

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST REFLECTOR

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Statewide Edition

October 14, 1998

this week's news

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Nashville church rebuilds following April disaster

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — When tornadoes swept through Nashville in mid-April, historic Edgefield Church was in its destructive path.

Nearly six months later the church has picked up the pieces and gone on with its ministry.

To celebrate the restoration of its facilities, members rededicated the church on Oct. 11 in a special afternoon service.

Taking note of the events that transpired on April 16, Pastor Terry Carver said, "We were overwhelmed with the amount of support given to us during that stressful time."

He noted sister churches in Nashville provided physical labor immediately following the tornado along with monetary contributions. Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers also played an important role, Carver said.

The Edgefield pastor recalled the congregation met in the foyer of the church on the Sunday after the disaster.



LOOKING OVER THE program for the special service of rededication of Edgefield Church, Nashville, are Pastor Terry Carver, center, Jim Freedman, executive director, Nashville Association, right, and Marvin Agee, chairman of the church's properties committee, who coordinated the restoration of the church with contractors.

There was no electricity. Carver read from Romans 8:28 which says "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God ..."

"It's one thing to know that; it's another to experience it," Carver said.

Carver admitted members of the 131-year-old church

were disheartened after the tornado. "We did not know what the outcome would be," he said.

The church was left with about half the roof taken off the educational wing, 92-year-old stain glass windows blown out, and extensive water damage — totaling about \$840,000 worth of damages. The church

was properly insured, however, and basically only had to pay the deductible, Carver said.

In his article in the church's October newsletter, Carver asked the question, "Why did we build back?"

"Was it to save a great historical building? Was it to maintain heritage? Was it to show our great resilience?"

"I hope the main reason we rebuilt is we are convinced that there is a vital need for a vibrant New Testament church glorifying God and reaching others for Christ, and we want to be just that kind of church."

Jim Freedman, executive director of Nashville Association, brought the afternoon message.

Freedman told Edgefield members he could relate with them because Nashville Association also had extensive damage to its facility just blocks away.

"We know what you've been through. God is good. He took what was bad and turned it into good."

Freedman challenged the congregation on their day of rededication "to commit yourselves to the Lord." *BER*

Both in Tennessee and SBC-wide

Number of forced terminations of pastors declines

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Fewer Southern Baptist pastors, including those in Tennessee, are being involuntarily terminated by their churches, but the reasons for their firings have not changed in recent years, according to results of a survey mailed to all Southern Baptist associations in early 1998.

Responses from associations to state convention offices represent 35,812 of the denomination's 40,877 churches and indicate forced terminations declined in 1997 by 29 percent compared to 1996 totals. The decline in reported firings takes on additional significance since 1996 responses came from only 14 states, predominantly from the Bible belt, compared to 1997 responses from 24 states across the SBC.

The survey, sponsored by church-ministers relations directors for the state Baptist conventions, was coordinated by LeaderCare, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources. LeaderCare offers a personal development network of resources, including crisis help.

According to Norris Smith, a Leader-

Care consultant whose specialty area included forced terminations, 892 pastors were removed from their leadership roles between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1997. The total compares to 1,259 forced terminations for the same period in 1996.

In Tennessee, the number of pastors forced to leave their churches decreased from 66 in 1996 to 53 in 1997, said Aubrey Hay, church-ministers relations specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Participants in the survey were provided a definition of a forced termination as "the severance of a formal relationship between a church and pastor either by coercion or vote."

"The fact the number of forced terminations is down is something in which we can all rejoice," Hay said.

He cautioned, however, that it is too soon to see if the number of forced terminations will continue to be a downward trend. "It's too early to celebrate," he said.

Smith said the most common issues

that led churches to vote their pastors out of their jobs in 1997 have not changed from those cited in 1996.

"The top reason for firing pastors is still one of control — who is going to run the church," Smith said.

"Following that, in order of frequency, are poor people skills on the part of the pastor, the church's resistance to change, a pastoral leadership style that is too strong, and a church already in conflict when the pastor arrived."

Other reasons cited by churches, Smith said, include a weak pastoral leadership style, the pastor's administrative incompetence, declines in attendance, pastoral conflict with other staff, sexual misconduct, a tenure perceived as too long, ethical misconduct related to finances or other dishonesty, disagreement over doctrine, and rapid growth.

Hay noted the issue of control was the primary cause cited for forced terminations in Tennessee. "If both the pastor and church could get over the control issue, the number of firings would decrease even more," he observed.

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HAY

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Cleveland church welcomes Brazilians to Tennessee



WELCOMING THE CADER FAMILY, right, to Tennessee are Pastor Larry Bryant of New Friendship Church, Cleveland, and his wife, Cuma. The church hosted a household shower for the couple.

For *Baptist and Reflector*

CLEVELAND — The grandson of a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil has moved to the United States to study in his grandmother's home church and association.

Aquilino Cader, his wife Elane, and their 3-year-old daughter Jessica have moved to Cleveland and joined New Friendship Church, the home church of his grandmother, Ulene DeWeese Cader.

Cader and her husband, Burley, were missionaries in Brazil for 30 years. While there they adopted five Brazilian children. One was the

younger Cader's father, Aquilino Silva.

"Because my grandmother cared about the people of Brazil, I am back in my grandmother's home church today," Cader said.

He is studying seminary courses and English at the Bradley Association office.

An agronomist, Cader said he wants "to become a missionary, like my grandfather, who preached the message of salvation."

"This completes the circle from Chatata Valley, Tennessee, to Brazil and back. How I praise the Lord," said Cader's grandmother, Ulene. ■

Number of forced terminations of pastors ...

— Continued from page 1

Coupled with the issue of control, Hay said, is the pastor's leadership style. It is often perceived as too strong or too weak, he said.

Hay cited other causes for termination specifically mentioned by Tennessee churches: bypassing established church processes, not conducting pastoral visits, bad temper, and a tendency to operate a small church like a large church.

Hay stressed it is not just the pastor's fault when a forced termination occurs. "The church must accept some of the responsibility," he said.

Hay said some churches fire the pastor and think the problem is solved, only to find themselves firing another pastor a few years later. It's a never ending cycle in some cases, he said. "Churches need to get away from the attitude they can move quickly and easily to fire a pastor. That should be the last resort," he noted.

When a forced termination does occur, however, churches need to take into consideration the needs of the pastor and his family, Hay stressed.

A pastor cannot go to the local unemployment office and draw unemployment, Hay said.

Also, the pastor is sometimes seen as "damaged goods" when a forced termination occurs and it is harder for him to find another church, he added.

"A church will do well to bend over backwards to give a strong severance package to the pastor and his family," Hay said.

Hay and Smith agree that one factor in the decline of forced terminations may be that more churches are using mediators to guide them in solving problems.

Hay noted he is busier than ever in conflict management in churches. He stressed, however, that churches and pastors should not wait too long before

bringing in a mediator.

If the problem goes on too long without being addressed, then a mediator probably will not be much help, he said. "When people are already polarized, it is too late for a mediator."

Smith noted that "while we are encouraged by improved figures, we know that new conflicts arise daily.

"Our goal is to continue working to decrease the numbers of forced terminations by dealing with the underlying issues." *B&R* — Editor Lonnie Wilkey compiled this story with a Baptist Press article written by Charles Willis of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Union banquet features Thatcher

For *Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — Lady Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Great Britain and one of the premier political leaders of the 20th century, will be the keynote speaker for the second annual Union University Scholarship Banquet, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Jackson Civic Center.

Thatcher's appearance coincides with Union's Center for Christian Leadership's conference on "Christian Faith and Public Policy: Where Do We Go From Here?" which is being held Oct. 19-20 at Union.

"It is a great privilege for Union University to host one of the premier leaders of the 20th century," said Union president David S. Dockery.

Other speakers for the public policy conference include Ronald J. Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action and Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

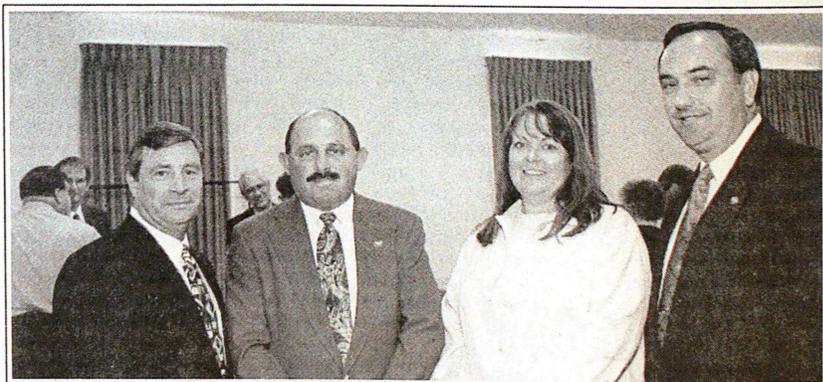
Balcony seats are still available for the address for \$25. Call Union's office of advancement for information. ■

HCBA reports 25 percent enrollment increase

For *Baptist and Reflector*

SEYMOUR — Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's school division, known as The King's Academy, announces an enrollment increase of 25 percent over last year. This fall, 214 students have registered in grades K-12, compared to 171 students last year. The enrollment, which includes

students from five continents, represents the largest number of students served at the school since the Sevier County Board of Education stopped sending its area students to the school in 1961. "We expected significant growth when we started the elementary division, but the pace of the growth is exceeding our expectations," said HCBA President Walter Grubb. ■



Truett Association holds annual meeting

Truett Association was among the first in the state to hold its fall associational meeting this year. The association met Oct. 1 at First Church, McEwen. Leading the association's 48th annual meeting were, from left, Gary McEwen, pastor, First Church, McEwen, moderator; Thomas Webb, pastor, Sylvia Church, Dickson, vice moderator; Brenda Sewell, Cedar Grove Church, Hurricane Mills, clerk; and William Gray, director of missions. — Photo by Connie Davis



As pastor of Smyrna Church, Burlison

J. V. Reeves retires after 34 years at church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BURLISON — In his next to last sermon, Pastor J. V. Reeves told the members of Smyrna Church here he could relate to John Glenn, United States Senator who has announced his retirement although he has agreed to re-enter space at age 77.

Reeves quoted Glenn who said when announcing his retirement, "There's no known cure for the common birthday."

J.V. Reeves retired Sept. 30 after serving Smyrna Church 34 and a half years. He and his wife, Ernestine, were honored by the church Sept. 27.

Leaving hurts, said Reeves, but he knows his feelings are understandable. He has spent over half of his life serving Smyrna Church.

Formula for longevity

Reeves said he has had good times and bad, and even experienced burnout at one point during his tenure at the church. Overall, though, he reported he has received more than he has given. He values most the relationships he has formed during the years.

"I feel like I've been blessed to work with God's finest," he said.

He has ignored pressures toward

certain standards of success, he said, because of his experience with God's call.

Reeves said he experienced an undeniable call to the ministry. Then he felt the call to serve a church, which was as certain, he explained. After God's call to serve as pastor of Smyrna Church, he never felt God calling him to another church, so he stayed.

"You'll find enough difficulty pastoring a church if you're in God's will. If you're out of God's will, it's nearly impossible," said Reeves with a smile.

If any secret exists to long tenure in the ministry, he said, it's expressing genuine love to church members and others in the community.

Genuine love should be contrasted with phony love, Reeves explained. Most people can spot someone expressing a phony love "a mile away," he said.

Another lesson he has learned during his ministry is not to anticipate problems, but to deal with them as they arise. "We've (members of Smyrna Church) learned how to disagree without being too disagreeable," he quipped.

Long tenure at a church does require continual study and increasing study as the years go by because "the longer you stay the more you need to study in order to keep fresh," said

Reeves.

He has learned to be patient so he can allow personal disappointments to be converted to joy by God. He has tried to be a servant to the members, but a zealous servant, he described. Finally, he has learned to be a good listener.

By listening to members he has gained ideas for ministry. And when ideas he has presented weren't initially adopted, he learned not to take offense, but to wait. If they were of God, he said, they were adopted later.

Different kind of success

Reeves is proud of Smyrna Church for many reasons. It has given 20 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program for many years. He led this effort by speaking sparingly on stewardship, he said, because ministry should address the whole person.

Reeves has seen the church grow and expand its facilities and he has baptized 445 people there. He has baptized about 600 throughout his ministry.

And although the church's current attendance doesn't reflect its growth, he reported, Smyrna has prepared a lot of people for ministries away from the rural community just west of Covington.

Ironically, Reeves came to Smyrna reluctantly. He planned to attend a

Southern Baptist seminary. Instead he earned a degree from nearby Memphis Theological Seminary. Reeves also is a graduate of Union University. He has served Mt. Ararat Church, Darden; New Hope Church, Decaturville; Darden Church, Darden; Corinth Church, Darden; Utah Church, Decaturville; and Bear Creek, Parsons. He taught public school before serving Smyrna Church.

Ups and downs

Reeves' saddest experiences have been when he has visited prospects who were Christians but not currently involved with God. Affluency often is the culprit, he said. "People have so much and they have not used those things to serve the Lord."

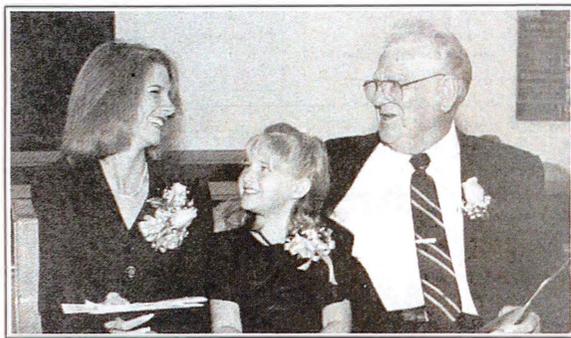
His most joyful experiences have been to lead people to God, watch them become leaders in the church, and then baptize their children.

He admitted he went through a low period during his ministry at Smyrna. At that time he examined his life and began correcting what he needed to change. Time passed and he still felt depressed. The only direction from God he could find was to continue his work, described Reeves, so he did.

Then he led a revival at Sardis Church, Sardis, a church he had served in that role many times. One evening a woman came up to him. Reeves knew her because he had introduced her and her family to God. She told him the remaining child of the family who hadn't made a commitment to God had done that recently.

His depression was lifted by God that day, he said.

"I've had a wonderful time," said Reeves. **B&R**



VISITING before the Sept. 27 morning worship service are Reeves, right, with his granddaughters, Sara Beth Marcy, left, and Anna Lee Marcy, both of Covington. Sara Beth spoke and sang during the service.



PRESENTING a book of letters to Ernestine and J.V. Reeves is Ruby Dawson, center, of the church.

About 300 students gather for convention in Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Some 300 students gathered for the annual State Baptist Student Convention held Sept. 25-26 at Calvary Church here.

The theme for the convention was "Pressing On," taken from Philippians 3:13-14. The weekend was designed for students to either begin or improve their walk with the Lord.

Three large group sessions were held with speakers Pat Hood, pastor, First Church, Smyrna, and Todd Brady, campus minister at Union University.

Collegiate ministry specialists (former known as Baptist Student Union directors) led seminars for students. Topics included sharing your faith on campus, dating relationships,

developing a quiet time, race issues, and more.

Local Baptist Student Ministries teams from UT-Martin, East Tennessee State University, and Vanderbilt University led in group times as well.

The weekend included an emphasis on Collegiate Min-

istries. Rodney Wilson, TBC collegiate ministries specialist, interviewed summer missionaries during the Friday night session. Students who shared their testimonies during the interview

process were Tonya Dean, Vanderbilt (Brazil); Linda Hays, MTSU (Knoxville); Scot Toler, UT-Knoxville (North

Africa); and Heather Payne, UT-Martin (Michigan). ■ — Rodney Wilson



VISITING at the convention are Maurice Hay, left, collegiate ministry specialist, Jackson State Community College, and Kelly Castleman of UT-Martin and a 1998 BSU collegiate missionary.



KIM HUFF, left of center, leads a seminar on missions opportunities for students. Huff is ministry assistant for Partnership/Volunteer Missions of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries based in Brentwood.

In Western District Association

Congregation gives van to neighboring church

For Baptist and Reflector

COMO — This fall Point Pleasant Church, Buchanan, decided to buy a later model van for the congregation's use.

After the church found and purchased a van, they considered what to do with their older van.

The vehicle was a 15-passenger van and still in good operation.

During initial discussion, members thought the van should be sold and receipts used for other purposes of the church. Then a member of Point Pleasant made a motion to donate the van to a congregation which needed that kind of vehicle. Members immediately affirmed the motion.

A representative of Point Pleasant Church contacted Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association, to discover any such need among fellow churches in the association.

Smith knew that Union Friendship Church, Como, needed a van and contacted Tom Winchester, pastor.

Interestingly, Winchester

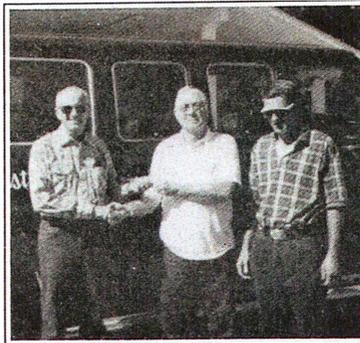
said, the need for a van had been mentioned to him just a couple of days previously on Sept. 13.

A member mentioned to Winchester the opportunity of transporting children of families who did not attend church activities to the church. Of course, to do this, the church would need a van.

The man asked Winchester if he felt it would be proper to contact a particular church, which the member knew had more resources, to see if it had a van which could be donated. The pastor agreed to the plan.

The member of Union Friendship who was concerned for children not attending church activities may have contacted the larger church, but it wasn't needed, according to Tom Winchester.

The next time the congregation met, on a Wednesday,



Winchester was able to announce the offer of a van from Point Pleasant Church.

It was an answer to prayer, even in that short period of time, reported Winchester. The member of Union Friendship who voiced the need reported

he had been praying for a van for two weeks and felt the Lord assuring him the congregation would receive it.

"This demonstrates how God uses his people to answer the prayers of his people," reported Winchester.



RECEIVING the keys to the van as they stand in front of it is, from left, Jerry Bridges, Union Friendship Church, from James McDonald and Lynn Treece of Point Pleasant Church.

Union Friendship already has used the van to transport people to activities and the members are thankful, explained Winchester.

The members especially are thankful "for the generosity of a sister church," said Winchester. **B&R**

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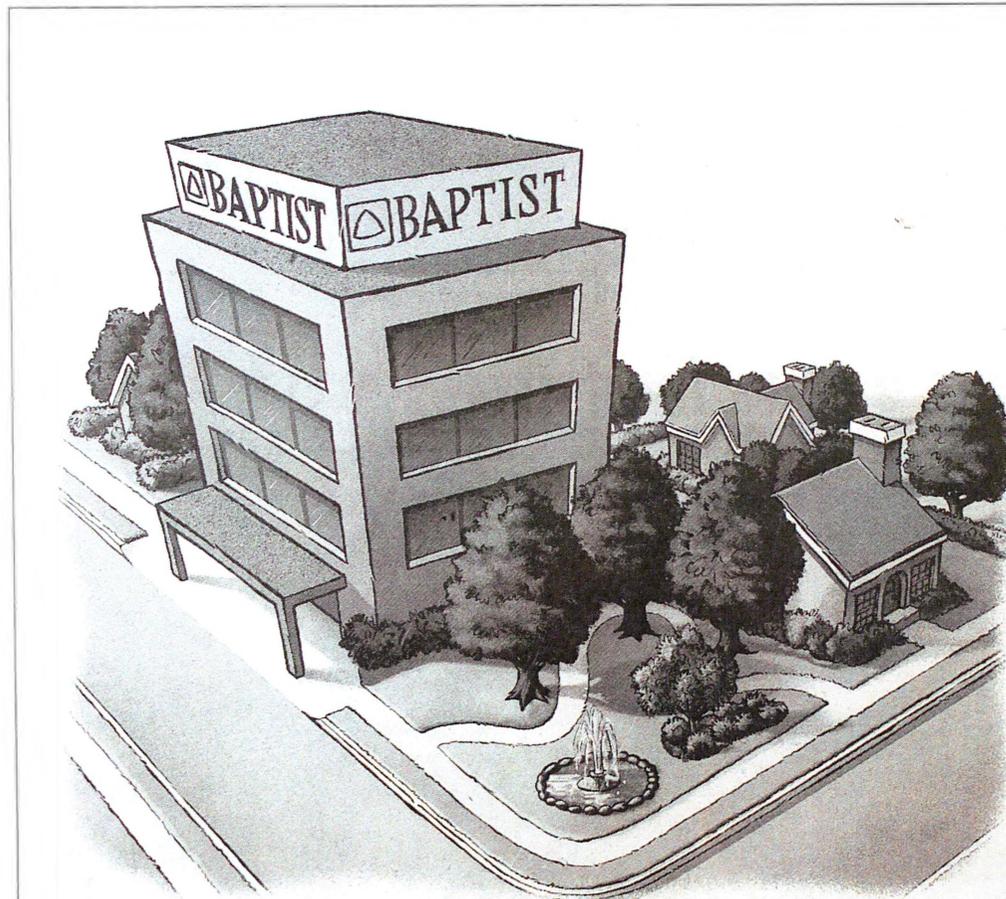
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Attention: Youth Ministers

Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., is a Baccalaureate I institution dedicated to academic excellence within a Christian environment. The Tennessee Board of Associates of Georgetown College has raised a limited amount of funds to fulfill specific needs in churches as they relate to youth (mission trips, athletic equipment, scholarship, etc.), and is offering awards to church youth groups of \$100-\$250. To apply for these awards, please submit a letter that gives a brief description of your church's youth group activities and the specific need for which the funds would be used. Send such letter to Bob Boren, P.O. Box 1065, Brentwood, TN 37024-1065 by Nov. 15.



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October 18th is Baptist Hospital Sunday

Get prepared for a 'great day in the morning'

Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,
editor



In one sense it seems like a contradiction to have a Sunday labeled

kicked off an entire month of emphasis on soul-winning in our Southern Baptist churches.

Again, this seems to be a contradiction. Why do we need a month or day devoted to winning souls for Jesus Christ? That should be an every day, year-long emphasis in our churches.

The answer lies in the fact that we all need a "booster shot" occasionally to renew our enthusiasm and get us back on track to what we should be doing all the time. Having a day or month serves as a reminder of this important task. It's similar to Mother's Day. We should honor our mothers all year long, but it is good to set aside one special day of recognition.

Soul-Winning Commitment Month and Great Day in the Morning serves as a

"booster shot" for Tennessee Baptists and our churches to refocus on our task of winning the lost people in our state to Jesus Christ.

Use Sunday, Oct. 25, as a day to honor our Lord, Jesus Christ, by focusing on a specific day of evangelistic harvest.

Demonstrate to church members what can happen when members are focused and mobilized in a concerted action to reach others.

Challenge members to make intentional efforts to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. And once these people have professed faith, disciple them through ongoing Bible study, fellowship, ministry, and worship.

Do your part to make Oct. 25 "a great day in the morning." *B&R*



editorial/
opinion

just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



as "Great Day in the Morning."

Every Sunday in the Lord's house should be a great day.

But it is a catchy title for high attendance day for Sunday School and worship many Tennessee Baptist churches will be observing on Oct. 25.

Sunday, Oct. 4, was designated as Soul-Winning Commitment Sunday on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar. It

October — 'tis the season for associational annual meetings

making Christ known

by Larry Kirk
Executive Board
Ministries, TBC



October — 'tis the season for associational annual meetings. Most will be conducted between now and the end of the month. Whenever held, it is a most im-

portant meeting.

Much like the messengers to the TBC annual meeting, the associational messengers gather to conduct business, hear reports, draft resolutions, elect new officers, and hear sermons on doctrine, evangelism, and missions. Churches are voted on for membership. And there is good food and just plain fellowship.

Why all this hard work? In order to answer the why, one needs to understand the what. What is a Baptist association?

The classic work on this sub-

ject, in my opinion, is still J. C. Bradley's book, *A Baptist Association: Churches on Mission Together*. He defines a Baptist association as "a self-governing fellowship of autonomous churches sharing a common faith and active on mission in their setting." The churches do not lose autonomy by banding together, but like family members, while being different, they are all equal members, making unique contributions according to God's grace and calling.

Thus, as with families, all our

associations have their own personalities. Their sizes differ, but their worth is based on their willingness to be used of God to reach out to the needs of their area. Through the Cooperative Program, the churches also reach out globally.

We here at TBC are grateful to be partners with these associations. Together, we are making Christ known. ■ — Kirk is leader of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies group of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries.

Proposed 'Protocol' can be 'win-win' for Tennessee Baptists

guest analysis

by L. Joseph Rosas III
Memphis pastor

God has blessed Tennessee Baptists with three unique institutions of higher learning: Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University. Tennessee Baptists are justifiably proud of these unapologetically Christian and academically excellent schools. Each has grown beyond the dream and vision of its founders to now be an institution of world impact for the Kingdom of God.

With the growth and development of each institution has come some significant transitions. While continuing to serve a Tennessee Baptist base, all three now have a national and international flavor. The growth of these schools has outstripped

the ability of Cooperative Program funds to keep pace with the need. The Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to 1997 data, gives the largest CP budget percentage to its universities and college of any state convention in the SBC. However, over the past decade, CP funds as part of each school's budget have dropped dramatically — from double digit percentages to as low as 5 percent of the operating budgets at some of the schools.

The schools continue to enjoy Baptist goodwill and support, draw Baptist students, and are grateful for their Baptist roots.

Trustees play an increasingly significant role in raising funds and keeping Baptist education affordable for the average Baptist family.

Institutional governance issues are also more complicated today. Colleges fall under numerous legal mandates and regulatory guidelines. In addition, a variety of accrediting requirements must be constantly in

view. In short, expertise in law, management, and other professional skills as well as the more traditional role of spiritual direction and church relations are needed from prospective trustees.

These are some of the needs that motivated all three Tennessee college presidents to express interest in an Education Committee review of some of the current restrictions in the trustee selection process. While Carson-Newman's charter change added a sense of urgency to these discussions, the goal of the Education Committee has always been to meet the legitimate needs of our schools while maintaining a strong relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Protocol for College Trustee Selection process provides the guidelines for accomplishing both goals. The schools take an active lead in the nomination process. Review responsibilities are maintained in the

Committee on Boards.

The convention has a right to approve or reject any prospective trustee but the institutions will not have a trustee that has not been duly nominated and properly screened elected to their board.

While no one got all they wanted, the Protocol provides a WIN-WIN opportunity for Tennessee Baptists. Affirmed by the schools, the Executive Board, and the Relationship Focus Group, Tennessee Baptists now have an opportunity to insure strong, healthy schools that are distinctly Christian and academically excellent into the next century.

We urge every Tennessee Baptist to prayerfully consider this recommendation. ■ — Rosas is pastor of Union Avenue Church, Memphis, and is a member of the TBC Executive Board's Education Committee. He chaired the subcommittee which developed the Protocol.

Prayer Requests

October

- 14 — Praise God for Sharon Fairchild, IMB missionary to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who arranged for interpreters to work with Tennessee volunteers during simultaneous revivals Sept. 28-Oct. 4.
- 15 — Pray for Premier Brian Tobin as he leads the providence of Newfoundland, Canada, and for Ray Maynard, Union Association DOM, as he leads revival Oct. 15-21 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.
- 16 — Pray for Greater Hope Church in Union City, a part of the Mississippi River Ministry area. The church needs several items for ministry.
- 17 — Pray for the national WMU of Costa Rica as they train leaders.
- 18 — Pray for the staff of the HOPE Baptist Center in Detroit, Mich.
- 19 — Pray for Baptist Student Ministries at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.
- 20 — Pray for the growth of the Amapora Mission in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where a group of volunteers recently constructed a new mission.

Church of the Covered Dish

PASTOR, YOU KNOW THAT CACTUS YOU LOST?



WELL I FOUND IT!



SOMEONE PUT IT IN THE CHAIR ROOM!



by Thom Tapp



IMB plans relief for hard-hit Caribbean islands

Baptist Press

ST. CHRISTOPHER. Leeward Islands — Hurricane Georges' extensive damage to islands in the Caribbean have created an immediate need for volunteers and monetary donations to help people rebuild their devastated lives, said a Southern Baptist disaster relief expert.

The need is compounded by massive flooding in Bangladesh, for which Southern Baptist missionaries also are mobilizing relief ministries.

Georges cut a path through the Leeward Islands causing heavy damage. Almost half of the churches on the island were destroyed and 80 percent of the hospital blown away.

"These people are going to have a real challenge rebuilding," said Eddie Pettit, a disaster damage assessor who works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "They've lost more than 25 percent of the available resources for rebuilding. When you're talking about 12,500 homes that need repair, you're talking about a large-scale task."

Volunteer teams are being recruited. For information, call Joyce Glover at (804) 219-1331. For those who wish to make contributions, send gifts designated for "general relief" to Southern Baptist World Relief, Office of Finance, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. ■

LifeWay announces closing of SBCNet on CompuServe

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — SBCNet, a private forum for Southern Baptists on the CompuServe computer network, will close Jan. 1, 1999, LifeWay Christian Resources officials have announced.

A pioneer in providing online services to Southern Baptists, SBCNet was launched in 1991. Several SBC agencies and institutions have provided news, information, and ministry and missions help via the network. In its heyday, more than 7,500 people subscribed

to the forum for a monthly fee. In the last two years, however, membership has dropped to 2,600. LifeWay webmaster David Haywood attributed the decline "to the popularity of the Internet and the fact that many of the resources on SBCNet are now available on the Web for free."

Also, recent actions by America Online, which purchased CompuServe earlier this year, influenced LifeWay's decision, Haywood said. AOL is a sponsor of "The Howard Stern Show," a graphic and adult-oriented talk show.

"These changes are such that it is no longer in the best interests of LifeWay Christian Resources and the SBC to continue a relationship with CompuServe/AOL," he said. ■

Dunn announces retirement at BJC

Associated Baptist Press

GREEN LAKE, Wis. — James Dunn has announced he will step aside from his role as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee by Sept. 1, 1999, when he will become a visiting professor of Christianity and Public Policy at the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Dunn, who has headed the



DUNN

BJC since January 1981, told the agency's directors he would stay on after that date on a part-time basis. He pledged to continue to serve the religious-liberty agency "in a different role as long as my health, my successor, and our mutual understanding of the Lord's leading allow me to do so."

BJC accepted the proposal from Dunn, who will be 67 by next September, during their annual meeting Oct. 5-6. ■

WMU completes first home in Habitat link

Baptist Press

FAIRFIELD, Alaska — It's not the reputation members of Woman's Missionary Union usually have, but 200 women affiliated with the group became "experts" in construction Sept. 12-19 when the women — and a few good men — built the first of eight houses with Habitat for Humanity.

WMU signed an agreement with Habitat in 1997 to recruit volunteers and raise \$258,500 in money and/or materials to build eight Habitat houses. The house here was dubbed the "pilot project" for WMU and most of the workers were employees from the organization's national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

"The work exceeded all expectations," said Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director.

Applications for volunteers

and donations for next year's building projects are being accepted. For information, contact Delane Tew at (205) 991-4097. ■

SWBTS trustee chairman resigns

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The chairman of the board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary resigned Oct. 6 amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Ollin Collins, longtime pastor of Harvest Church, Watauga, Texas, faxed a letter of resignation to Southwestern President Kenneth S. Hemphill. A front-page story in the Oct. 6 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported Collins has been suspended as pastor of Harvest Church pending an investigation into the allegations.

Hemphill said he accepted the resignation with deep sorrow. "We will continue to pray for him, his family, and for Harvest Church." ■

Mo. association takes action on church with women deacons

Baptist Press

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. — Messengers to the annual meeting of Cape Girardeau Association voted Sept. 29 to

withdraw fellowship from First Church here over the ordination of six women as deacons earlier this year.

Moderator Glen Golden, pastor of First Church, Delta, said messengers voted 98-41 to remove First Church, Cape Girardeau, from the association. He called the action "a course correction that needed to be made for our association."

John Owen, pastor of First Church, Cape Girardeau, questioned the constitutionality of the action and criticized the conduct of the meeting. ■

House passes anti-porn bill

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives adopted Oct. 7 a bill to protect children from pornography on the Internet's World Wide Web despite opposition from The Disney Company and others, according to a published report.

The House passed the Child Online Protection Act by voice vote. The legislation seeks to block children under 17 from accessing pornography on the Web by forcing commercial distributors to remove free images and to require a credit card, personal identification number, or adult access code to view sexually explicit material.

An amendment to a bill with similar intent was passed in the Senate Oct. 7 as well. ■

Plant 'N Prayers (sm)

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Minister of Youth/Education
Cool Springs Baptist Church in Tate, Ga., is searching for a full-time minister of youth/education. Please send resume to Diana Brown, P.O. Box 22, Tate, GA 30107. Our fax is 770-735-3805.

CLASSIFIED

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.

MINISTER: First Baptist Church of Mason is accepting resumes for a 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 First Baptist Church, 735 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.

LEADER: Desiring part-time Music/Worship Leader. Contemporary and traditional music. Resume to First Baptist Church, 7310 Overbey Rd., Fairview, TN (615) 799-2944.

MINISTER: Seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Average Sunday School attendance is 140. Send resumes to Pastor Mark Mangrum, Holly Grove Baptist Church, 8488 Poplar Corner Road, Bells, TN 38006.

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Life and Work Lesson

Promoting the faith

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Acts 18:1-4, 18a, 19a, 24-26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19

There's a wonderful story about Jimmy Durante, one of the great entertainers of a generation ago. He was asked to be a part of a show for World War II veterans. He told them his schedule was very busy and he could afford only a few minutes, but if they wouldn't mind his doing one short monologue and immediately leaving for his next appointment, he would come. Of course, the show's director agreed happily. But when Jimmy got on stage he went through the short monologue and then stayed. The applause grew louder and pretty soon he had been on 30 minutes. Finally he took a last bow and left the stage. Backstage someone stopped him and said, "I thought you had to go after a few minutes. What happened?" Jimmy answered, "I did have to go, but I can show you the reason I stayed. You can see for yourself if you'll look down on the front row." In the front row were two men, each of whom had lost an arm in the war. One had lost his right arm and the other had lost his left. Together, they were able to clap, and that's what they were doing.

What a great example of teamwork. In the book of Acts, we find that the early church demonstrated immense togetherness. In order to support his ministry endeavors, Paul was given an opportunity to earn wages by engaging in the trade of his youth. Pricilla and Aquila, who were also tentmakers by trade, did more than simply pat Paul on the back and wish him well. They opened their hearts, their home, and even their profession in order to help the great apostle continue to spread the Gospel. Pricilla and Aquila not only aided Paul financially, they also took a gifted, new convert by the name of Apollos under their wings to strengthen his doctrinal beliefs. Apollos was excitedly sharing the Gospel, but was sincerely wrong in some of his teachings. So, Pricilla and Aquila began to teach "him the way of God more perfectly." The church is often guilty of encouraging people to share their faith, but neglecting to equip them to do so properly.

Legendary Alabama football coach Bear Bryant described teamwork in this way: "I'm just a plowhand from Arkansas, but I have learned how to hold a team together; how to lift some men up, how to calm down others, until they've got one heartbeat together. There's just three things I'd ever say: If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes real good, then we did it. If anything goes real good, then you did it. That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."

Every year in Alaska a race commemorates an original race to save lives. In January of 1926, six-year-old Richard Stanley showed symptoms of diphtheria, signaling the possibility of an outbreak in the small town of Nome. When the boy passed away a day later, Dr. Curtis Welch began immunizing children and adults with an experimental but effective antidiphtherial serum. Before long Dr. Welch's supply ran out, and the nearest serum was in Nenana, Alaska — 1,000 miles of frozen wilderness away. A group of trappers and prospectors volunteered to cover the distance with their dog teams. Operating in relays, one sled started out from Nome while another, carrying the serum, started from Nenana. The teamsters mushed relentlessly until, after 144 hours in minus 50-degree winds, the serum was delivered. Their sacrifice had given an entire town the gift of life. It is essential that we work together, train appropriately, and always remember that we carry the words of life to a lost world. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

Jeroboam's sin

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage: 1 Kings 12:20, 25-33

This week's lesson is another one of those bridges which connects two periods in Old Testament history. Until this time, Israel was one people and one nation. However, all that changed after the death of Solomon. All the things God had spoken through Samuel regarding a king had been realized in a real way by the people. Solomon had imposed heavy taxes and enlisted the people in extreme labor to build his elaborate cities and projects. The nation had begun to feel the pressure and reality of being like all the nations around them. During the reign of Solomon, Israel had reached its greatest power and fame, but not without a price.

Family Bible Lesson

Rehoboam loses the United Kingdom (vv. 1-24)

Rehoboam had assumed the position of king of the United Kingdom succeeding Solomon. The people saw this as an opportunity to ease their burden. The northern tribes were particularly ready since they had not been real supporters of David and his son Solomon. They came to Rehoboam with a request. They were hopeful the new king would be sympathetic in order to gain their favor. Rehoboam seriously considered their request to lighten their burden. This was indicated by the three day delay in replying to their request. However, he made a very serious mistake. The Scriptures say that Rehoboam had the counsel of two groups. One was an older group who advised Solomon. The other, the group that Rehoboam had grown up with. One group experienced, wise, and tempered. The other, young, inexperienced, foolish, and reckless. When I was young, I thought my

friends had a better grip on things than my parents and the elderly. My assumption was my friends were more in touch with what was going on, you know, contemporary. My parents had not realized that the times had changed were outdated in their assessment of the situation. Funny how things haven't changed since Rehoboam's reign. Nonetheless, Rehoboam ignored the advice of the older counsel. The result was devastating. The nation split in two. However, Rehoboam did listen to the older counsel and recanted a planned attack on the northern kingdom. As has been said, if we do not learn from our mistakes we are doomed to repeat them.

Jeroboam sets a pattern of sin (vv. 25-33)

Jeroboam had been chosen as king of the Northern Kingdom. In his first efforts to secure and stabilize his position, he wanted to appeal to all the people living in the Northern Kingdom, both the northern tribes of Israel and the pagan population still living in the region. He established two sites for worship and it is believed that his intention was to use these worship centers to unite all the people in the worship of the Lord and the other gods which the pagans worship. Today we face the same dilemma. We need to be very careful and not compromise our values and Christian convictions on the altar of being politically correct and socially acceptable. We should always stand on God's Word, even if it means that we are labeled as being conservative and fanatical. The pattern of sin is compromise and it most often begins when we feel we must be more acceptable to others than we are to God. To be accepted and affirmed by God is the greatest status we could ever hope to gain. Jesus said that it profits a man nothing to gain the approval of the whole world, but loses his own soul. The only approval that means anything is, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.

Waiting on God for deliverance

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 14:9-16, 30-31; 15:1

Two words are helpful in describing the nature of God's existence. They are "transcendence" and "presence." The "transcendence" of God refers to that aspect of his being which is beyond us. It is his mystery and majesty which calls for our worship and praise. It causes us to stand in awe and reverent appreciation of all God is and has done.

The "presence" of God, on the other hand, refers to his nearness. He who is distant and magnificent is also here and now. He is related to human affairs. He is beyond us, yet he is with us. He is Creator, yet he is Savior. He is demanding, yet he is forgiving.

Israel experienced God's transcendence as they celebrated his power for deliverance. They related to his nearness as he nurtured them in the particulars of their deliverance. Even though they had experienced the redeeming power and presence of God, their faith was sometimes fickle when danger was near.

Our Scripture text today reminds us that after Pharaoh had allowed the people of Israel to leave, he had a change of heart. His grief was short-lived. He began to calculate what the loss of several thousand slaves would mean to his economy. He determined to retrieve these people and put them

Explore the Bible Lesson

under bondage again. Since Israel moved slowly with their women, children, herds, and flocks, in a short time the chariots of Pharaoh were in hot pursuit.

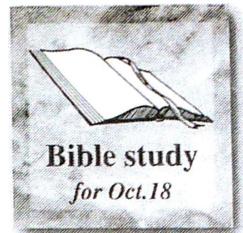
As the Egyptians drew near, the Israelites cried out unto the Lord. They turned to Moses with a series of accusations. They accused Moses of leading them into the wilderness to die. If they were to die, they preferred to be buried in a civilized land. The graves of Egypt were more appealing than the unknown and uncivilized graves of the wilderness. Israel could not understand why Moses had done this to them, especially since they had originally asked to be left alone to serve the Egyptians in peace.

Moses' reaction to their despair was a calm reassurance. "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of God" were his words of encouragement. It was a call to faith. Israel was challenged to put their trust in God, who had led them thus far. Surely he would not forsake them after having demonstrated his great power for their deliverance. Moses wanted Israel to stand back in awe and appreciation as they watched God at work. He promised that the Egyptians they

saw that day they would never see again.

Israel was caught between a body of water and the oncoming Egyptians. To them it seemed hopeless, but God parted the waters with a strong wind. In faith, they walked across on dry ground with a wall of water threatening their passage. On the other side, they watched as the waters returned, capturing and destroying the Egyptians and their chariots. Having witnessed this phenomenal rescue, the people expressed reverence and belief in their God. It likewise validated Moses' leadership in their minds. Once again, Moses is referred to as "the servant of the Lord." The experience at the sea was not only an act of deliverance, it was a lesson in dependence on God and on his servant Moses.

It was now time for them to celebrate. Such a demonstration of God's power should not go unheralded. The people, with Moses' leadership, sang to and about the God who had rescued them from the Egyptians. The horse and the rider were no match for their God, whom they highly exalted. The first 19 verses of Exodus 15 give a beautiful insight into their understanding and appreciation of the God who had fought for them and won the battle. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.





■ **Valley View Church, Nashville**, ordained **Darrell Priddy** as a deacon Sept. 27.

■ **Edna Jones**, secretary, **Spring Creek Road Church, Chattanooga**, recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of her service there.



■ **Kingwood Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Joda Collins** as pastor. He has served as pastor of churches in California and Florida and is a graduate of California State University, Turlock; and holds a Ph.D. from Golden State University, Los Angeles, Calif. Collins also is the author of several books.

■ **First Church, Deer Lodge**, honored **Pat McGee**, pastor for 10 years, Oct. 4. Activities, which were a surprise, included presentations of songs, poems, and testimonies during the morning worship service and a meal which followed. McGee is a bivocational pastor.

■ The book, *Judy, The murder of my daughter, The healing of my family*, by **Mattie Mullins** of Johnson City, has been published. Mullins is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. Proceeds from the book will benefit a scholarship fund at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. It may be ordered by sending \$16.95 to 904 Millercrest Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604.

■ **Larry Williams**, pastor, **Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah**, has been called as pastor, **Immanuel Church, Savannah, Ga.** He resigned Oct. 11. Williams has served churches in Tennessee for 22 years, including the last 15 at Ooltewah, and has been active at both the association and state levels. He has served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and other state convention committees.

■ **David Pittman**, director of church services, **Hamilton Association**, recently celebrated his 11th anniversary of service there. The association is based in Chattanooga.

■ **David Reed** of Texas has been called as minister of youth and recreation, **Criewood Church, Nashville**, effective Oct. 4.

■ **Toby Everett**, pastor, **City View Church, Knoxville**, has resigned.

■ **Grassland Heights**

Church, Franklin, honored **Mike Puckett**, minister of youth for 10 years, for his service recently. Members gave him a plaque, love offering, and held a fellowship in his honor.

■ **Rus Roach**, minister of missions, **First Church, Nashville**, recently celebrated his 11th anniversary of service there.

■ **Kerry Leake**, minister of music, **First Church, Dickson**, for 10 years, recently celebrated his anniversary of service.

■ **Gideon Olaley**, pastor, **Beautiful Gate Church, Nashville**, for 11 years, recently observed his anniversary of service.

■ **Abel Garcia** has been called as minister to students, **First Church, Tullahoma**.



■ **Cumberland Gap Association** churches will hold revival Nov. 22. The association is based in Harrogate.

■ **Nashville Association** based in Nashville will hold a Fall Golf Scramble Oct. 27 at Pine Creek Golf Course beginning at 8 a.m. Call Bill Williamson at (615) 860-4374 for more information.

■ **Knox County Association** based in Knoxville will hold a Senior Adult Celebration Nov. 5 at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. George Fields, a musical humorist, will perform. The celebration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will follow. For more information, contact the association at (423) 693-9097.



■ **Hickory Valley Church, Chattanooga**, will hold revival Oct. 18-21. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.

■ On Oct. 31 **Rayon City Church, Old Hickory**, will hold a block party for residents of the community from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Participants can enjoy games, contests, a dunking booth, cake walk, space walk, clowns, face painting, crafts, and music performances. The Mashburns of Alabama will sing. Spiritual help also will be offered. For more information, call Beth Newton at (615) 847-2040 or 847-3344.

■ **Concord Church, Chattanooga**, will celebrate its sesquicentennial Oct. 25



RECEIVING a plaque for his years of service as a deacon and in other roles at **Inglewood Church, Nashville**, is **James Chatham**, left. Making the presentation is **Kevin Shrum**, pastor. Chatham also has served the church as ministries associate, interim minister of music, and Sunday School director.

with Homecoming 1998. Activities during the 10:30 a.m. worship service will include a presentation by authors of *Concord's First Century* about the history of the church. The authors are Barbara and James Dooley. Also Jeanne Sheffield, a descendent of Anderson S. Wilkins, will present music. Wilkins donated the property for the church and cemetery. Other activities include a historical display, a luncheon, and 2 p.m. concert. For more information, contact the church at (423) 892-0537.

■ **Second Church, Clinton**, will hold Reality House Oct. 27-31 from 6-9 p.m.

■ A recent revival at **New Bethel Church, Shelbyville**, resulted in six people making professions of faith and many other spiritual decisions. Evangelist Floyd "Lammie" Lamersfeld of McKenzie spoke.

■ On Oct. 3 members of the **Woman's Missionary Union of Bethel Church, Townsend**, hosted a bazaar and dinner which raised \$581.10 for the Golden State Missions Offering. Royal Ambassadors led children's games, Girls in Action had an apple bobbing activity, and Mission Friends provided drinks.

■ On Sept. 27 **Round Lick Church, Watertown**, held Friend Day which drew 408 to Sunday School, breaking the church's Sunday School attendance record. The church is 195 years old.

■ **New Hope Church, Paris**, will hold revival Oct. 18-21. Dwayne Maxey, pastor, will speak.

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, will hold revival Oct. 25-28. Ken Smith, chaplain for a football team in South Carolina, will speak. Joseph Joubert of New York will present music.

■ **First Church, Union City**, will hold a revival for students Oct. 18-21. Jeff Riley will speak.

■ **Calvary Church, Smithville**, will hold revival Oct. 25-27. Jerry Harwell, pastor, will speak.

■ **Bordeaux Church,**

Nashville, will hold Homecoming and Old Fashioned Day Oct. 25. Dicky Reynolds of Waynesboro will speak during the morning worship service, which will be followed by a luncheon and music program by Southern Grace. For more information, call (615) 384-6243 or 384-0986.

■ **First Church, Tullahoma**, will hold revival Oct. 17-19. Rodney Gage will speak.

■ **First Church, Sparta**, held a noteburning ceremony to celebrate its debt-free status Sept. 27. The debt was for a fellowship hall, kitchen, and administrative offices. The church has paid \$1.5 million for its facilities at its present site. Derek Bohannon and George Savage burned the note. Dean Haun, former pastor who is pastor, **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, spoke during the morning worship service.

■ A scholarship for high school seniors has been established at **Council Church, Charleston**, in honor of member Don C. Howard. The first scholarship was presented on Sept. 27 to Cameron Linder.

■ **First Church, Grand Junction**, will celebrate its 140th anniversary Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. and with a luncheon.

■ The youth of **South Harri-man Church, Harriman**, will present the walk-through drama, "Judgment House: Deception," Oct. 24-25, 30-31, and Nov. 1. The drama this year is new and is directed to youth and adults. Last year over 1,100 attended a similar pre-



PRESENTING a plaque to **James Richardson, right**, pastor, **Bakers Gap Church, Mountain City**, is **Ray Sorrells**, director of missions, **Watauga Association**. The plaque, from **TBC Executive Board Ministries**, is in recognition of the recent centennial anniversary of the church.



sentation. It is presented to groups of 25 people at a time. The presentation is about 45 minutes long. Reservations should be made early by calling the church at (423) 882-1816.

■ **Sand Ridge Church, Lexington**, will hold revival Nov. 1. James Tidwell, pastor of a church in Booneville, Miss., will speak.



■ The **East Tennessee Pastors' Conference** will return to **Carson-Newman College** on Thursday, Oct. 29, beginning with refreshments at 9 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. religion professor Walter Crouch will present an overview of the **Winter Bible Study** in



GEORGE

Joshua. The keynote speaker is Timothy George, dean, **Beech School of Divinity** at **Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.** The day will conclude with a complimentary luncheon.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, held **Global Opportunities Week** Sept. 21-15. A fundraiser held during the week raised almost \$5,000 for missions work in the United States and other countries. During the past summer, about 175 Union students did missions work.



■ The **Baptist Student Union** at **Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate**, has a new sign thanks to **Tazewell Church, Tazewell**, and **Dorothy Neely**.