

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 164/ Number 38

Statewide Edition

October 7, 1998

this week's news

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## Layman represents state Baptists in North Korea

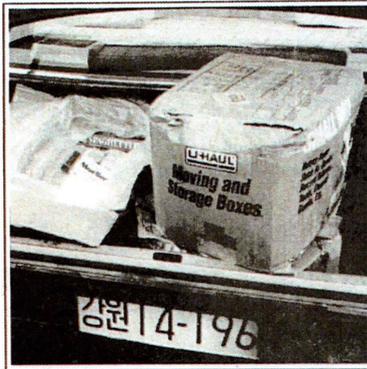
By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

**NASHVILLE** — At the invitation of the North Korean government, a Tennessee Baptist layman was among a six-member Southern Baptist delegation from the International Mission Board which toured the communist country in early September.

Steve York, a Nashville businessman and Brotherhood director at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, was selected to represent Tennessee Baptists because of his efforts in helping to collect and ship food to North Korea earlier this year, said Tim Bearden, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Missions Awareness and Involvement group.

York, owner of ABC Moving and Storage Company, used his trucks and time to collect food from all over the state in April, Bearden said. "We are honored that we were asked to send a representative," Bearden said. "Steve's trip and experiences will enhance future efforts to collect food and continue to open doors in a society that is closed to the Gospel," he said.

Coordinated by Bob Davison of the MAI Group, Tennessee Baptists collected 899



**A FAMILIAR BOX** to Tennessee Baptists sits in a car with a North Korean tag.



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST** layman Steve York delivers food to a family in North Korea.

boxes of food designed to feed a family of four in North Korea for a month. North Koreans have been suffering from severe famine for several years.

York emphasized reports of the famine in North Korea are not exaggerated. He said each family in North Korea receives 450 grams of corn per distribution, enough for a family of four for only eight days. There is no timetable for the distribution, York said. "I saw people digging through the grass looking for edible grasses and roots to supplement their food," he said.

York observed that 9-12-year-old children have the stature of 5-6-year-olds. "It's sad to see the condition of the people," he said.

While most of the food sent in by Southern Baptists had been distributed, a few

boxes were retained to allow the team to distribute it personally to North Korean families, York related.

While the families were grateful for the food, York noted they are still of the communist mindset that their "great leader" or dictator will soon have their problems solved. The sadness and irony, York said, is the people are taught that "nothing is stronger than one's own self. Yet, here is a country dying of starvation."

York and the Southern Baptist delegation were able to tour distribution facilities and a factory where "food" is made from corn cobs, acorns, and mushroom roots to supplement their corn supply.

York said he is confident the food sent in by Southern Baptists got to the starving — See layman, page 2

## Judson senior adults do double duty

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

**NASHVILLE** — The "Judson Jewels," senior adults from Judson Church here did more than attend and enjoy the recent Senior Adult Conference at Pigeon Forge.

After it was over they went to work serving the Lord.

The senior adults, led by Johnnie Hall, Judson Jewels president, and Richard Wade, missions development director at Judson, left the Pigeon Forge retreat and went directly to participate in a two-day missions project at Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.

It was the second consecutive year the senior adults combined a pleasure trip with mission work, Hall said. "The



**VIRGINIA ROBERTSON**, right, of Judson Church, Nashville, presents a Bible to a young woman she led to Christ during a mission trip at Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.

mission trip is targeted for senior adults and is geared around their ages," he explained, noting there was no heavy lifting or stretching (as

painting sometimes requires) involved.

The senior adults collected 48 boxes of clean, sized clothing this year and also took 16 boxes of food to the Baptist center in Knoxville, he noted.

Once at the center the senior adults hang up the clothes and assist with food distribution. In addition the seniors lived up their motto, "Touch and Tell Tennessee," which is printed on their T-shirts and uses Matthew 25:35 as its scriptural base. Two people at the center were led to faith in Christ by Judson senior adults.

The senior adult efforts coincide with a recent commitment to see every Judson member go on a mission trip, — See Judson, page 3

## TBC gifts up for year

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — In September Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,827,983 to the Cooperative Program.

The amount compares to \$2,743,874 given in September 1997.

For the fiscal year to date, which ends Oct. 31, Tennessee Baptists have given \$28,128,304, up \$826,334 over the same period last year. The year-to-date budget is \$27,596,721.

"We are pleased that Tennessee Baptists continue to generously support missions, education, and evangelism efforts within the convention," said James M. Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer. ■

**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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# Layman represents state Baptists in ...

— Continued from page 1  
North Koreans. "It's amazing how so little can go so far," he observed.

York said that while the team was not allowed to openly share the Gospel, their presence, along with the food Southern Baptists sent, is sending a message to the North Koreans.

They have been told from birth that Americans are the "bad guys. They are seeing for themselves we are not the Americans they are led to believe."

The food is opening doors in a country where religion is basically just a word. North Koreans have no concept of terms

such as heaven and hell and God is taken out of the equation, York said. "If we open the door a crack, the Spirit of God will take over," he said.

"That's what we are doing. We don't have an agenda."

York said if Southern Baptists demanded they be allowed to go into the country and openly "preach on the street corner," they would not be allowed into the country.

York noted that, at the age of 44, "I lost an innocence that we all have. Few will ever experience the loss I have seen."

"I would not wish this on anyone, but it is on many people right now — living and dy-

ing in nothing. Just machines in a Satan factory. People were not made to be like this — told everything is wonderful when it is not."

While stressing Southern Baptists are not in the food business, York said the Southern Baptist Convention, through the International Mission Board, is committed to helping the people in North Korea through the year 2000.

York said that through the food boxes, which contain a sticker that says "With Love from Southern Baptists," the crack in the door will continue to open in North Korea.

"We hope to do three major food drives in the United

States within that time frame," he said.

York observed Southern Baptists are trying to obey God's call to "go and tell the world."

"I feel we have a major opportunity to share in a country — one of the last bastions of closed society."

"It will be a long, uphill battle, but by the grace of God we are being allowed to come in."

Because of what he experienced firsthand in North Korea, the Nashville layman pledged to continue to promote the effort and try to keep "opening up the crack a little bit more." *B&R*

## Tennessee Drug Awareness Council

# United Tennessee League directors change name

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The United Tennessee League (UTL), an interdenominational agency devoted to educating youth about the evils of alcohol and drugs, has a new name.

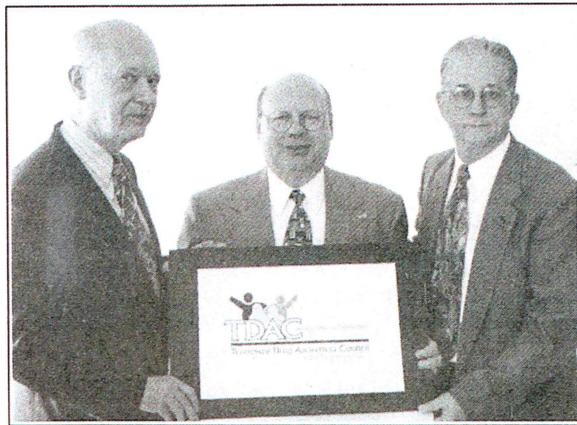
During their Sept. 29 meeting, the UTL board of directors voted unanimously to change the name of the agency to Tennessee Drug Awareness Council (TDAC). TDAC receives funding from the Golden State Missions Offering.

The new name and logo also features the theme of "Keeping Tennessee Families Safe."

Mark King, a layman from First Church, Franklin, and a staff member of LifeWay Christian Resources, chaired the committee which recommended the name change.

One objective for the change was to "provide a new foundation for growth into the 21st century," he said.

While the United Tennessee



DISPLAYING THE NEW name for the former United Tennessee League are, from left, Jerry Self, chairman of the board of directors; Mark King, layman, First Church, Franklin, and chairman of the Name Change Committee; and Waymon Jones, director of the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council.

League name has served the organization well for decades, they want to "improve the recognition and identity we have among our constituency," King said.

Waymon Jones, director of TDAC, said the name change was needed.

"The new name says what we do. It lets people know who we are and what we are about.

I believe it is one of the best things we've done."

The board of directors also adopted the following mission statement:

"The mission of the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council is to inform and educate the children and youth of the state of Tennessee about the dangers of drug abuse which adversely affect the morals and lives of Tennessee families. We offer free information and educational programs which present solutions that encourage right living and high moral character."

"Our work will be enhanced through the new mission statement and by continuing to establish new programs that meet the needs of families in Tennessee," added Jones, a member of Judson Church, Nashville.

Among services offered by the interdenominational group are school and church presentations, youth retreats, family conferences, and more. *B&R*

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# Judson Church senior adults do double ...

— Continued from page 1  
Wade noted.

When an emphasis was made on missions two years ago, "we wanted to get all ages involved," Wade said.

"We feel that the more people we get involved in missions, the stronger our church will be," Wade said.

In 1996, 26 Judson members served in missions in Temuco, Chile. A large group recently returned from a missions outing to Honduras.

Priority is given to people who have not been on trips, Wade noted. "When they return we get the benefits of them spreading the word through their Sunday School classes and departments," he said.

On the recent senior adult trip to Knoxville, several attended who were not on the

first trip last year, Wade and Hall related.

Plans are in the works to sponsor a mission trip next year that will bring together both senior adults and youth, Hall said. That will be a way two distinct age groups can get to know each other better and see each other in a different setting, he observed.

"Missions has brought our church closer together," Wade observed. "The fellowship we develop is amazing." *B&R*



**JOINING THE** Judson Church senior adults in Knoxville were Richard Wade, missions development director; Johnnie Hall, president of the Judson Jewels; Pastor Walter Jackson; Kathy James, minister of education; and Dave Briley, minister of music.



**JUDSON MISSION VOLUNTEERS** mingle with local residents at Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.



**LORENE FOUST**, a senior adult from Judson Church, Nashville, sorts clothes at Western Heights Baptist Center.



**SENIOR ADULTS** from Judson Church, Nashville, pass out bread to residents near Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.



## Disaster Relief response canceled

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief unit was not needed following damage caused by Hurricane Georges along the Gulf Coast, according to Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director.

The storm claimed more than 320 lives in its journey across the Caribbean and southernmost Florida before making landfall on the Mississippi coast Sept. 28.

Most of the heaviest damage and loss of life occurred in the Caribbean.

In the United States the actual response needed was less than anticipated, said Mickey Caison, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief director. The need for food preparation began to taper off the week of Oct. 5. An estimated 40,000 meals had been prepared by the 10 units activated as of Oct. 2.

The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief unit was placed on "standby" early last week and was ready to respond if needed, Bearden said. ■

## Mayor declares Sept. 27 as 'Cookeville FBC Day'

For Baptist and Reflector

**COOKEVILLE** — Cookeville Mayor Charles T. Womack attended the 125th anniversary of First Church here on Sept. 27 and declared it as "Cookeville First Baptist Church Day" in the city.

Womack presented a framed resolution to the church.

The church began 125 years ago with 34 charter members, according to Neil D. Alcorn Jr., chairman of the church's Founder's Day Committee.

The church has grown to

more than 2,000 members. "Many people have toiled diligently to keep this church alive and growing with God's help," Alcorn wrote in historical booklet distributed to everyone present during the celebration.

During its 125-year history six churches have been established as a result of missions efforts by First Church — Trinity, Stevens Street, West View, First Church, Algood, Silver Point, and Washington Avenue.

The morning message was delivered by J. Harold Stephens who served as pastor of the church from 1934-42.

Later that day members of First Church honored interim pastor Bob Mowrey and his wife, Peggy, who completed their service at the church that day.

The church's new pastor, Randall L. "Randy" Adkisson, began his ministry at the church Oct. 1. He comes from the pastorate of First Church, Monroeville, Ala. ■



**MEMBERS OF** First Church, Cookeville, for 60 years or more include Emogene Lacy Flatt (seated), and standing, from left, Louise Grimley Henry, Mary Smartt Brown, Joe Ed Hamby, Luther Mathis, and William Lacy.



**DISPLAYING** a framed resolution from Cookeville Mayor Charles T. Womack are, from left, Nolan Goolsby, a member of the Founder's Day Committee; former pastor J. Harold Stephens; interim pastor Bob Mowrey; and Neil D. Alcorn Jr., chairman of the Founder's Day Committee at First Church, Cookeville. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey

## C-N BSU marks 75th anniversary

For Baptist and Reflector

**JEFFERSON CITY** — The Baptist Student Union at Carson-Newman College here is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

With some 400 students who participate weekly in worship and ministry opportunities, the BSU is the largest of C-N's campus ministries programs, according to Nenet Measels, associate minister for C-N.

In celebration of the Baptist Student Union's 75th anniversary, a reception will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, as part of C-N's homecoming festivities. Included in the celebration will be performances by campus ministry-sponsored music groups and the cutting of a 75th anniversary cake. Events will be held on the East Lawn of the Henderson Building.

"Our first 75 years have provided help to those in need around the world ...," Measels said. "We see these opportunities not as jobs, but rather a blessing from God." ■

# Bivocational ministers have no reason to apologize



## guest analysis

by Ray Gilder  
TBC Evangelism/Missions  
Strategies Group

As Tennessee Baptists gather for worship this Sunday, 48 percent of the churches will be listening to a pastor who serves their church bivocationally. In addition to being pastor of the local Baptist church, during the week he may function as a school teacher, plant manager, railroad engineer, or FBI agent.

These double duty ministers are being recognized across the Southern Baptist Convention on Oct. 18 as we observe Bivo-

catiional Celebration Sunday. Most churches fail to recognize the sacrifices made by these committed servants of God as they seek to balance the demands of home, church, and work.

Although they have only 24 hours each day like everybody else, they somehow learn to squeeze more into a short period of time than most folks.

Sometimes, bivocational ministers feel a need to apologize for being bivocational. Instead of making apologies, they need to be receiving applause for making it possible for many of our churches to have a pastor even though their income is too low to fully support a pastor.

If your church is being served by a bivocational pastor or other staff person, why not plan a special recognition and expression of appreciation.

Some churches give their ministers funds to attend meetings such as the Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat at Paris Landing, Dec. 4-5 or at Fall Creek Falls State Park, March 4-6, 1999. They may want to see that their ministers' family attends the Bivocational Minister's Family Camp at Henry Horton State Park June 28-30, 1999. Whether this is done or not, all would appreciate a word of thanks from a congregation that recognizes how much their minister does to provide leadership for their church. ■

— Gilder is bivocational ministers specialist for the TBC and a bivocational pastor in McMinnville



## Southern Baptists to observe World Hunger Day on Oct. 11

### guest analysis

by Steven S. Nelson  
SBC Ethics & Religious  
Life Commission

Imagine the awesome image of nearly 15,000 people in an open area.

All came seeking a touch from God. Now multiply that number nearly threefold. That is how many people die daily from hunger and related illness. We are told in Scripture to take on the mind of Christ. We are told in this passage that he was moved with compassion toward them. This compassion motivated his acts of kindness in healing their sick and feeding them. From his example, his teaching, and the Old Testament record, it is clear that ministry to the poor is near to the heart of God. Jesus told the disciples give

ye them to eat. He accepted no excuses. When the disciples inventoried the available rations, they responded as we probably would, failing to grasp the depth of God's love toward people in need. When ministry to the poor is carried out in God's name, the necessary resources seem to come.

Just six years ago in Belgrade, Serbia, missionary Bill Steele and a small group of believers met to discuss how to help the masses of refugees fleeing the war in Bosnia. In the years since that humble meeting, with support from the Southern Baptists through the World Hunger Fund, 80,000 people have received food aid and heard the good news of eternal life.

Jesus multiplied the food in order to bring a blessing into the lives of the people and his disciples. He honored their obedience

with a miracle. And they did all eat, and were filled. Borne of his compassion through faithful obedience, God met the need. The Bible says that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Today, we as Southern Baptists have countless ways to demonstrate the mind of Christ in caring for the needs of others. From local food closets, to disaster relief, to feeding stations here and in over 56 different countries, everyone can be involved in some way. Hunger ministries are financed through gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, not through the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon, or Annie Armstrong. All gifts received by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission are dispersed to the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board to be used 100 percent for hunger ministry with

nothing taken out for administration or promotion.

Give ye them to eat. Through touching lives at the point of their need, people realize someone cares, and that God cares. Thereby, they become more open to hearing the Gospel of God's grace through Jesus Christ. ■ — Nelson is director of hunger concerns for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptists will observe World Hunger Day on Oct. 11.

### CLASSIFIED

**MINISTER:** FBC, Joelton, seeks a full-time Minister of Youth and Recreation. The church, near Nashville, has a youth group of about 100 and a total SS attendance of 500. Send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**MINISTER:** First Baptist Church, Mason is accepting resumes for full-time Youth/Recreation Minister. The successful candidate will have training in youth ministry and/or work experience in youth. Send cover letter and resume to the church, 735 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.

### CLASSIFIED

**MINISTER:** Full-time Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist in Knoxville, Tenn. Calvary has an emphasis on missions and college ministry. Five years as music minister or comparable education. Send resumes to music search committee, CBC, 3200 Kingston Pike, 37919.

**SECRETARY:** Forest Hills Baptist in Nashville is seeking an experienced church receptionist/secretary. Must be proficient with Windows 95/98 and Word 97. Experience with church database administration is a plus. Call (615) 373-8074.

**ORGAN:** Allen electronic organ for sale. Has new processor. \$1,000 or best offer. Call (423) 457-5866 or write New Salem Church, Clinton.

### Holy Land Tour

Visit the Holy Land with host Mickey Basham, pastor of Puryear Baptist Church on a 10-day tour, Jan. 18-27, 1999. Package: airfare, 1st Class Hotels, deluxe motor coach, two meals per day, and more. \$1,572 from N.Y. Or \$1,897 from Nashville w/early payment discount. For info, or a brochure call (901) 247-5213.

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# The ground at the cross was and remains level

## heart talk

by James Porch  
TBC executive director



As many of you are aware, my wife's bout with cancer has been a lengthy but faithful and valiant battle. Actually, her struggle with malignancy extends back to June 1972.

We know God's grace is sufficient for life one day at a time.

Through this challenge, ex-

tending beyond a quarter of a century, we have intentionally chosen to allow the cancer experience to teach us much concerning attitudes, life, relationships, caring, and God's grace. One of our most recent lessons relates to Christ's church and kingdom.

Early one morning last week we were at the airport in San Antonio, Texas. Each month we travel to the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio for experimental treatments.

Quite unexpectedly a lady, unknown to both of us, walked over and put her hand on

Lynn's shoulder and asked, "How are your treatments progressing?" Then she removed her hat to reveal, as cancer patients say, "her chemotherapy hairdo."

For several moments she and Lynn shared their pilgrimages, treatments, and philosophies about living with cancer. These two people had never seen each other before that morning. They never exchanged names.

You may ask, how did she know? Or isn't that odd? Yes and no! You see it seems cancer patients just know and understand. Regardless of race,

age, or economics, they just know, accept, and understand each other. The ground around cancer patients is level.

Maybe, just maybe, one day such will be true about all of us in the church. I pray sincerely for a day when Christians will just recognize each other as Christians, accept one another as God's people, and understand each other as the redeemed of God.

Such should be even more true for the church. After all, the ground at the cross was and is level. After all, each of us are sinners saved by the grace of God. ■



## Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey  
editor



## On being a parent

Turning 40 earlier this year didn't bother me nearly as much as when Joanna turned 13.

My "little girl" is no longer little. But, we can't keep our children "little" forever, no matter how much we may want to. Joanna is in the beginning stages of womanhood. In less than five short years she will enter college. My initial reaction was sadness, but on reflection, it is joy.

The Bible outlines responsibilities as parents. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Our teenagers and children today will be tomorrow's leaders in our churches and denomination.

Hopefully, as parents, Joyce and I are instilling the Christian values Joanna and Daniel need. We are blessed that both have accepted Christ as personal Lord and Savior. One of the greatest joys parents can have is when their children make decisions for Christ.

Children are indeed a blessing from God. Joyce and I are doubly blessed. ■

# We must build it — they are already coming

## making Christ known

by William Maxwell  
Administrative Director



"If you build it - they will come." This statement is a catchphrase from a popular movie a few years ago. A disembodied voice gives a mid-western farmer a vision for plowing under his corn and building a baseball field so that "they" will come. Several people have used this phrase in reference to the new conference centers proposal that will be presented to the convention in November. However, unlike the mid-western farmer who did not know who would come, we know who will come because they are already here. My turn on this phrase is, "We Must Build It - They Are Already Coming."

For the last 50 years Camps Carson and Linden have hosted countless thousands of youth and children. Many of these have made life-changing decisions on these hallowed grounds. There have been professions of faith in Christ, rededication of life, and acceptance of God's call to the ministry and the mission fields.

In more recent years, the camps have begun serving a new type of camper. As the facilities have improved, adult groups have discovered that these facilities provide the setting for much needed spiritual growth. In the last year alone, the number of adults utilizing the camp facilities has increased 16.8 percent. They come for Sunday School retreats, prayer retreats, church council planning retreats, deacon retreats, and fellowship events. They come and enjoy the beauty, the food, and the natural setting. They endure the bunk beds and the common baths. Their parting comments are always similar. "We loved being here. God has really blessed our time together. Can you do something about the accommodations?"

Yes, we can and are doing something about the accommodations. As far back as the mid-1970s, there has been talk of the need for Adult Conference Centers. The Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union even purchased property that would be dedicated for that use. Unfortunately, zoning restrictions prevented pursuit of that plan. However, proceeds from the sale of that property were invested and today have provided the seed money for the proposed contract. In 1996,

the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a master site development plan for each camp. These plans call for the construction of a conference center with hotel-like facilities at each location. The *Baptist and Reflector* issue of Sept. 30 carried detailed information on these plans.

As I have discussed this proposal with pastors, directors of missions, and others from around the state, I have encountered only enthusiastic support. Very quickly, each person I speak with begins to talk about how his or her church or association could use the new facility. They speak of marriage enrichment retreats, gatherings of single adults, church staff events, retreats for the entire family, and much more.

What will it take for this vision to become a reality? In planning for these new facilities, we have only spent funds that were on hand and available for use. Most of this has come from the sale of the property and the Golden State Missions Offering. A part of our planning process has been to develop a detailed and thorough Business Plan. This plan documents how much the facilities will cost down to the smallest hand towel, how the

facilities will operate, and how Tennessee Baptists will pay for the operation.

The plan for keeping the cost of visiting one of the facilities as low as possible is to raise \$5 million through an Involvement Campaign. Sherman and Jane Hardaway of Germantown Church are chairmen of the Leadership Team for this campaign. Currently, they are in the process of collecting names of potential donors to this campaign. Another part of this campaign is to find individuals and companies who are willing to donate materials for use in the construction process. If you know of anyone who would be willing to participate in the campaign in either of these ways, please contact Leigh Williams in Administrative Services at (615) 371-2023. If these funds can be raised, the operation of the facilities will easily pay for the remainder of the construction cost.

Like the farmer in the movie, we have a great vision for what can be. Unlike the farmer, we feel that our vision is from the Father above and we know who it is that is coming, because they are already here. ■ — Maxwell is administrative director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries.

## just for today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



## Start with a smile

Tom: "Jim's brilliant isn't he? Reads all the time and retains everything he reads." Bill: "Yeah, but he's often like a blotter." Tom: "What do you mean?" Bill: "Soaks it all up, but gets it backwards."

## Take this truth

Why do we often report facts inaccurately? Usually, because we don't listen well. Why don't we listen well? Usually, because we're thinking about what we want to say next.

## Memorize this Scripture

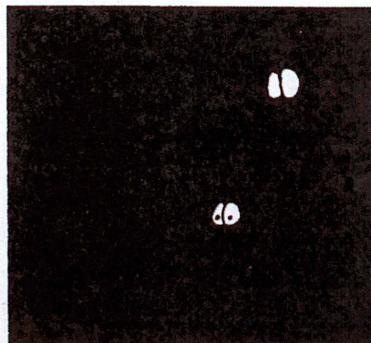
"Let the wise listen and add to their learning." — Proverbs 1:5, NIV

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me, in conversation, to tune myself out, so I can tune others in." ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

## Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City





**WMU's O'Brien has 'mild' stroke**  
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director/treasurer of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, continues to improve from a "mild" stroke Sept. 26.

WMU officials in Birmingham said O'Brien is "doing OK." She had slurred speech and was weak on her right side, but was able to communicate, officials said.



O'BRIEN

She remains hospitalized and is undergoing extensive therapy in a Birmingham hospital. "Both Dellanna and Bill (her husband) are in good spirits. They are concerned but very optimistic about her situation," officials said. ■

**NOBTS survives latest hurricane**  
Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Though they had to cancel classes for several days due to power outages, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary survived heavy rains and winds associated with Hurricane Georges.

"God appears to have spared New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the city of New Orleans a direct hit from Hurricane Georges," said seminary president Chuck Kelley.

Early damage assessment on the campus revealed primarily downed trees and branches and

loss of electricity, Kelley said. None of the fallen trees or branches damaged property or harmed residents, although there were several close calls.

Many of the campus residents were evacuated when it appeared the eye of the storm would directly hit New Orleans. The storm veered, however, and hit the Biloxi/Gulfport area of Mississippi. ■

**Hurricane Georges pummels churches in Puerto Rico**  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Many of the approximately 70 Southern Baptist churches and missions in Puerto Rico were destroyed or heavily damaged by Hurricane Georges. No church members were believed among the 11 fatalities.

Overall, Hurricane Georges claimed more than 250 lives — the majority in the Dominican Republic — during its sweep across the Caribbean and the Florida Keys before heading into the Gulf of Mexico.

Pedro Aviles, director of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Puerto Rico and a missionary of the North American Mission Board, said early assessment also revealed several pastors' homes were destroyed.

Aviles asked for continued prayer as churches and church families recover from the storm, noting Southern Baptist

Diaster Relief support was expected to begin as soon as conditions allowed.

There are 43 NAMB missionaries based in Puerto Rico and all were believed to be safe in wake of the storm. ■

**SBC CP sets record for 5th year in a row**  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention ended the 1997-98 fiscal year with record Cooperative Program gifts, nearly \$160 million, surpassing last year's record by about \$5 million and the budget by more than \$11 million, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$159,583,743 total for 1997-98 is \$4,578,020 or 2.95 percent, above last year.

The increase in gifts is the fifth consecutive year CP totals have set a record. "This fifth year record is a testimony to the health of our convention," Chapman said. "Southern Bap-

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tists' love for missions and our cooperative efforts in sending missionaries, planting churches, and educating ministers continues to be a vivid testimony of our love for Jesus Christ."

For the month of September Southern Baptists gave a total of \$12,470,453, up 7.71 percent from last September's receipts.

Designated gifts also set a record this year with receipts of \$150,593,868, an increase of 6.39 percent over last year's designated gifts.

One of the results of the coverage is the two SBC mission boards (International and North American) will receive \$5,249,085 more than called for in the regular budget. ■

**Kentucky editor joins Texas paper**  
Baptist Press

DALLAS — Mark Wingfield, editor of Kentucky Baptists' *Western Recorder*, has been elected managing editor of the *Baptist Standard*, weekly newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Wingfield, 36, was elected unanimously by the paper's board of directors Sept. 29. He will begin his duties Nov. 1.

Wingfield will succeed editor-elect Marv Knox, who will succeed retiring editor Toby Druin Jan. 1, 1999. ■

**LifeQuest '98 Youth Conference**  
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Cumberland County High School



Joel Goddard



Kie Bowman



Erin O'Donnell

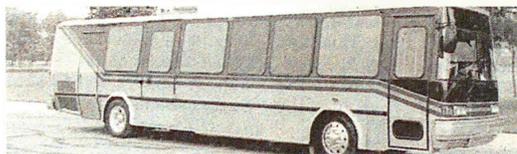
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Special Music by Seminary Choir and Orchestra

11:30 a.m. - Pastor Appreciation Luncheon, Heritage Hall  
Speaker: R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, SBTS

"The Ministry of the Word: Preaching as the Heart of Our Calling"

2 p.m. - Heritage Hall  
Dr. Stephen Olford  
"The Recovery of Expository Preaching"

3-4 p.m. - Heritage Hall  
Open Forum with  
Dr. Stephen Olford and Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

Reservations for complimentary luncheon requested by October 13



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## Helpful words

By Dale Denning

### Focal Passage — 1 Kings 5:1-15

It wasn't like Scott Kregel to give up. He was a battler, a dedicated athlete who spent hour after hour perfecting his free throw and jump shot during the hot summer months of 1987. But just before fall practice a serious car accident left Scott in a coma for several days. When he awoke, a long rehabilitation process lay ahead. Like most patients with closed head injuries, Scott balked at doing the slow, tedious work that was required to get him back to normal.

Tom Martin, Scott's basketball coach at the Christian school he attended, had an idea. Coach Martin told Scott that he would reserve a spot on the varsity for him if he would cooperate with his therapist and show progress in the tasks he was asked to do, and Tom's wife Cindy spent many hours with Scott, encouraging him to keep going. In a game two months later he made nine straight free throws to clinch a triple-overtime league victory. It was a remarkable testimony of the power of encouragement.

It is amazing the power of encouraging words. In our text, we see a "little maid" speaking words of encouragement to the wife of Naaman, the captain of the Syrian army. Naaman was suffering from leprosy. When he and his family needed a positive assertion, it came from a young servant girl.

A man working in the produce department was asked by a lady if she could buy half a head of lettuce. He replied, "Half a head? Are you serious? God grows these in whole heads and that's how we sell them!" "You mean," she persisted, "that after all the years I've shopped here, you won't sell me half a head of lettuce?" "Look," he said, "if you like I'll ask the manager." She indicated that would be appreciated, so the young man marched to the front of the store. "You won't believe this, but there's a lame-brained idiot of a lady back there who wants to know if she can buy half a head of lettuce." He noticed the manager gesturing and turned around to see the lady standing behind him. "And this nice lady was wondering if she could buy the other half" he concluded.

Later in the day the manager said, "That was the finest example of thinking on your feet I've ever seen! Where did you learn that?" "I grew up in Grand Rapids, and if you know anything about Grand Rapids, you know that it's known for its great hockey teams and its ugly women." The manager's face flushed, and he interrupted, "My wife is from Grand Rapids!" "And which hockey team did she play for?"

Just as words can be productive, they can also be destructive. In order to uncover the processes that destroy unions, marital researchers study couples over the course of years and retrace the star-crossed steps of those who have split up back to their wedding day. What they are discovering is unsettling. None of the factors one would guess might predict a couple's durability actually does: not how in love a newlywed couple say they are, how much affection they exchange, how much they fight or what they fight about. In fact, couples who will endure and those who won't look remarkably similar in the early days. Yet when psychologists Cliff Notarius of Catholic University and Howard Markman of the University of Denver studied newlyweds over the first decade of marriage, they found a very subtle but telling difference at the beginning of the relationships. Among couples who would ultimately stay together, five out of every 100 comments made about each other were put-downs. Among couples who would later split, 10 of every 100 comments were insults. Negative words bring destruction, while, as our text points out, positive words bring life. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

# From judges to kings

By Darrell Nimmo

### Focal Passage: 1 Samuel 7:15-8:9, 19-22

The study this week provides a bridge between two periods in the Old Testament history. It links the period of the judges with the period of the united kingdom. Samuel played a significant part in this transition. He was the last judge God would appoint for Israel and the one who would anoint the first king of Israel as a kingdom.

**The last judges (ch. 7:15-8:3).** The legacy we leave behind is sometimes all that anyone will know about us after we are gone. We spend a lifetime trying to make a difference and doing something significant in our own life, family, church, and society. Yet, when we look back on some that have gone long ago, we remember only a few significant things they accomplished in a whole lifetime of experiences. The period of the judges ended with a positive model to remember. Samuel encapsulated all the characteristics of the judge God wanted. Samuel's legacy was summed up in verse 15. He spent his whole life serving God before the people. Even when he became old, he did not neglect his duties. He was committed and faithful even though the path God would take Israel would not include him or any member of his family.

## Family Bible Lesson

We are not sure how old Samuel was, but we know he was an old man. So old, in fact, that he had appointed his sons as judges to carry on the work he must have found increasingly hard to do. Yet, his sons did not follow his example. They became corrupt and perverted justice accepting bribes. As we contrast this picture we wonder how his sons became as evil as Samuel was good. Today we sometimes marvel at the destructive behavior of a child whose parents are devoted Christians. As with Samuel, we mod-

# Following God's leadership

By Calvin Metcalf

### Focal Passage — Exodus 13:6-10, 19-22

A sense of history is necessary for a healthy understanding of who we are. We cannot explain ourselves apart from those who birthed the ideas and circumstances which surround us. We are indebted to the people of our past who helped form our convictions. The parenting process is just as spiritual as it is biological. We do well to celebrate those events and people who compose our spiritual heritage. As someone has said, "Anyone who will not remember past his or her own birth is indeed an orphan."

Our lesson today focuses upon God's encouragement for Israel to remember what he had done for them. God knew that future prosperity and preoccupation with other things would tempt Israel to forget their past. God's way for Israel to remember was through the observance of annual festivals. Their worship of God would incorporate their ability to remember what God had done for them.

The observance of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were designed to celebrate deliverance from Egypt. The Passover focused upon the sparing of Israel's firstborn, while the Feast of Unleavened Bread recalled the haste with which Israel departed from Egypt. When Pharaoh said "go," they left

## Explore the Bible Lesson

without waiting for their bread to rise. For seven days they were to eat unleavened bread, and no leaven should be found in their territory.

Another dimension of thought emerges here. "Leaven" represents how a little can influence a lot. In later years, it became a symbol of how a small, evil influence could have a destructive effect upon the larger group. God's wish is that good, not evil, become the dominant influence of our society.

These observances were to be a generational matter. Each Israelite family was to pass on to their offspring the literal as well as the symbolic meaning of each feast. God used the family unit to keep alive the faith of Israel. As they looked back in gratitude to God's deliverance, they would be able to look forward in faith to his continuing leadership. Memory was to be a mighty force in worship as well as commitment to God.

The phrase "sign to you on your hand" probably referred to an ancient practice of tattoo marks. The phrase "memorial between your eyes" most likely referred to a ceremonial head-dress. These were symbolic expressions to remind Israel that they must

el our Christian beliefs before our children, but it does not necessarily mean they will model Christianity for themselves. All we can do is our best to bring them to Christ, teach them how to walk in the faith and hope that God will make the difference in the end.

**Request for a king (vv. 4-22).** Because Samuel was old and the fact that his sons were so evil, the elders of Israel became concerned about what the future would hold. So, they came together and confronted Samuel at Ramah. Some had traveled great distances to get there which indicated the importance of their concerns. Also, the fact that all the elders came indicated this request was universal among all the tribes. They asked Samuel to appoint a king. Some would think that Samuel being very old coupled with the fact of his evil sons becoming rulers over Israel might be sufficient reasons for the request. However, the real reason was so they could be like all the nations around them. Until this time, God ruled over Israel. It was called a Theocracy. This arrangement was no longer acceptable by the people because they appeared too different. One of the things that disturbs me today is how indifferent some Christians look as they are contrasted against the world. If we are not different enough from the world for anyone to notice, then what would we have to offer that would appeal to them. The Scriptures say that as we follow Christ, our lives will begin to stand out. When that happens, people are drawn to Jesus.

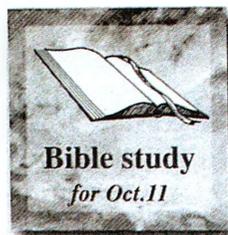
Peter said we should always be ready to explain the hope that is within us. When people see a difference in our lives, they are drawn to us, giving us the opportunity to witness for him. The church should change society, not society the church. When we compromise, we like the people of Israel, reject the Lordship of God in our lives and in our church. We have a choice, what God has to offer which will bless our lives, or the world which will oppress us. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.

keep the memory of God's action ever before them. Consistent observance of this ordinance would provide an occasion for Israel to pause and give thanks.

Exodus 13:17-22 gives further evidence of God's leadership as the exodus begins. Because Israel was a frail and fickle people, God did not expose them to the warring Philistines, but led them on a safer yet longer route. Israel was not physically or psychologically ready for rugged confrontation. Therefore, they went through the wilderness, or a less traveled route, to the Red Sea.

As thy departed Egypt, the bones of Joseph was a significant item in their cargo. The beloved patriarch Joseph believed so strongly that God would lead Israel back to Canaan that he requested his bones be taken when the event occurred. It was a gesture of respect for their famous ancestor. The faith of Joseph would be a constant inspiration each time they saw his bones.

God's presence and leadership were evident both day and night. In the day, it was a cloud, and at night, it was fire. In other words, Israel could travel at night as well as day if need be. These manifestations of God's presence gave Israel a sense of security and direction. God was with them all the way. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.



## state event

■ All Sunday School directors of churches in Tennessee are invited to the second annual **Sunday School Directors Association meeting** Oct. 16-17. It will be held at Forest Hills Church, Nashville. Harry Piland, retired Sunday School worker with LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, will speak. The meeting will open with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. Registration will be offered at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Tim Holcomb of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries at (615) 371-2055.

## churches

■ **First Church, Kingston**, will hold revival Oct. 11-14. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.

■ **Mount Hermon Church, Clarksville**, will hold homecoming activities Oct. 11. Larry King, former pastor, will speak during the morning worship services which will be followed by a luncheon. Also the church will hold revival Oct. 25-28. Bill Sherman, retired pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, will speak.

■ **First Church, Sharon**, held a tent revival Oct. 4-7 at the Sharon Football Field. The theme was "The Cross Over Sharon." Donnie Guy spoke.

■ **Hickory Hills Church, Mount Juliet**, will celebrate its 10th anniversary Oct. 18. Activities include worship at 10:45 a.m., a luncheon, and afternoon event at 1 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 754-2575.

■ **Zion Hill Church, Sevierville**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 18. Activities include a worship ser-

vice at 10:30 a.m. W. A. Galyon, who was ordained to the ministry by the church in 1955, will speak. Other activities include a luncheon and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. A musical program featuring descendants of former members will be held.

■ **First Church, Hillsboro**, will hold revival Oct. 11-14. Milton Martin of Flintville will speak. For more information, call the church at (931) 596-2426.

■ **Mount Pleasant Church, Rockvale**, will hold homecoming and anniversary activities Oct. 11. The church will be 198 years old. Charles McKnight will speak during the morning worship service and a luncheon will follow. During the afternoon W. E. Read, former member and church clerk who has written a church history will speak along with Roy Landrum, relative of the church's first pastor.

■ **Toone Church, Toone**, will hold revival Oct. 11-14. Pat Kough, retired pastor of Jackson, will speak. For more information, contact John Farrar, pastor, at (901) 658-3897.

■ **Edgefield Church, Nashville**, will rededicate its repaired facility Oct. 11. The church buildings were damaged by an April tornado.

■ **First Church, Morristown**, will celebrate its 195th anniversary with homecoming activities Oct. 25.

■ **Highland Heights Church, Memphis**, will hold homecoming/anniversary activities Nov. 22. The church will be 85 years old. For more information, call the church at (901) 454-0546.

■ **First Church, Dover**, will host the Zambia Acapella Choir from Zambia, Africa, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the church and on Oct. 14 at the Dover Elementary School Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m.



**PAUSING AFTER** presenting a plaque to mark the recent centennial celebration of Cherry Grove Church, Jonesborough, are, from left, Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association who presented the plaque to Jimmie C. Rogers and Jonathan Rogers, co-pastors. Activities included old-fashioned dress and performances by the Mercy Street Trio. The church moved into a new building in 1979 and several additions since then and has grown to require three worship services each Sunday.

■ **Rosedale Church, Nashville**, will hold revival Oct. 18-22. Ron Chandler will speak.

## deaths

■ **Orel Lowrie** of Bluff City, father of D.L. Lowrie, pastor, First Church, Lubbock, Texas, and former executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries, died Sept. 29. He was a member of Chinquapin Grove Church, Bluff City.

■ **Mariruth Barker Hawkins**, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died Sept. 27 in Columbia. She was 74. She and her husband, Fred, served for 30 years in Brazil. Hawkins, a native of Columbia, was elected president of a regional Woman's Missionary Union organization and led children's work during her missions service. She was a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. She is survived by her husband and four sons, including William Paul Hawkins of Camden. Memorials may be made to the building fund of Northside Church, Columbia.

## leaders

■ **Bruce Grubbs**, pastor, Gladeville Church, Gladeville, was honored Sept. 27 on his 10th anniversary of service there. At the beginning of his tenure he was interim pastor and then bivocational pastor while he worked for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. During his tenure, the church has built a new sanctuary and remodeled other facilities.

■ **First Church, Dover**, ordained **Gregory Ellis Erns-**

**berger** to the ministry Sept. 20. He has served as interim youth minister and currently is minister of youth and education. Ernsberger is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

■ **Carlton Connelly**, pastor, Milton Church, Milton, has resigned and is available for supply or interim service.

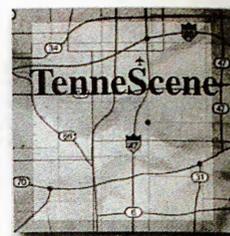
■ **Holly Grove Church, Bells**, has called **Terry Paterson** as interim minister of music and **Jeff Wagner** as interim minister of youth. Wagner is a student at Union University, Jackson. Former staff member **Mark Faughn**, min-



**PASTOR CARL SCARLETT** and his wife, **Pauline**, were honored recently by **Miracle Church, LaVergne** for 25 years of service there.



**CREW ORGANIZERS** of volunteer Christian bricklayers who worked recently on **Russwood Church, Springville**, pause by the cornerstone of the church. The crew organizers are, from left, **James Tuck of Martin**; and **James Vinson** and **Leroy Perryman of Union City**. The bricklayers, who were from Tennessee and Texas, laid 45,000 bricks in five days at **Russwood Church**.



ister of music, resigned to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. And staff member **Shawn Stutz**, minister of youth, was called as minister of youth, **First Church, Fairview**.

■ **David Walker**, evangelist based in Seymour and former pastor, **First Church, Cleveland**, is seriously ill and can be reached at 617 Devon Drive, Rt. 6 Box 144, Seymour, TN 37865.

## associations

■ **Shelby Association** will hold a Conversational English Workshop at **Germantown Church, Germantown**, Nov. 13-14 and Nov. 20-21. For more information, call Nina Clark at (901) 751-3808

■ **The Truckers' Christian Chapel Ministry of Maury Association** will hold a tent revival beginning Oct. 12. The ministry is led by Jack Taylor, pastor, **Sante Fe Church, Sante Fe**.



**RECEIVING A PORTRAIT** is **Gerald Stow**, right, president/treasurer, **Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes**, and his wife, **Barbara**, from **J. Edward North**, pastor, **First Church, Humboldt**, and chairman of the trustees of **TBCH**. The gift was presented to **Stow** recently to commemorate his 40th year of ministry. The presentation was made at **New Hope Church, Palmersville**, the church in which **Stow** felt his call to ministry.