at a local high school where the World Changers were scheduled to stay caused some last minute reshuffling of plans. Faith Church, Bartlett, came to the rescue, opening its facilities to the volunteers.

Wilson County

About 55 participants from three Tennessee churches — First Church, Collierville, New Salem Church, Limestone, and Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga — worked July 4-11 in the first World Changers project in Wilson County.

The Tennessee youth were among 96 high school students and leaders who repaired the Baptist Student Center in

Lebanon and homes in Watertown, Laguardo, and Mt. Juliet.

The World Changers worked with the Wilson County Housing Authority to select the projects and focus on specific needs. Private donors provided building materials. Mike Pearson, Wilson County Association director of missions, served as coordinator. Several Wilson County churches provided meals for the volunteers.

A team of World Changers crew chiefs, including some who worked in Wilson County in July, returned Aug. 20-22 to do additional work on a home in Watertown.

Fifteen crew chiefs from Collierville and Alamo returned to build a bathroom and two bedrooms for one Watertown family.

Rhea County

Around 420 youth including about 79 from Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville, and First Church, Dayton, worked in areas around Dayton and Spring City. The volunteers painted, roofed houses, and did other tasks such as siding and window replacement and plumbing repairs. Bill Morris served as asso-

ciational coordinator for Tennessee Valley Association.

Knoxville

About 285 World Changers, including 32 from First Church, Ooltewah; Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville; and First Church, Clinton, participated in a World Tour project in Knoxville. Walter Taylor, director of missions for Knox County Association, served as associational coordinator for the week.

Baptist Men's Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention coordinated construction efforts by providing crew chiefs and supervisors for the Tennessee projects and assisting project construction coordinators in getting materials for the houses.

Volunteer Curt Fowler of Knoxville assisted Tim Bearden, TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group leader, in coordinating World Changers construction in the state.

Reactions

Why would teenagers give up a week of summer vacation to paint and perform other maintenance-related duties?

That was a question considered by Jessica Clemons, 15, of First Church, Clinton.

"I was questionable about whether to go to a World Changers (project) or keep a commitment for school during the same week," she said. "Now that I've done World Changers, I wouldn't even think about try-



MATT MCGINNIS, left, and **Davis Swanay** of Tusculum Church, Greeneville, paint a home in the Westmont area of Memphis.

ing to decide," she added.

Lori Gillis, 19, a Carson-Newman College student and youth leader at New Salem Church, Limestone, noted she had never done anything similar to World Changers before.

"I knew I was meant to be here when we gave Bibles to residents of the house (where she worked)," she said.

Courtney Gates, 17, of First Church, Collierville, observed the hard work during the day made the "worship services more meaningful at night. We've been witnessing to the people in these houses," she noted. — Loren Huffman, Joy Spurlin, Suzanne Crosby, and Stephanie Lim contributed to this story.

At Belmont University

New facility doubles residence capacity

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Belmont University board of trustees recently toured the school's new student apartment complex — The Hillside.



TRUSTEE DON TURNER, right, of Nashville, visits with Belmont University President **William E. Trout** at the opening of Belmont's new student apartment complex — The Hillside.

The \$8.5 million apartment complex includes five residence buildings which house 252 students in two- and four-bedroom suites, complete with washers and dryers in each apartment, and a clubhouse.

"With the opening of The Hillside, Belmont has essentially doubled our residence capacity from five years ago," said Belmont President William E. Trout.

"Our on-campus housing capacity is now 1,300 students, making Belmont a true residential university," Trout said.

Belmont celebrated the grand opening of The Hillside with a ribbon-cutting ceremony which included Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen, Don Turner, a member of Crieewood Church, Nashville, and chairman of the facilities committee of the board of trustees, area city council members, and Belmont faculty, staff, and students.

The trustees wrapped up their fall meeting with a traditional exercise in servant leadership, serving dinner to hundreds of hungry new students. "The trustee dinner has become a tradition that students and trustees both enjoy and learn from," Trout said. "It serves as a positive reminder of the awesome responsibility we have in helping our students achieve the potential God has given them." ■

Tennessee ministries seek MSC vols

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Mission Services Corps volunteers are needed to assist in several ministries across Tennessee, according to Dick and Ann German, state MSC volunteer specialists.

Missions Service Corps began in 1977 as part of "Bold Mission Thrust," Southern Baptists' strategy to share the Gospel of Christ with the entire world by the year 2000.

The long-term volunteer and tentmaker strategy of the North American Mission Board, MSC includes volunteers who serve full time for four months or more and provide their own support.

Seven requests from Tennessee ministries are on file, the Germans noted.

Positions and location of ministries follow.

(1) Church/Community Ministry Assistant to help coordinate the work of the Crisis Center in Copper Basin Association which ministers to about 550 families each month.

(2) Director, Sports Evange-

lism, in Bradley Association to work with local volunteers to develop, staff, and implement children's sports clinics.

(3) Director, Resort Ministries, Bradley Association, to develop and implement a resort ministry in the area lakes, campgrounds, and other areas.

(4) Director, Multi-housing Ministries, Bradley Association, to develop and implement an associational multi-housing ministry which includes recruitment, training, and supervision of volunteers.

(5) Director, Home Repair Ministry, Appalachian Outreach, Jefferson City, to coordinate volunteer activity for home remodeling in rural Appalachian mountains.

(6) Director, Athletic/Recreation Ministry, Brinkley Heights Baptist Center, Memphis, to develop and coordinate recreation ministry and sports leagues in urban community.

(7) Christian School Teacher at Brinkley Heights Ministry Center.

For more information, call the Germans at (931) 962-0333. ■

Pray for our president and nation

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

The top headline in the Sept. 12 issue of *The Tennessean*, Nashville's daily newspaper, read: "Explicit report sears Clinton."

Undoubtedly similar headlines appeared across the United States that day.

I accessed the Internet over the weekend and found the report before newspapers began printing excerpts. I read a small portion and quite frankly was shocked. I showed that portion to my wife, Joyce, and we both agreed that children and youth should not view the contents of the Starr report. It is explicit with a capital "E."

Battle lines already are being formed as to whether President Bill Clinton should be impeached. While the reports lists some impeachable offenses, the president's attor-

neys have rebuttals in hand. Our nation is in a mess. We do not need to be dragged through a long impeachment hearing.

Many people including Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson have called for the president to resign.

I saw a televised segment where the president admitted he had sinned and that he had repented.

Skeptics and critics immediately think: Does he really mean it? And is he saying that because at this point he has no other choice? I confess those thoughts crossed my mind.

But, I have to turn to God's Holy Word which tells us to "judge not lest we be judged" and "those who are without sin cast the first stone." Until he proves or says otherwise, I have to believe he really means what he says and as a Christian I must forgive him because God does.

The question that must be asked and answered is: Can he still effectively lead our nation? I do not see how he can with all the personal problems he has to face. He should step down for the good of the country.

But that question ultimately has to be answered by the president.

We, as Christians and as Americans, need to put aside our political party agendas and pray for God to lead Bill Clinton to make the decision to do what is in the best interest of our nation.

Pray too for our country and that something good can come out of what has happened. I believe God can use this crisis to open our country's eye to the fact that character and moral values are important not only for leaders, but for everyone. Hopefully Christians can take what has happened and work even harder to help turn our nation back to God. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Rick: "Do you know light travels more than 186,000 miles per second?" Mick: "That's a little slower than office gossip." Dick: "All I know is light gets here too early in the morning."

Take this truth

Many, perhaps most, people find getting up in the morning a chore. It often comes "too early." An unpleasant word spoken about another person always arrives too early also. We don't need it at all!

Memorize this Scripture

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." — Proverbs 18:8

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to guard my tongue from evil words — and that includes saying hurtful things about others." ■

Know position on state lottery before voting

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

On the Southern Baptist Convention calendar Sunday, Sept. 20, is designated as "Anti-Gambling Sunday."

Last week's *Baptist and Reflector* carried an article by Barrett Duke of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission which detailed the evils of gambling.

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission has published some good anti-gambling materials. One of their pamphlets deals with state operated lotteries.

The pamphlet, which was revised by Duke in 1997, makes several comments about lotteries. Among them are:

(1) "lotteries are state-sponsored gambling," (2) "lotteries take advantage of the poor," (3) "lotteries do little to pay for public education," (4) "lotteries do not eliminate the need for taxes," and (5) "lotteries are gateways to other forms of gambling."

In November Tennesseans will head to their respective polling booths and vote for new state legislators in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The upcoming election will be critical, says Bill Bates, TBC public affairs consul-

tant. Up to this point the state senate has successfully blocked bills which would permit a state lottery.

But with a changing legislature, including new senators who will be elected in November, who knows what will happen?

Christians can do their part by finding out their candidates' views on the lottery and gambling before casting ballots in November.

Don't be surprised about how your senator or representative will vote. Know his or her view on gambling and the state lottery before you cast your ballot. Your vote can make a difference. *B&R*

Leadership training assists in making Christ known

making Christ known

by Tim Holcomb
Executive Board
Ministries, TBC



Leadership training is that intentional activity that assists every believer to more adequately make Christ known. The Christian Growth Development Group is currently completing a variety of leadership training events. These events began in Middle Tennessee with Sunday School revivals honoring Sunday School workers. In West Tennessee we were

involved in Church Worker "Tune-ups" with associational Sunday School/Discipleship leader training.

Each of the 14 West Tennessee associations, under the leadership of their director of missions, and ACTeam, in partnership with the Christian Growth Development Group, developed a customized training event.

The results of these meetings were 188 different leadership conferences involving TBC personnel, regional consultants, and LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly Baptist Sunday School Board) personnel. More than 2,400 people were trained!

During September the CGDG is leading out in regional training in East Tennessee. Two events have been held in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Events are set for Sept. 14-15 in Knoxville, Sept. 21 in Johnson City, and Sept. 22 in Morristown. During these events, 208 conferences will be offered in the five sites.

As a reminder in 1999, the CGDG will be partnering with Middle Tennessee in conducting 24 associational meetings (Church Worker "Tune-ups") during August. In West Tennessee, regionals will be held in Jackson on Sept. 13, Memphis on Sept. 14, and Martin on Sept. 16. In East Tennessee,

Sunday School revivals will be held in Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City.

In 2000, associational events (Church Worker "Tune-ups") will be conducted in East Tennessee, Sunday School revivals in the West, and regionals in Middle Tennessee.

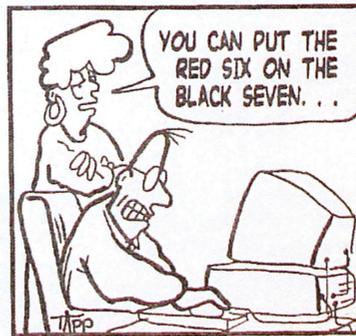
The Christian Growth Development Group expresses its sincere appreciation to the directors of missions, pastors, and ministers of education who have partnered with us during this cycle of meetings. ■ — Holcomb is leader of the Christian Growth and Development group of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries.

Prayer Requests September

- 16 — Pray for Eastwood Church, McKenzie, a part of Mississippi River Ministry. Ask God to provide a church van to transport children and youth.
- 17 — Pray for IMB missionaries to be assigned in the province of Guanacaste in Costa Rica and for an eight-member medical team led by Howard Ragsdale of Union City and Larry Shepard of Powell, who will serve Sept. 18-28 in the South Zone.
- 18 — Pray for Chris McNairy, new black church extension leader in Michigan.
- 19 — Praise God for the recent Gospel Music Camp at First Church, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada, where five children received Christ.
- 20 — Pray for churches in Michigan that are without a pastor.
- 21 — Pray for the work of the Baptist Friendship House in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and for TBC senior adults specialist Don Mauldin and his wife, Carolyn, who are leading a senior adult conference in Rio this week.
- 22 — Pray for the Fall Church Growth Ministry events to be held in Michigan and for those who will lead the events.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City





The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships — Canada, Michigan, Rio de Janeiro, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Phone — (615) 371-2021; FAX — (615) 371-2014; Internet — www.tnbaptist.org/services/missions/missopp.htm

From your missionary

Partnership/Volunteer Missions has been and will continue to be part of the SBC National and International strategies to share Jesus with a lost world. In 1999 we want to celebrate volunteerism and missionary volunteerism by having Volunteer Recognition and Commissioning Services.



SHARP

Three events have been scheduled to honor these volunteers and future volunteers. They are: Feb. 23 at Una Church, Nashville; April 29 at First Church of Concord at Farragut; and Sept. 21 at Union University, Jackson.

Dr. Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, will be the guest speaker for the Feb. 23 and Sept. 21 services. Interactive displays like those found at Jericho weeks and Mission weeks at Ridgecrest and Glorieta will be open.

These services will give us a chance to recognize and commission volunteer missionaries, adults, and youth who plan to go on trips in 1999 and into the new millennium.

I hope you will put these dates on your church calendar and plan on bringing a group to participate in one of the services nearest you.

In Christ,

Terry

Workers needed for revivals in Rio

A total of 150 evangelism teams are needed for the Rio Simultaneous Revivals and the City-wide Crusade set for May 23 — June 1, 1999.

The teams need to consist of a speaker, musician, and layperson who can give his testimony. The cost will be \$1,940.

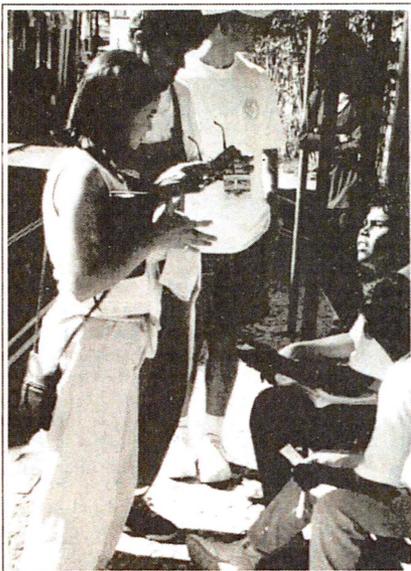
To receive an information packet on the Rio revival, call Terry Sharp at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021 or e-mail him at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

To support new partnership

First, Nashville, young adults serve in Rio

By Hannah Hawkins
For *The Macedonian Call*

A group of 12 Tennessee high school graduates from First Church, Nashville, departed July 22 from the Nashville air-



HANNAH HAWKINS, left, witnesses to some young men on a street in Rio with other members of the Nashville team and translators.

port on a plane, bound for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, accompanied by six adults.

I was one of those 18 that God called to be his servants in Rio for two weeks, and I am forever changed by it. We left Nashville with the mindset that we would go to Brazil and change people's lives. Not only did God use those people to change our lives, but also we saw him in a mighty way as we had never before seen him.

Our group began preparing for this trip in late 1997. We memorized Scripture and studied up on our Brazilian facts, statistics, and our Portuguese. We had meetings twice a month to talk about the things that we saw the Lord doing in our lives. We prayed and we talked about the things we would be doing on our trip.

Two weeks before we left, our youth minister, Jeff Simmons, who was coordinating the trip through the missionaries already in Brazil, told us that we were going to fast. The first fast was a food fast. We were to eat nothing but fruit for three days praying through our hunger. The food fast was a humbling and uplifting experience for me.

The next fast was a media fast. The media fast was a little more tempting to break. There was no TV, no radio, and no newspaper. Wonderful things are learned when the only thing one does is read God's Word and talk to

him. It was hard, but we did it.

Our church, fundraisers, and personal sponsors covered the cost of the trip. Our sponsors were recruited as prayer warriors more than anything else, which was incredible. Knowing I had a network of people praying for me during that trip everyday was a very comforting thought.

When we arrived in Rio, the people we would be working with, and the translators that would be helping us, greeted us. We never guessed that by the end of our stay in Rio we would be best friends with this group of believers. A lot of the translators were missionaries' kids who had been living in Brazil for most of their lives.

A strong network of Christian peers was what the MKs had been missing, and I am so very thankful that their lives were as affected by us as we were by them. The patience and kindness that the MKs showed us was immeasurable, and I will never forget them. We all made friendships that week that will forever stay in our hearts and memories.

Our mission was to share Jesus with the inhabitants of Rio, especially the children. We had gone prepared to see 170 children, but we saw 2,200.

Every day we went to a public or private school working with children ranging in age from 2 to 18. We brought crafts and tracks into each classroom and shared the story of Jesus. It was incredible how open — See First, Nashville, page 6

Jefferson City team does construction in Costa Rica

By Don Campbell
For *The Macedonian Call*

For one week in July the members of a Costa Rica partnership team of volunteer missionaries from Emmanuel Church in Jefferson City were just plain foolish.

How else can you explain people giving up a week's vacation to mix mortar, shovel dirt, push wheelbarrows of sand, varnish wood, and paint a small church building in the dead heat of a tropical forest? Must be foolishness.

What could make people get out of bed at five in the morning and spend their days working under the scorching Costa Rican sun without expecting a dime in pay? That's just not the way it's done.

Yet they performed their tasks without complaint because they believed in their message. At the end of the week they were actually talking about what they would

need to do when they could return to Costa Rica!

Foolishness to some, but not to these 12, nor to the members of the church that supported them. These people saw lives changed — their own lives and the lives of the local residents. The strength that the searing tropical sun drained from them was replaced by the power of God.

The work done by the group of 12 from Emmanuel Church during the week of July 18 was the culmination of months of preparation.

The team's leader, Bob Ogle, visited Costa Rica in February to meet with IMB career missionaries and local pastors in order to determine where the Emmanuel group could best be of service. After getting their assignment, the volunteers participated in training sessions for two months prior to their departure.

The Emmanuel team was assigned to support a small church located in a village outside the city of Neily, a town of 10,000, located about 25 miles north of Costa Rica's border with Panama.

Unlike much of mountain-

ous Costa Rica, Neily is in the lowlands, meaning July days are hot and muggy. Getting to Neily required a 6-hour van ride over a 12,000-foot mountain via a highway that was often eroded by landslides.

— See Jefferson City, page 6



MEMBERS of the team pause during orientation and include, from left, kneeling, Dwight and Demetra Stapleton, Aaron Ogle and Don Campbell; standing, Floyd Mooney, Tony Hickman, David Kelley, Teresa Gentry, Bob Ogle, Terry Sharp of the TBC, Darryl and Susan Hendricks, and Betty Campbell.

The Macedonian Call

TBC summer missionaries serve in Rio de Janeiro

By Tonya Dean
For *The Macedonian Call*

Twenty-one days of team companionship, praise songs, a run-down VW van, laughter, charades, dramatic interpretations, new friendships, and mountain climbing are only some of the July memories of a BSU collegiate mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

On Sunday, July 7, I packed Rubbermaid tubs full of crayons, playdough, coloring books, and construction paper. I had yet to see the similarly loaded trunks from the other BSU summer missionaries that Sara Shelton of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Toby McMillin of University of Tennessee at Martin, and Nathan Robinson of Motlow State Community College, Tullahoma, would pull off the luggage belt in Rio.

Near the end of the school year, we

had sent letters out to churches for donations. God had provided each of us with tons of materials to take on our three-week trip such as stickers, bubble gum, markers, and W.W.J.D. bracelets.

I finished packing my trunks and duck-taped the trunks until they could be ducked taped no more. While Nathan, Toby and I met in Nashville, our whole team came together in Atlanta. We flew overnight about 10 hours from Atlanta to Rio making a brief stopover in San Paulo.

Wendy Stout, an ISC missionary, and Sharon Fairchild, an IMB career missionary, picked us up from the airport in the infamous, white, VW van, and drove us through the city to the Baptist apartment in Tijuca.

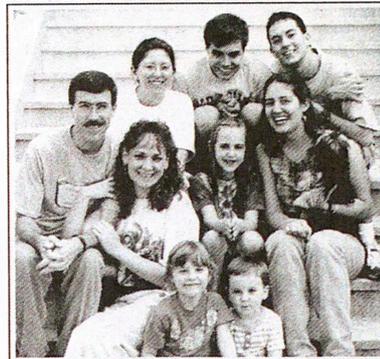
During our first week, we stayed at the apartments, worked and played with MKs, toured some of the city and neighborhoods, and tried to pick up on

the spoken language of Portuguese. We also worked with Julie Jones, one of six TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions summer missionaries who were stationed for two months in Rio.

Though we didn't go immediately to our "final destination" in Rio, God gave us a wonderful week to build lasting relationships with IMB missionaries in the apartments including Elizabeth Oates, Lauretta and Alton King and their three kids. Our team believes that we were truly encour-

aged that week by the missionaries there and that we also encouraged them.

Our first Sunday there we loaded up the supplies and headed to Campo — See TBC, page 7



POSING with the King family, who are missionaries, are the Tennesseans. The new friends are, from left, front row, Anna and Jonathan King; middle row, Alton, Lauretta, and Sara King, and Tonya Dean; back row, Sara Shelton, Nathan Robinson, and Toby McMillin.

Jefferson City team does construction in Costa Rica ...

— Continued from page 5

The group worked with Bill and Linda Egbert, IMB missionaries who live outside Neily. The Egberts have served in Costa Rica for three years. They live in the south zone of Costa Rica with their two children, 9-year-old Matthew and 7-year-old Jessica.

The volunteer group from Jefferson City worked in three areas. First was the job of building a classroom on the Fountain of Hope Church, an open-air structure in a village of several hundred people. During the week the volunteer missionaries dug out a hill, poured footers, and started the block walls for the new classroom. They got the room under roof on their last day of work.

While part of the team worked on the classroom, other team members sanded and varnished benches that the church uses for pews. They also painted the interior and exterior of the church.

In another part of the group's work,

some team members left the construction site for a time to teach classes on personal health and hygiene in the village's elementary school. They also taught first aid in another school in the area. The Emmanuel group distributed over 700 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to the children.

In the third part of the assignment, the group held revival meetings three nights during the week and distributed Christian literature as opportunities arose. At least three people made decisions to accept Jesus as their Savior during the week. The local pastor, who is a Costa Rican, said the volunteer missionaries' work produced a great deal of interest in his church within the community.

"While we may have had 12 people in Costa Rica, this was a project of the entire church," said Emmanuel pastor Sonny Strange. "Members, friends of our church, and area businesses donated money for our team's travel expenses, building mate-

rial and other supplies."

Members of the team were: Ogle, his son Aaron Ogle, Floyd Mooney, David Kelley, Teresa Gentry, Tony Hickman, Dwight and Demetra Stapleton, Darryl and Susan Hendrix, all of Emmanuel Church; and Don and Betty Campbell of Beaver Dam Church, Halls.

While the purpose of any of these projects is to serve others, most who go say they receive as much as they give. Any in the Emmanuel group would say that their mountaintop experience did not occur as they crossed the 12,000-foot peak that separated the south zone from much of the rest of Costa Rica.

Instead the volunteer missionaries soared highest in the low-lying village near the city of Neily where the Word provided them the power to do their assigned tasks. With all the foolishness, they're hoping they can do it again someday. — Reprinted by permission of the Standard Banner ■

First, Nashville, young adults serve in Rio ...

— Continued from page 5

the school administrators were to our programs and us.

Never in America have I seen any school so hungry for the Word of God to be shared like it is in Rio. Through a miracle of the Lord, we did have enough supplies each day and

even some left over to take home with us.

In the evenings, we would have worship services with a mission church in Santa Theresa. Every evening this small congregation met together and praised the Lord. They were very faithful in

First Church, Nashville, is one of several churches which have made a commitment to start a new church in Rio de Janeiro through the Tennessee partnership with the Carioca Convention. This is a three-year commitment on each church's part.

For more information, call Terry Sharp at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021 or e-mail him at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. (See related story on page 1.)

their attendance.

Our group usually did most of the services, opened by the pastor of the church there in Santa Theresa. One of us would give a testimony, another a prayer, and others would speak. This was very challenging for us all especially those

of us who would rather not speak to groups. It gave us a new sense of courage and determination.

All in all, the trip to Rio was the most incredible experience of our lives. We learned that God may not be calling us all to full time ministry, but he is calling us all to minister.

He is the thing people are missing, the only thing we need. I learned that on this trip. While we are in our hometowns, we have even more time to bring someone to the Lord. We are simply less courageous, and we are more into our routines.

But if we let him come in and give us that courage and strength, he will change our lives drastically and change others' lives through us. Our life will become an incredible journey, a beautiful portrait, painted by the hand of God. ■

Requests for help easier

For *The Macedonian Call*

Everyday its something new with more new forms, old forms, recycled forms, NAMB forms, TBC forms, SBC forms, IMB forms, and church forms.

What's a team needing a project, or local church needing some help supposed to do?

Pick up the Volunteer Missions Project Request form from a local associational office, fill it out, and return it to the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions team. This is the official form to ask for a group and to advertise the church's project request.

The TBC form will be forwarded to NAMB. Remember that it is only necessary to fill out one TBC Volunteer Missions Project Request form — less bureaucracy.

To receive this form, call Terry Sharp at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021 or e-mail him at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

Speakers bureau offered by team

For *The Macedonian Call*

The Partnership/Volunteers Missions Speakers Bureau contains names of speakers available to come talk to your church or association about partnership or volunteer missions life-changing experiences.

Contact the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team for a speakers list at (615) 371-2021 or 1-800-558-2090. Or contact us on the Web at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■



THE TEAM from First, Nashville, pause during their work in Rio.

Nashville church team helps build Canadian seminary

For The Macedonian Call

First Church, Nashville, mission team's plane was early arriving at Calgary International Airport, Alberta, Canada on July 11. It would be dark by the time the team reached their destination at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta.

The team included eight members plus two from First Church, Huntsville, Alabama. The Nashville group had worked at the Canadian Seminary on previous mission trips.

The projects for this year were: expansion of the library into space formerly used as classrooms; conversion of the "old" maintenance building to five guestrooms; and construction of a building to house six new student apartments.

The library space had been enlarged, but there was still much work to do such as assemble metal shelving, stain and finish oak ends for the

shelving and new study carrels. Older library furnishings were stripped of finishes, and then the furnishings were stained and refinished to match the new ones.

The guesthouse work was near completion when we arrived. Part of our team worked on installing baseboard and assisting with ceramic tile work.

The student apartment project was built with a patented assembly wall system/otherwise known as the "Lego-block building." The team members worked on this building getting scaffolding in place, cutting mesh for the exterior stucco, cutting steel re-enforcement bars, and installing wood stud walls.

On Aug. 1 came a call from Jimmy Cobb of the Canadian Seminary asking for more help because the apartments were needed by students on Aug. 26. Five from Nashville remained at the seminary and a sixth returned to help with the electric

work.

Besides working on construction mission teamwork, there was worship in area churches, devotionals, fellowship times and sightseeing.

"Catching some of the vision of the Canadian seminary leaders and feeling the challenge of Canada's spiritual need is important," said Fred Turner, team coordinator. "There are only 116 Canadian Southern Baptist churches which are located in Western Canada.

"Pray that those called and trained will lead in turning a



THOSE WHO served on the First, Nashville, team were, from left, back row, Frances Jeannette, Charlene and Joe Carter, Don Newman of Huntsville, Ala., Glenda and Fred Turner, Mary Alice and Headly McMains; front row, Ejay Vidrine, Etheleen Palmer, Becky Newman of Huntsville, and Newell Phipps.

nation to the Lord. Canada is a nation where less than 25 percent of the people attend church and only 7 percent are evangelical. God has left his

footprints in the beauty of nature across the Canadian Rockies. Canadians need to see the beauty of his love in the Son. ■

Manchester church serves in Michigan

For The Macedonian Call

A total of 36 youth and adults from Trinity Church, Manchester, recently returned from a Partnership/Volunteer Missions trip to Gwinn, Michigan, where they did projects, presented musicals, and shared their testimonies during the week of June 12-20.

"We went to Gwinn, Michigan, to increase the awareness of First Church, Gwinn, in the community where a rebirth of the city is taking place," said Karl Huber, youth minister of Trinity Church. "The town is beginning to rebuild after the exit a few years ago of the local Airforce Base. Our community service projects inspired people to help other people."

In route to Michigan, the youth group stayed overnight at Lincoln Wood Church in Rockford, Ill., where they fellowshiped with the Lincoln Wood youth. They arrived in Gwinn to find First Church pastor Ron Libey waiting for them. While eating at a local pizza place one of the Trinity girls shared her testimony to a group of teenagers.

Sunday morning, Trinity youth led the worship service for First Church, Gwinn, with the Trinity praise team, drama team, and youth choir. Rhonda Hatchett, a Trinity youth, served as soloist and Trinity pastor, Kerry Walker, preached the sermon. After lunch Trinity youth loaded the bus and headed to First Church, Harvey, MI, where they led in worship songs and presented the musical, "The Ride."

In the mornings, the Trinity youth worked on five assigned tasks including installing an electrical plug for a stove in FBC, Gwinn; clearing out brush near the local high school; painting a guard rail; raking a campground; and painting and doing trim on a Catholic mission building.

They completed all their work plus four other additional projects. In addition to the projects, the Trinity praise team went to nursing homes on Tuesday and Thursday to sing.

"When we first looked at our projects, we said only through God can we complete all this work," said Huber. "And through him, we did the work plus much more. Sometimes we underestimate the power of God and he wakes us up with a show of awesome power. He did it for us that week."

Monday evening the youth went to the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base which is now a residential area. The Trinity group set up at the tennis courts and did praise and worship songs and their musical.

One little girl who made friends with the youth before the concert was saved as a result of the presentation. "We know that other decisions were made at the concert, but we are not sure what kind and how many," Huber said. "Our main goal was to plant seeds and if God allowed to harvest some seeds."

Tuesday night the Trinity youth went to Rapid River Park, Rapid River, Mich., where they were greeted by two summer missionaries from Martin University, Pulaski. There was a small

crowd at the park pavilion and the program became a worship time for the Trinity youth.

On Wednesday night, the Trinity group took a drive up to Presque Isle Park. They stopped at a lighthouse run by the coast guard where they took a tour and had their picture made in front of the lighthouse. "Our new youth area at Trinity is called 'The Lighthouse,'" Huber said. "This was really cool for us as we enjoyed God in the beauty he created in Lake Superior."

Thursday night was the last night in Gwinn where the Trinity group performed music, skits, and the musical in Gwinn City Park. First Church, Gwinn, pastor, Ron Libey gave the Trinity group a clock made in the shape of the upper peninsula of Michigan. Engraved on the clock was special thanks to all the Trinity youth and leaders.

Friday morning the Trinity group headed for Rockford, Ill., where they stayed at Rockford Rescue Mission. There the group led in a worship service and presented the evening musical. "One of the young men in the Rockford rehabilitation program shared his testimony with the youth," Huber said. "It really hit hard on the youth."

"Saturday was another 12-hour trip home where the group arrived home encouraged and burdened for the need of their community to share Jesus," he added. "The youth already want to start planning for another trip to Gwinn or another mission trip. This was truly a wonderful experience for all who went on the trip." ■

TBC summer ...

— Continued from page 6

Grande, where we visited a home for elderly adults. We met the director Elza Colares and headed for our first meal. We were fed like honored guests during our entire stay. They served us interesting foods from passion fruit pie to bull stomach. Many times I found myself feeling guilty because we were to serve them and they continually served us.

Those last two weeks, we became experts at "waiting tables" as we served breakfast and lunch to senior adults. It took several days for us to catch on to phrases we needed in Portuguese.

One day Sara and Toby helped the rest home nurse chart blood pressure and do work in the pharmacy while Nathan, Julie and I helped out at the daycare.

We helped twice at the children's home, which shared the same property as the rest home, and we were invited to lead chapel on Wednesday night. We returned Sunday morning to the Campo Grande church's first Sunday to be open to the community. The children attended it from the home as well as the senior adult pastors and residents from the rest home.

Since the majority of the children were in school daily, our primary focus became helping people over 60. This was a complete challenge for me since my first choice was not to visit a rest home. We did some of the gardening around the grounds, helped in the chapel service at the rest home, and fed the pigs.

With somewhat scattered tasks on the trip, the reality sat in that senior adults are not into crayons and coloring books, but they love stickers. It was a challenge for me to not be able to physically see what God was doing most of the time.

The work that God had prepared in advance for us to do, the relationships he built, and the breaking of our comfort zones was impossible for us. We are still praying that the love of Christ that was shared and that his messages and words that were proclaimed will continue to grow in impact.

I can still hear the wind through the bamboo cluster outside our windows and I can hear laughter and joy. Can I trace the hand of God in our days and nights in Rio? I believe that he went before us and that he was with us. ■

The Macedonian Call

Rio de Janeiro Projects

Church Planting

Project ID: PM41998924
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Church Planting
The starting of a new work in an area of the Jacarepagua Association which is called Pantanal

Project ID: PM41998941
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Church Planting
New Church start on Governor's Island.

Drama Teams

Project ID: PM41998905
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Drama Teams
The groups will perform in schools, churches, plazas, to evangelize and prepare people for the Crusade.

Project ID: PM41998904
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Drama Teams
The groups will perform in schools, churches, plazas, to evangelize and prepare people for the Crusade.

Evangelism

Project ID: CARNV1
Date: 02/12/99 - 02/18/99
Location: Rio
Description: Evangelism
At least two teams to do evangelism outreach during Carnival. Teams need skills in clowning and mime. The use of puppets effective. Also a workshop on mime and clowning.

Medical

Project ID: PM41999915
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Parque Acari community.

Project ID: PM41999916
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Morros Sereno and Caixa da Agus community.

Project ID: PM41999917
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Morro de Dende community.

Project ID: PM41999911
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Senador Camara community.

Project ID: PM41999918
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Urubuzinho community.

Project ID: PM41999912
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Vidigal community.

Project ID: PM41999905
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Parque Rafael de Oliveira community.

Project ID: PM41999906
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Cosmo Vilho community.

Project ID: PM41999907
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Jardim Bonica community.

Project ID: PM41999908
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Morro Final Feliz community.

Project ID: PM41999909
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Flamingo Batata community.

Project ID: PM41999910
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Nova Sias community.

Project ID: PM41999920
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical team in Rocinha.

Project ID: MED1
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Perecin community.

Project ID: MED12
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Prais da Sapicaia community.

Project ID: PM41999913
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Sao Carlos community.

Project ID: MED18
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Final Feliz community.

Project ID: MED17
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Urubu community.

Project ID: MED16
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in the Urubuzinho community.

Project ID: MED15
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Caixa Dagua community.

Project ID: MED13
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Parque Royal community.

Project ID: MED11
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Dende community.

Project ID: MED10
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Vila Uniao community.

Project ID: MED9
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Dols Irmaus community.

Project ID: MED8
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Beira do Rio community.

Project ID: MED7
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Rato Mthado community.

Project ID: MED6
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Rio das Pedras community.

Project ID: MED5
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Rio das Pedras community.

Project ID: MED4
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Cambalacho community.

Project ID: MED3
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Boral community.

Project ID: MED14
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Medical
Medical clinic in Sereno community.

Revival

Project ID: PM41999904
Date: 05/23/99 - 06/01/99
Location: Rio
Description: Revival
A total of 150 teams for citywide crusade. Need preacher, musician, layperson on 4-person team.

Special Services

Project ID: PM41998931
Date: Open
Location: Rio
Description: Special Services
Training of children's hospital chaplain.

Student Ministries

Project ID: PM42000900
Date: 01/03/2000 - 01/12/2000
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Work with children in Baptist Friendship House.

Project ID: BSM5
Date: 06/21/99 - 08/02/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Summer missionaries in Recovery Center for men for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Teach skills, hold Bible studies, love people, work around the home, help in evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: BSM1
Date: 06/21/99 - 08/02/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Summer missionaries at Children's Home for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Plan activities, love children, do Bible studies, help in evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: SEM1
Date: 01/09/99 - 05/15/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Semester missionary at Resocialization Home for street boys and girls for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Do Bible studies, arts and crafts, love children, help in evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: BSM3
Date: 06/21/99 - 08/02/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Summer missionaries at Resocialization Home for street boys and girls, for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Do Bible studies, arts and crafts, love children, help in evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: BSM2
Date: 06/21/99 - 08/02/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Summer missionaries at Senior Citizens home for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Plan activities, do Bible studies, help in home, love people, help with evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: SEM2
Date: 01/09/99 - 05/15/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Semester Missionary in Children's Home for Social Work Board of Cariocas Convention. Do Bible studies, arts and crafts, love children, and help in evangelistic outreach programs.

Project ID: PM41999900
Date: 01/03/99 - 01/11/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Work with children and parents in Baptist Friendship House.

Project ID: BSM4
Date: 06/21/99 - 08/02/99
Location: Rio
Description: Student Ministries
Summer missionaries at women's home for Social Work Board of Carioca Convention. Teach skills, love people, help in evangelistic outreach programs.

VBS/BYBC

Project ID: B5
Date: 01/12/2000 - 01/20/2000

Location: Rio
Description: VBS/BYBC
Work with children in preschool and grades 1-8.

Canada Projects

Construction

Project ID: 98ALP004
Date: 07/01/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Vanderhoof, BC
Description: Construction
Sound system for nursery, kitchen, foyer, recording system, wireless mic stands, etc. Contact Name: Ann Bulky. Contact Phone Number: 250-567-9186.

Project ID: 98ALP003
Date: 07/01/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Vanderhoof, BC
Description: Construction
Finishing of a 40' basement, shelving in basement, classroom, library rubber baseboard. Contact Name: Ann Bulky. Contact Phone Number: 250-567-9186.

Project ID: 98NOR032
Date: 07/17/99 - 07/24/99
Location: Love, Saskatchewan
Description: Construction
Construction of wheelchair ramp and number of other minor renovations. Older teens to adults. Contact Name: Darcy Cust. Contact Phone Number: 306-276-2042.

Project ID: 98ALP002
Date: 07/01/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Vanderhoof, BC
Description: Construction
Construct baptistry, plumbing required. Contact Name: Ann Bulky. Contact Phone Number: 250-567-9186.

Evangelism

Project ID: 98NOR033
Date: 07/27/99 - 08/07/99
Location: Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Description: Evangelism
Canvas neighborhood for VBS and be teachers. Need mature teenagers or older willing to share faith inside and outside church. Be team players and enjoy children. Contact Name: Pastor Bob Butt. Contact Phone Number: 306-692-4515.

Project ID: 98NOR030
Date: 07/01/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Allan, Saskatchewan
Description: Evangelism
Children and youth Street style ministry where teams take Gospel to young people in communities. Contact Name: Kim Uhren-Pastor, Allan BC. Contact Phone Number: 306-257-3263.

Project ID: 98CAP016
Date: 05/21/99 - 05/24/99
Location: Surrey, BC
Description: Evangelism
Leadership training for church growth and share Gospel. Contact Name: David Nguyen. Contact Phone Number: 604-951-3814.

Special Services

Project ID: 98NOR027
Date: Open
Location: Prince Albert
Description: Special Services
Provide Christian Library for a Lithuanian Student. Contact Name: Gerry Wortman. Contact Phone Number: 306-764-6399.

VBS/BYBC

Project ID: 98MID033
Date: 07/15/99 - 08/15/99
Location: Edmonton, Alberta
Description: VBS/BYBC
Activities for children in grades 1-6 with VBS, lead drama team, Wednesday night missions studies, children's outreach. Contact Name: Wayne Ke. Contact Phone Number: 403-484-1981.

Project ID: 98NOR031
Date: 07/03/99 - 07/10/99
Location: Love, Saskatchewan
Description: VBS/BYBC
VBS and BYBC with current materials for preschool-older children. Contact Name: Darcy Cust. Contact Phone Number: 306-276-2042.

Project ID: 98MID032
Date: 07/04/99 - 07/11/99
Location: Prince Albert
Description: VBS/BYBC
Lead a VBS/Music Camp at First Church with Bible classes and VBS musical. Contact Name: Michael McElroy. Contact Phone

Number: 306-276-2042.

Project ID: 98MID034
Date: July 1999, 2 weeks
Location: Pincher Creek, Alberta
Description: VBS/BYBC
Creative ministry inside and outside church services, SS, VBS, outreach with community concert. Contact Name: Murray Para. Contact Phone Number: 403-627-2686.

Costa Rica Projects

Construction

Project ID: PM71998819
Date: Open
Location: San Jose
Description: Construction
Team for construction projects throughout Costa Rica.

Medical

Project ID: PM71998832
Date: Open
Location: South Zone
Description: Medical
Dental team in rural, indigenous areas of Costa Rica.

Michigan Projects

Construction

Project ID: GD-3
Date: Open
Location: Detroit
Description: Construction
Repair work on building. Contact Name: Rev. Avance Harden.

Project ID: SC-3

Date: Open
Location: Battle Creek
Description: Construction
Repair block siding of church and chimney. Contact Name: Les Seal. Contact Phone Number: 616-965-2533.

Project ID: N-6B

Date: Open
Location: Oscoda
Description: Construction
Replace roof of 60,000 sq. ft. single story building. Provide materials and labor. Contact Name: Rev. Bob Phillips. Contact Phone Number: 517-739-7047.

Music

Project ID: N-5
Date: Open
Location: Prudenville
Description: Music
Congregation song leader and pianist. Contact Name: Pastor Robert Hallatt. Contact Phone Number: 517-366-8754.

Project ID: N-7

Date: Open
Location: Vanderbilt
Description: Music
Develop Sunday School and music programs. Contact Name: Bruce LeCueux. Contact Phone Number: 517-733-2598.

Tennessee Projects

Camp

Project ID: T-17
Date: 01/00/98 - 12/00/98
Location: Johnson City
Description: Camp
A total of 1-2 youth workers needed for 3 month block with Johnson City Center. Contact Name: Tai Thompson. Contact Phone Number: 423-929-2491.

Project ID: T-99-14
Date: 07/18/99 - 07/23/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Camp
Inner City Camp for grades 6-8. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-15
Date: 07/25/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Camp
Inner city camp for grades 4-5. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Construction

Project ID: T-99-7
Date: 03/07/99 - 03/12/99

Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes for inner city elderly. Evening optional ministries. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-12

Date: 07/04/99 - 07/10/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes for elderly. Afternoon/evening optional ministries. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-13

Date: 07/11/99 - 07/17/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes of elderly. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-11

Date: 06/27/99 - 07/03/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes of elderly in morning. Afternoon/evening optional ministries. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-10

Date: 06/20/99 - 06/26/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes for elderly. Afternoon/evening optional assignments like BYBC/VBS, clown ministry, drama, evangelism, magician, music, puppets. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T-99-8

Date: 03/21/99 - 03/26/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes for inner city elderly. Optional evening ministry. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.

Project ID: T99-6

Date: 07/25/99 - 07/31/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T99-5

Date: 07/18/99 - 07/24/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T99-4

Date: 07/11/99 - 07/17/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T99-3

Date: 06/27/99 - 07/03/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T99-2

Date: 06/20/99 - 06/26/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T99-1

Date: 06/13/99 - 06/19/99
Location: Cleveland
Description: Construction
Construction for low income home owners. Contact Name: Michelle McCluskey. Contact Phone Number: 423-476-5493.

Project ID: T-99-9

Date: 06/13/99 - 06/19/99
Location: Chattanooga
Description: Construction
Reroof and paint homes for inner city elderly. Evening children's activities and evangelism at Riverbend Festival. Contact Name: Stan Braley. Contact Phone Number: 423-267-3794.



SBC president calls for Clinton to resign

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson has called for President Bill Clinton to resign for his own good and that of the country.

In asking Clinton to remove himself from office, Patterson has joined a list of Southern Baptists, public officials, and newspapers favoring the resignation of the scandal-ridden president. Patterson's call for resignation is noteworthy because Clinton is a member of a Southern Baptist church — Immanuel in Little Rock, Ark.

The calls for Clinton to resign have increased as the weeks have passed since the president admitted Aug. 17 he had an improper relationship,

interpreted as a sexual one, with White House intern Monica Lewinsky and had been misleading about it.

Patterson, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., told Baptist Press Sept. 8 he is calling for Clinton to resign first "out of concern for him, because here's a man whose personal life and home and spiritual life (are) in disarray. And no man walking through those kinds of things is in a position to lead anything."

Clinton should be "devoting himself to rectifying his relationship with God and his family," Patterson said.

Patterson said he would like to tell the president, "however it looks to the contrary, that we love him and we have redoubled our efforts to pray for him at this particular time that God would give him both forgiveness and discernment."

In addition to other requests for the president to resign, another Southern Baptist leader — R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. — took the matter even further calling for Immanuel Church, where Clinton is a member, to exercise biblical discipline with the president.

Immanuel, like many Southern Baptist churches, has not practiced discipline, including the removal of members, in recent decades but has handled a moral transgression as a private matter between the individual and a minister, a staff member told Baptist Press. ■

Florida Baptist volunteer among Swissair victims

Baptist Press

BRANDON, Fla. — Florida Baptist Jonathan Wilson, 22, was one of the 229 people killed when Swissair Flight 111 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia, Canada, Sept. 2. There were no survivors.

Wilson, a member of Crosstown Community Church here, was traveling to Switzerland for a short-term mission project.

He is the oldest child of evangelist Tim Wilson and his wife, Judy. ■

SBC reservation process set to begin

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For the first time, the official housing request form for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will be available on the Internet.

The June 15-16, 1999, meeting is at the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta.

The housing guide and official request form for the 1999 SBC meeting became available on the SBC's Internet site — www.sbc.net — on Sept. 8, said Jack R. Wilkerson, convention manager and vice president for business and finance at the SBC Executive Committee.

SBC hotel registration will begin Oct. 1, he added.

In addition the SBC housing guide and request is available at state convention offices and the Executive Committee offices in Nashville.

By mail the forms must be postmarked Oct. 1 or after and sent to: ACVB/SBC Housing

Bureau, 233 Peachtree Street, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30303. All reservations are made on a first come-first served basis by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The housing guide lists 29 hotels/motels in the downtown, midtown, Buckhead, and airport areas as well as their rates for the convention. ■

Two stations cancel Stern after two weeks

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — After just two weeks, Fox affiliates here and in Lubbock, Texas, have canceled the CBS-produced TV show featuring radio shock jock Howard Stern.

"It's ugly. It's bad TV," Sue Schwartz, vice president of programming for KTVK, Channel 3, in Phoenix told the *Arizona Republic*.

Also on Sept. 1, KJTV-TV in Lubbock pulled the show with the station's general manager dubbing it "morally offensive."

Stern's show was the first broadcast network series to carry a TV-MA rating on its Aug. 29 second airing, according to news reports. TV-MA is the most restrictive rating of the TV rating system. ■

Bill Cashion to direct IMB program

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Bill Cashion, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela and director of the International Mission Board's human needs program, has been named director of the IMB's Volunteers in Missions program.

Cashion, 49, will coordinate the process of matching Southern Baptist short-term missions volunteers with strategic requests from Southern Baptist missionaries overseas. In 1997, more than 17,000 Southern Baptists participated in overseas evangelism and ministry projects coordinated through the IMB.

"There is no doubt the Lord has used volunteers in special ways all around the world," said Cashion, who begins his new role in mid-October. "The Volunteers in Missions department is committed to do all we can to assist churches, associations, conventions, and missionaries to come together as the most effective team possible for sharing the Gospel. ■

Graham among century's top 25 religious figures

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham is among the top 25 religious figures of the 20th century as selected by the PBS television program "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly."

The program, hosted by Bob Abernethy, kicked off its second season Sept. 4 with a roundtable discussion of the list featuring historian Martin Marty, *New York Times* columnist Peter Steinfeld, and Phyllis Tickle, contributing editor in religion for *Publisher's Weekly*. Others on the list included Martin Luther King Jr., Carl F.H. Henry, founder of *Christianity Today* magazine, and Mother Theresa. ■



GRAHAM

Book, endowment honors retired Kentucky editor

Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — C.R. Daley's 27-year tenure as *Western Recorder* editor was marked by deep conviction and steadfast courage, friends and family members said at an Aug. 31 banquet honoring Daley and his wife, Christine.

The banquet was the first major effort to raise money for an endowment fund established in the Daleys' honor by the Kentucky Baptist newspaper. In addition, a new book, titled *Daley Observations*, was unveiled at the event. The book contains 75 editorials written by Daley during his 1957-84 editorship and carries the same title as his weekly *Western Recorder* column.

Earnings from the endowment will help fund *Western Recorder's* effort to provide a copy of the weekly paper to every Kentucky Baptist pastor free of charge. ■

Alaska Baptists form partnership

Baptist Press

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — A three-year partnership between Baptists in Alaska and Far East Russia was inaugurated at the 53rd annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention in August. ■

Seeking Staff Persons

Church is seeking persons to fill these full-time positions: Ministers of Education, Youth, Childhood Education, and Music. Send resumes to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 701 South Main Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

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Lone male association secretary attends state conference

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Leslie L. Corum, secretary, Northern Association based in Maynardville, attended the recent Associational Secretaries Celebration Aug. 27-28 although he didn't know he would be the only male in attendance. But he wasn't surprised since he knows most associational secretaries are women.

He was just glad for the training since he is new to the work, explained Corum, who accepted the position five months ago.

Corum may be in a new job but he is familiar with Baptists and their reporting systems. He has served as clerk of Northern Association for 21 years and as a church clerk simultaneously.



LESLIE L. CORUM

He was clerk of Cedar Ford Church in Luttrell and then became clerk of Milan Church, Maynardville, where he still serves in that role and where he and his wife, Mary, are members.

Corum feels comfortable in his new job despite being a different gender than most associational secretaries because he feels God provided the job, he explained.

Corum, 72, worked for a Knoxville package delivery company. Then they cut back his hours. Ten days later, he was asked to serve as associational secretary.

He learned about the job opening while a member of the missions committee of Milan Church. He told his pastor, Charles D. Oliver, he would be interested. Oliver passed the information on to Herbert Jones, director of missions of Northern Association along with Midland Association.

Jones assumed responsibility for Northern association in April so he was glad to get Corum's help. Jones has served as director of missions for Midland Association for seven years.

The work for the association is a blessing in several ways, said Corum. He needed a job, he needed it at that time, and the job is part-time and, thus, less demanding than his previous work.

He enjoys the work, Corum explained, especially "working

with the people in the association. They're mighty fine people," he explained.

He's still learning, he admitted, especially computer work so the association can submit such information as Annual Church Profiles to the Tennessee Baptist Convention on computer disk.

Concerning his unique role, Corum said, "I'm not embarrassed. I'm honored to be associated with these fine young ladies and other Baptists," said Corum. *B&R*

Seeking DOM

Salem Baptist Association in Middle Tennessee is searching for a Director of Missions. If you have an interest and would like to submit a resume before Sept. 30, please send it to Salem Baptist Association, DOM Search Committee, P.O. Box 186, Liberty, TN 37095.

CLASSIFIED

MUSIC DIRECTOR: First Baptist Church of South Pittsburg, seeks a part-time Music Director. Send resume to P.O. Box 192, South Pittsburg, 37380.

SEEKING: Full-time Minister of Education & Young Adults. Contact Baring Cross Baptist Church, 1224 Franklin St., North Little Rock, AR 72114; Fax - (501) 375-5333, Phone - (501) 375-2347.

USED PEWS: 26 oak pews, 13 feet long. \$125 each, call (901) 239-3822 or 239-9801.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and music. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

FOR SALE: Canon NP 6030 and Canon NP 3525 copiers. \$4,500 for both. Washington Avenue Baptist Church, (931) 526-1917.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS: For association with 47 churches in western Kentucky. Send resumes to DOM Search Committee, 2541 Olivet Church Road, Paducah, KY 42001.

PIANIST: East Laurel Baptist Church seeks pianist. Please send inquiries and/or resumes to Quade Pierson, 140 West Grand, Jackson, TN 38301.

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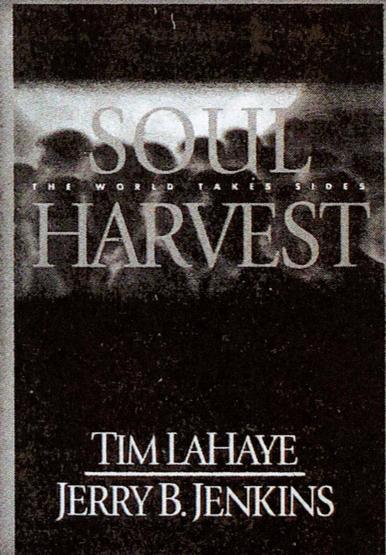
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Power to share the Gospel

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Ephesians 3:1-13

It was exciting to watch Mark McGwire tie Roger Maris' single season homerun record last week. A reporter asked the gentleman who caught the ball what he would do with it. His response was, "I'm going to give it back to Mark McGwire." I pondered that statement for a while after I heard it. If I had caught that homerun ball, would I have given it back to the man who hit it? My conclusion — absolutely not. My reason? The guy who caught homerun ball 57 gave it back to McGwire, and all he got was a picture of himself shaking hands with the St. Louis slugger. I have heard there have been offers to buy one of those homerun balls for as much as one million dollars.

Now, if McGwire was my friend, or if I thought we might become pals as a result of me giving him the ball, it might be a different story. If I thought he might let me hang out with him, if he was going to have my family over for Christmas dinner every year, or if I knew he would remember my birthday and always send me a gift, then I might give him the ball. The probability is that he wouldn't even remember my name a week after I gave him that million dollar ball back. There would never be a real relationship.

At the point of salvation, a number of wonderful events occur. We are forgiven of our sins, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are rescued from Hell, and we become owners of a glorious mansion in Heaven; however, it does not stop there. When we are saved, the King of kings comes into our hearts and develops a relationship with us. He chooses to walk with us, guide us, encourage us, and empower us the entirety of our lives.

In our lesson this week, the writer points out that from our relationship with him, the Lord strengthens us to perform a specific task. God's empowerment is provided to enable us to function as messengers of the faith. The apostle Paul certainly did not feel worthy or adequate to carry out such a task. He refers to himself as the "least of all saints."

Henry Augustus Rowland, professor of physics at Johns Hopkins University, was once called as an expert witness at a trial. During cross-examination a lawyer demanded, "What are your qualifications as an expert witness in this case?"

The normally modest and retiring professor replied quietly, "I am the greatest living expert on the subject under discussion." Later a friend well acquainted with Rowland's disposition expressed surprise at the professor's uncharacteristic answer. Rowland answered, "Well, what did you expect me to do? I was under oath."

Had Paul been testifying under oath concerning himself, I do not think that listener would have mistaken his humility for weakness. Though the great apostle felt unworthy concerning his appointment to the ministry, he never doubted being able to accomplish his mission because he realized that God's grace would be sufficient.

The Bible clearly teaches that we, as believers, are to share our faith. I suppose there are a number of reasons why so many do not; but at the top of that list I would suggest that fear wears the crown. I believe that Paul would tell us that he too struggled with fear and doubt, but we must realize that it is our responsibility to make ourselves available, and it is God's responsibility to give us the wisdom, the words, and the power to share the Words of Life with a dying world. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

What God expects

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage — Deuteronomy 5:6-14a, 16-21

It would be very difficult for us to accept a job today without a job description explaining exactly what was expected by the employer. We would not sign a loan agreement without knowing the details of the terms and how they apply to us. We probably would not participate in some game or athletic event without understanding what the rules are and how the game is played. Most would not take a trip to someplace they have never been before without a road map outlining the way.

Yet, when it comes to our joy, happiness, and meaning in life, many are lost and confused and often flounder because they do not know the way to such things. Often we try to please God, and in our own eyes what we do may seem acceptable, but the truth of the matter is it is only our best guess.

Family Bible Lesson

How do we please God? For any relationship to have joy and meaning to all participants, we must first understand what the expectations are. After we understand what is expected of us, and have made known our expectations, then the relationship has direction and purpose.

God had chosen Israel to be his people. However, this emerging nation did not really know how to be the people of God. What would make them different from all the other nations on earth? What was their purpose and how did it fit in with what God was doing and what he was going to do? God responded, by revealing himself, and what he expected out of each and every one of us.

Our relationship with God (vv. 1-15)

There is a proverb these days that seems quite popu-

lar, "Put first things first."

A well known baseball player and coach was known for his seemingly obvious observations, such as "It ain't over till it's over." Yet, there is much wisdom in each of these sayings. God wanted his people to understand that he was to come first in everything.

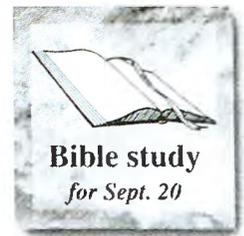
If we are to be his people, then nothing can come between us and him. Not career, family, wife, husband, child, recreation, relationship, or anything. God elaborates on this point to include any imagery that would distract our attention away from him. He does not want even the slightest hint of idolatry. We must acknowledge he is, and that he is the creator of all things. We must put first things first.

Our relationship with others (vv.16-21)

Second on God's agenda is that we understand how we are to relate to one another. All relationships rest on the foundation of trust and respect. If the relationship is going to grow and flourish, trust has to be the foundation.

Trust relieves fear, anxiety, and brings peace and security. Otherwise, we will always be on the defensive and our lives will be filled with fear and sorrow. I heard someone say one time that no one is more fearful of being robbed than one who has robbed. Why? Because they know what someone can and will do.

Conversely, if we practice trustworthiness, then we please God and escape the fear of retribution. Respect for the other person brings joy to both. Showing ourselves trustworthy brings happiness and peace. Peace of mind and spirit. Jesus summed it up by saying the two greatest commandments were to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Upon this, he said, rests all the law and prophets. This is the key to life. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.



God prepares for deliverance

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 7:14-18; 11:1, 4-7

In last week's lesson, we noted how God used signs and wonders to convince Moses of his power and presence. Moses needed more than a burning bush episode to launch out with God on a daring mission of deliverance.

Likewise, God used signs and wonders to convince the people of Israel that he, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, would lead their rescue from Egyptian bondage. Even though much of God's activity was directed toward the softening of Pharaoh's stubborn heart, a despondent Israel was watching in amazement and renewed faith.

God used the hardened heart of Pharaoh to demonstrate his ability to perform his purpose. He sent a variety of plagues, not only to influence the decision of a powerful Pharaoh, but to have a continuing effect upon a reluctant Israel as they pondered the work of God. While Yahweh worked through Moses, there was little doubt that he was the moving force. He was preparing Israel for the biggest adventure of their lives.

Beginning with the turning of the Nile into bloody water, there was a series of 10 plagues. The frogs, gnats, insects, diseased cattle, hu-

Explore the Bible Lesson

man illnesses, hailstorm, locusts, and the darkness were all evidence of God's sovereign power over nature. The plagues were a theological statement that Yahweh was the Lord God of everything, everybody, and everywhere. Here was a certainty which Egyptians could not deny. Their gods were no match for the Lord God of Israel.

The final plague was the most devastating and perhaps the most convincing of all. It involved the death of the firstborn of every Egyptian household. The announcement of this plague is contained in chapter 11, while the fulfillment of it comes later. The presentation of this material has a dramatic effect upon the reader. There is suspense as the final plague unfolds. The writer shows how God purposefully moved to bring about his desired effect.

The activity of the final plague seems to be totally the work of God apart from the intervention of Moses and Aaron. It was the Lord himself going through the land as the death angel. There is significance to the fact that only the firstborn were to be found dead. In ancient thought, the

first one to open the womb had preferential status, authority, and responsibility. The death of the firstborn was probably the worst fate that could befall an Egyptian family. The fact that the Israelites suffered no such sorrow convinced Pharaoh and the Egyptians that Yahweh, the God of Israel, was serious about their release. In dramatic fashion, events in Egypt were moving toward the great escape.

The plagues narratives, therefore, became a statement to both the ancient and modern world about God's rescuing love for his people. He continues to work through miraculous events to rescue his bondage-laden people. His people in every generation, however, must always believe in his power to deliver.

As God prepares his people for deliverance, he wants them to know what is going to happen. He gives Israel favor among their wealthier Egyptian neighbors so that the Egyptians share their valuable possessions. This, no doubt, was designed to give some financial stability to a slave people moving toward their promised land. However, much of the precious metal may have been used to construct a golden calf, expressing Israel's defiance, at the foot of Sinai. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

deaths

■ **Robert Earl Wilsford**, retired director of missions, Giles Association, based in Pulaski, died Sept. 7 in Pulaski after a long illness. Wilsford served the association from 1956-81.

■ **Ray Barrow**, pastor, Spring Creek Church, Paris, died recently after an illness of several months.

people

■ **First Church, Christiana**, will ordain **Edward Davis** as a deacon Sept. 20.

■ **Dennis Greer, Amos Laxson, and Roger Pittman** were ordained as deacons recently by First Church, Manchester.

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

leaders

■ **Allen Roberts** has been called as pastor of Antioch Church, Johnson City.

■ **Booney Crawford**, minister of students, Antioch Church, Johnson City, has been called to the staff of Higher Ground Church, Kingsport.

■ **Hillview Church, Murfreesboro**, has called **Belvin Cox**, an employee of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, as pastor.

■ **Mt. Hermon Church, Murfreesboro**, has called **Kerry Smith** as pastor.

■ **Jeremy Buckelew** has been called as interim music leader of West Paris Church, Paris.

■ **Tuppertown Church, Oliver Springs**, ordained **Ralph Wilson** to the ministry Aug. 30. He had been called as pastor of Frost Bottom Church, Oliver Springs, and began serving effective Aug. 30. This is his first service as pastor of a church.

■ **Third Church, Murfreesboro**, called **Daniel Moore** as pastor, effective Sept. 13.

■ **Rick White**, pastor, First Church, Franklin, recently celebrated the 16th anniversary of his service there.

■ **Samuel D. Dean**, pastor, First Church, Clinton, will retire Jan. 3 after serving the church as pastor for 21 years.

■ **Central Church, Johnson City**, will hold a commissioning

service Oct. 18 for **Scott and Valerie Payne**, who were appointed as missionaries to Thailand by the International Mission Board Sept. 15 in Louisville, Ky. Scott has been collegiate ministries specialist at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

churches

■ **Riverside Church, Nashville**, will hold its 55th anniversary celebration Sept. 20. Activities include a luncheon following the morning worship service and a Concert of Praise at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 228-2544 or Edith McCoy at (615) 228-4676.

■ **Memorial Church, Livingston**, will hold its fall revival Sept. 27-30. Rocky Churchwell of First Church, Jamestown, will speak. For more information, contact the church at (931) 823-1076.

■ **First Church, Bluff City**, will hold revival Sept. 20-24. Dennis Kenny, former pastor who is now serving a church in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., will speak.

■ **Spring Creek Church, Paris**, celebrated its 175th anniversary Aug. 16.

■ **Buchanan Church, Buchanan**, is holding revival Sept. 14-18. Brian Anderson of Henry is speaking.

■ **Lucy Church, Millington**, will hold homecoming Sept. 20. David Dockery, president, Union University, Jackson, will speak. Luncheon will follow.

■ **Lincoln Park Church, Knoxville**, held a groundbreaking service for a Family Life Center Sept. 13.

■ **First Church, Adamsville**, will hold revival Sept. 27-30. Pat Kough will speak and Richard Dickerson, minister of music, Woodmont Church, Nashville, will lead the music.

■ **First Church, Manchester**, will hold a World Missions Conference Sept. 20-23. Speakers include Joseph Crichton, a Tennessee prison chaplain; James Joseph of Grenada; Tim Cox of Mississippi River Ministry; Anthony Wishert of Brazil; and Ronald Nichols, a missionary to an unnamed country.

■ **South Woods Church, Memphis**, will hold a reformation and revival ministry conference Sept. 25-26. John Armstrong, president of Reformation and Revival Ministries of Carol Stream, Ill., will speak along with Tom J. Nettles and Donald S. Whit-



BOYS AND GIRLS place money in buckets which measure the weight of gifts from the two groups who participated in a Vacation Bible School at First Church, Morristown, held this summer. The children gave more than \$1,600 to help Immanuel Southern Church, Rockville, Ind., complete a fellowship hall and educational space. Then the church sent a team to work on the church. First Church learned about the need when a construction team served there three years ago.

ney, Southern Baptist authors and theological professors. The theme is "Growing the Church God's Way." For more information, contact the church at (901) 758-1213.

■ **Taylor's Chapel, Murfreesboro**, will hold youth night Sept. 19. Steve Farris will speak.

■ On Sept. 27 **Broadmoor Church, Memphis**, will hold a Missions Fair from 5-8 p.m.

■ **First Church, Jasper**, reports 61 people made professions of faith as a result of a revival held Aug. 30 - Sept. 2. Another outcome was the 250 youth drawn one evening. Thomas Young of Fort Worth, Texas, spoke and Rick Gates of East Ridge led the music.

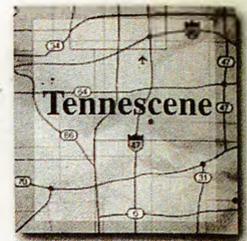
■ **Alta Loma Church, Madison**, will begin a class for singles or singles again Sept. 20 instead of Sept. 13 at 9:15 a.m. Following the morning worship service a luncheon will be held for participants. For more information, call the church at (615) 865-8340.

■ **Second Church, Memphis**, has opened the Grove Music Academy, which will provide private instruction and a strings orchestra. The faculty includes Julia C. Pilgrim, director and instructor in piano; Cindy Betancourt, instructor in strings; Nelson Dougherty, instructor in strings; and Jamie Randolph, instructor in guitar. For more information, contact the church at (901) 682-3395.

■ **Greystone Church, Nolensville**, broke ground Aug. 30 for a church building.

■ **First Church, Troy**, celebrated its 69th anniversary Sept. 13.

■ **First Church, Carthage**, will hold revival Sept. 27-30. David Daugherty, pastor, Shellsford Church, McMinnville, will speak and Tim Smith will lead the music.



from 2-8 p.m. It will feature Scott Humston for children; the Nobodys, a music group, for the youth; and Dave and Claudia Arp for couples. For more information, contact the association at (423) 929-1196 or by e-mail at 70423,425@Compuserve.com.

■ The executive board of **Sweetwater Association** voted recently to not invite Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, to be represented at its annual meeting because of its decision to elect its own trustees. In addition, the board voted to draft a resolution asking the Tennessee Baptist Convention to escrow Cooperative Program funds to Carson-Newman until the issue is resolved.

■ **Gibson County Association** honored Ken Sparkman, director of missions, and Kathleen Sparkman, secretary, this summer for 25 years of service. The association had a reception for them and gave the couple a trip to Hawaii. They will travel there in November.

■ **Madison-Chester and Crockett associations** are seeking applicants for director of missions. Please send resumes to Joe McIntire, DOM Search Committee, 1980 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

schools

■ **Union University** will sponsor Campus Day '98 on Oct. 3 for students in grades seven-12. Activities include a campus tour, visits with students, and a concert. Cost is \$7 per person. For more information, call Union's office of enrollment at 1 (800) 33-UNION.

associations

■ **Holston Association** will hold its first FamilyFest '98 at University Parkway Church, Johnson City, Sept. 26



DEDICATING some property is Joel Bayluangrath, pastor of the Laotian congregation of Woodbine Church, Nashville, as Don Whately, minister of missions of Woodbine, listens. The four acres of land will be the site of a church building for the Laotian congregation. The service was held Aug. 30.