

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

Volume 164/ Number 43

Statewide Edition

November 11, 1998

this week's news

- ▶ Pre-TBC evangelism effort planned in 1999. — Page 2
- ▶ Hamilton County Association churches teach English. — Page 6
- ▶ Thom Tapp ministers through cartoons. — Page 7
- ▶ Emerson Wiles to do home missions work. — Page 8
- ▶ Robert Orr serves 30th church as interim pastor. — Page 9
- ▶ Gambling industry scores victory in four states. — Page 16

'Courage in Ministry' Series

Two TBC staff members deal with MS

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Editor's Note — Amanda Day and Leanne Robbins agreed to speak to the *Baptist and Reflector* about very personal experiences. They agreed to do so in order to help others. They ask readers to understand their need for privacy.

NASHVILLE — Two employees of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) within about one year.

Amanda Day, 33, of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union learned in August 1997 she has a mild form of the disease. Leanne Robbins, 37, of the Christian Growth Development Group learned this August she also has a mild form of MS.

Day and Robbins report they have learned a lot since their discovery, not just about this mysterious ailment which strikes people's nerves, but about themselves

and their faith.

Day begins fight

Multiple sclerosis, more than other diseases, said Day, can seem to play mind games with a person because episodes occur without much notice and the pain and weakness can vary dramatically. But she refuses to let it control her, she stated.

"I also refuse to let this disease beat me," she continued. "God is in control. This disease is not in control.

"God has a perfect plan when things don't seem perfect. And he didn't make a mistake and I didn't make a mistake to cause this to happen to me," Day explained. She referred to some Christians' belief that sin results in illness.

Day's inner strength isn't always so accessible, she admitted. Some days she is in a lot of pain.

"It feels like electricity flying out of my body," she said.



TBC STAFF members Amanda Day, left, and Leanne Robbins discuss their lives, which have changed for both during the last year. — Photo by Connie Davis

A bag of intravenous medicine often hangs ready for use in her office. Last week, she was very discouraged after learning from her physician she was having a mild episode.

A journey

Day views the last year as a journey or process, she said, in which she is a "traveler" who is adapting as circumstances change.

Before the diagnosis, she was very healthy. So she was stunned and disbelieving initially.

She's also had to adjust to her illness because her personality leads her to plan for events in life. Her ability to plan allows her to do her work for Tennessee WMU. But Day faced a roller coaster of emotion. — See Two TBC, page 3

Chilhowee Association to pilot FAITH project

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MARYVILLE — Chilhowee Association has been chosen to pilot a FAITH training program for LifeWay Christian Resources. FAITH is a cooperative evangelistic venture of LifeWay and the North American Mission Board which mobilizes the Sunday School to witness and reach out.

FAITH training normally is a four-day process, according to Jay Johnstone, director of the Sunday School Faith Ministry Department at LifeWay.

But because of a request from Chilhowee Association and a similar need across the convention, LifeWay will attempt to condense the training into a Thursday and Friday night and all day Saturday event primarily for bivocational pastors and laity who could not take four days off during the week, Johnstone said. The training, which is open only to participants from Chilhowee Association, will be held Nov.

19-21 at First Church, Alcoa.

Greg Long, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Maryville, who is serving as the FAITH clinic director for the association, noted some of the association's pastors attended the regular FAITH training held earlier this year at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

"They came back excited about what they felt God was doing through the FAITH evangelism training through Sunday School," Long related.

Several pastors who were not able to attend wanted similar training. Long contacted Johnstone at LifeWay to inquire about the possibility of having a training event for bivocational and small church pastors.

Johnstone acknowledged there had been some interest in offering something for the bivocational and small church

pastors. Because of the interest expressed by Chilhowee Association, "it looked like everything was right for us to test it there," Johnstone said, noting "we want to meet the needs of people who could not take off from work Monday through Thursday.

"We hope it becomes a model we can share across all of North America. We know there is a need for those pastors to get the training," Johnstone continued.

Chilhowee Baptists during their annual meeting showed their support for the FAITH training concept by allocating \$200 for every pastor in the association who takes the training. The allocation reduces the cost significantly for the bivocational and small church pastors, Long noted.

Several of the association's laity will join their pastors in the November FAITH training, Long added.

Since August more than 1,800 churches have had FAITH training, Johnstone related. **B&R**



LONG

TBC sends funds to hurricane victims

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief has partnered with the SBC International Mission Board to send food and medical supplies to Honduras.

In response to the immediate emergency need, the TBC Executive Board has released \$5,000 to purchase food and medicine for Honduras, in addition to funds released by the IMB and other Baptist state conventions, according to Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director.

Honduras and other central American countries were devastated by flooding caused by Hurricane Mitch. More than 11,000 people have died.

"The best way to help now for Disaster Relief is to make financial contributions," Bearden said. Donations designed for "general disaster relief" or "Hurricane Mitch" can be sent to the TBC Disaster Relief Office, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

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

REG #01499375#
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST STE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203-5628

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- Lonnie Wilkey, editor
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- **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Paul Medley, Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Ambers Wilson
- **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
- **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024
- **Phone** — (615) 371-2003
- **FAX** — (615) 371-2080
- **mail** — 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.

Printed on recycled paper

Prior to TBC annual meeting

Evangelism effort scheduled for Nashville in 1999

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's 125th anniversary celebration, the Evangelism Priority Team of the TBC is partnering with Nashville Association to saturate the city of Nashville with evangelism events prior to next year's annual meeting here.

Nashville Reach will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13-14.

Ideas under consideration include block parties, prayer walks, door-to-door surveys/witnessing, and street evangelism.

Nashville Reach seeks to be used by God as a concerted effort on Nov. 13-14 to attract and win people to faith in Jesus Christ, to nurture them in our Christian faith, and to involve them in a participating church, said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

Tennessee Baptists who will be attending the annual meeting are encour-

aged to participate in the effort.

Also, Tennessee Baptists are asked to begin praying about the possibility of having a similar event in Memphis in the year 2000.

Questions about Nashville Reach may be directed to Ken Weathersby and Terry Sharp at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at (615) 371-2059 or 371-7927, respectively; or to Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Association, (615) 259-3034. ■



Beulah Association meets

Honored during the recent annual meeting of Beulah Association were Houston Northcutt, pastor of Cottonwood Grove Church for 28 years, and his wife. Messengers dedicated the minutes to them. The couple is recognized (above) by Sheldon Hale, left, pastor, Blessed Hope Church, moderator. Messengers also elected officers. They are, from left, Pat Stegall, Blessed Hope Church, assistant clerk; Cynthia Norman, Sunswep Church, clerk/secretary; Jerry Essary, director of missions; and Sheldon Hale.



Baptist Memorial breaks ground for women's hospital in Memphis

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Community leaders joined Baptist Memorial Health Care employees Oct. 27 to break ground for the mid-South's first freestanding hospital devoted specifically to women.

It will be one of only about 15 freestanding hospitals in the United States and will have 140 beds. The hospital will be located on the campus of Baptist East. It is scheduled to open in the summer of 2000.

Several dignitaries helped break ground for the new structure, which will be 188,000 square feet and will feature 40 neonatal intensive

care unit beds, 43 post-partum beds, 25 gynecology beds, 20 labor and delivery beds, six high risk pregnancy beds, and six operating rooms.

"We're excited about this hospital because it will be a unique place just for women and their specific needs," said Anita Vaughn, administrator of the new facility.

"I'm proud that Baptist is making this commitment to women's health care in the next century. Women will now have a tailor-made hospital that's second to none," she said.

An 80,000-square-foot physicians office building will be attached to the new hospital and will house a Woman's Health Center. ■

DOMs announce retirements in Big Emory, New Duck River

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two longtime Tennessee Baptist directors of missions announced retirement plans during their associational annual meetings in October.

J. William "Bill" Bargiol, director of missions in Big Emory Association since 1973, will retire Oct. 31, 1999.



BARGIOL

A native of Anderson County, S.C., Bargiol is a graduate of Anderson (S.C.) College, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He served as pastor of several churches in South Carolina, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio as well as Middle Creek Church, Oliver Springs, before becoming a director of missions.

Bargiol and his wife, Patsy,

have two grown daughters.

The Bargiols will continue to live in Oakdale.

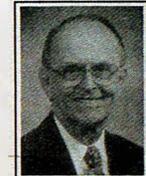
Harold D. Smith, director of missions for New Duck River Association for the past 10 years, announced his retirement effective Jan. 1, 1999.

During his 43-year ministry he has served as pastor of the following churches in Tennessee — Minor Hill, Minor Hill; First Church, White House; Trinity Church, Manchester; Westwood, Cleveland; and First, Columbia.

He also was a consultant in the church architecture department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, now LifeWay Christian Resources.

Both he and his wife, Doris, are graduates of Belmont University, Nashville. He also graduated from Southern Seminary.

Their plans for the present are to retire in Shelbyville. ■



SMITH



Honored for Sunday School work

Ray Jones, right, director of missions for Big Hatchie Association, presents a plaque to Pat Landrum, left, as Landrum's wife, Zoan, looks on. Landrum, retired pastor of Brighton Church, Brighton, was recognized for 30 years of service as Sunday School director of Big Hatchie Association.

Historic Memphis church tries new approach

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — A historic Memphis church which has declined in membership in recent years is making a gallant attempt to reach out in a new way.

Like many other churches in Memphis, Eudora Church has had to deal with a changing community. Many residents have moved toward the east and as a result have moved their memberships elsewhere. Eighty percent of the congregation is retired, said Pastor R. Trevis Otey.

When Otey accepted the pastorate of Eudora about a year ago, he knew there was plenty of work to do.

Otey, working with the staff and church members, began laying the groundwork to introduce a new concept to the traditional Eudora church — a contemporary worship service

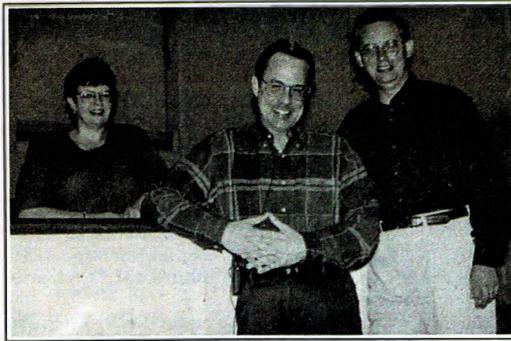
with a primary focus of reaching unchurched people.

"I'm convinced the first thing we have to do with the unchurched is to get their attention. They do not know we are here and they don't know they have a need.

"We have to help them see that need and step in to meet it," Otey said.

The church began to find ways to heighten its awareness. They bought a new contemporary church sign with a new logo, printed a bright, eye-catching brochure, and worked out an arrangement with the Memphis Symphony to allow them to use Eudora's facilities for their concert series. That effort brings many to the Eudora campus for the first time, Otey said. The church also sponsored a financial seminar in October to coincide with the kick off of the contemporary worship service.

The church also decided to



PASTOR R. TREVIS OTEY, center, pauses between the new contemporary service and the traditional service at Eudora Church, Memphis. With him are Mark Branson, minister of music, and pianist Gail Marcum.

go from its huge auditorium which once was filled on a regular basis to its smaller chapel.

At its peak in the late 1960s and '70s, Eudora's attendance was more than 1,000; now the church averages around 125 in Sunday School, Otey said, adding, however, the church did have 20 additions last year.

The church is at a crossroads, acknowledged Mark Branson, the church's minister of music and worship leader for the contemporary service. "We need to make every effort to carry on," added Branson, who has been on staff at Eudora for 10 years.

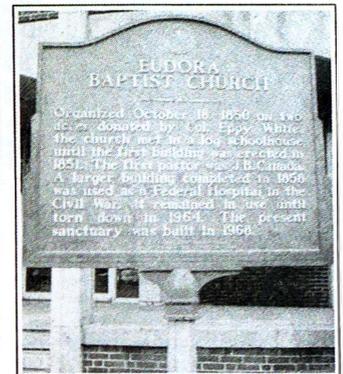
If it means making some changes to advance the church, "that's what we need to do," Branson said.

With the more contemporary service, God "is giving us another door of opportunity,

Otey said. We need to lead people to step through that door," the pastor continued.

With that in mind Eudora began a contemporary worship service at 8:30 a.m. in October. A "gathering" follows for about 15 minutes before the Sunday School hour. This is designed so those attending the contemporary service can fellowship with the "traditional" church attenders over coffee and doughnuts, Otey said. "It is a deliberate attempt to bring the two groups together."

The contemporary service has upbeat music and messages designed to address basic problems people face in everyday life, Otey said. After a month the contemporary service has averaged about 40



THIS HISTORIAL MARKER is located outside of Eudora Church in Memphis.



WITH THE PRAISE BAND in the background, Mark Branson leads the contemporary worship at Eudora Church, Memphis.

each Sunday which includes some who had been attending the traditional services.

"We are slowly getting the unchurched to come," Otey acknowledged. "If we can get them into the service, it will give the Lord an opportunity to work on them," he said.

Such a new approach has not been without problems, but Eudora members have responded well, Otey said.

"Eudora still has a role to fill in this community," Otey affirmed. "That's why I came here." B&R

Two TBC staff members deal with MS ...

— Continued from page 1
tions and physical failures if she couldn't adjust.

She found she didn't need to plan or struggle or even fear if people were praying for her. Because of people's prayers she has been able to continue her work without many absences, she said.

"I've learned what it means to bear one another's burdens through all of this," Day described.

The prayers also have allowed her to make adjustments during the past year, she described.

For instance, she has become amenable to asking for and receiving help. Because she is single, she has been very independent, she said. During the last year that has changed, she added.

Lessons learned

Day said she had a deep spiritual base when she became ill, but some of her spiritual views have changed during her "journey."

For example, a recipient of help can view that experience

as ministry, said Day, because people really enjoy giving.

And receiving help still is not giving up, she interjected.

Day has become a more dependable prayer partner for others and learned to be faithful when prayer is needed at a specific time. Prayer works, said Day.

Ironically, she has become more self-assured as a result of this journey. Her self esteem, she has learned, comes from God.

When people, even Christians, try to diminish another's self esteem, the Christian has no need to fear if he or she keeps close to God, explained Day.

During the last year she has benefited from keeping a journal.

She has been more honest with God and expressed more emotions to God. When she's in a lot of pain, it's comforting to rest in him, Day explained. "God is always sufficient and provides just what I need when I need it," she added.

She hasn't been angry with

God about her MS, not yet, Day said with a smile.

Finally, she believes in healing from God, and believes she has been healed during her "journey." She still has MS, not because her faith is weak, but because God heals all parts of a person, including the spirit and soul, Day explained.

Robbins deals with MS

Leanne Robbins is glad to report she hasn't had any physical problems beyond initial symptoms which led to the diagnosis. In fact, after she discovered she had MS, she led a group from her church, Forest Hills Church, Nashville, to serve in Poland.

But she agreed with Day that knowledge of her illness has changed her view of some things.

"I was reminded that I'm not in control of my life, that God's in control and it's a gift from God," said Robbins.

Her response is aggressive like Day's response. She is attacking the disease through lifestyle changes such as diet, taking vitamins, and exercise.

Robbins also had very good health before the diagnosis.

She has learned the importance of prayer, family, friends, including co-workers, and acquaintances, she said. "It means a lot to know that people are praying for me."

Robbins is strong for another reason, she said. "I just know where my strength comes from," said Robbins.

What can I do?

Christians can do a lot for people like them and others who have struggles, agreed Day and Robbins.

Fellow Christians should focus on a person, not a disease, both agreed. That's their approach.

"I don't want to be treated any differently because I'm still me," said Robbins.

"I choose life," said Day.

Day said she has learned to appreciate friends who listen while not trying to solve another's problems.

Robbins and Day agreed Christians should not tell someone with a disease stories of others with that disease,

even if the stories are true.

In their case, they have learned from health care professionals that MS rarely affects two people in the same way.

Day proposed that Christians should adopt broad views of healing, including healing of the body, soul, and spirit.

Finally, Christians should not infer that a person who is ill is not whole, Day noted. In God's eyes, she is perfect because she is created in his image. Even if outwardly she is having physical problems, those don't matter to God, she explained.

Robbins explained she is essentially the same person, but with a deeper faith in God because of her experiences of the past months.

"I'm the same except now I have a little diagnosis out by my name," said Robbins.

Day reiterated that thought.

"I'm a daughter, sister, aunt, worker, teacher, gardener, horseback rider, and, by the way, I also have MS." B&R

At Union University conference

Christian role in public arena underscored

By Nedra Kanavel
For Baptist Press

JACKSON — Christians are called to stay determinedly active in the public arena to address the most pressing issues of our day, public policy champions said during a conference on faith and public policy at Union University.

About 200 people attended the Oct. 19-20 conference, titled, "Christian Faith and Public Policy: Where do we go from here?" and cosponsored by the Baptist-affiliated university's Center for Christian Leadership and the Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities.

The center's director, David P. Gushee, noted the first day's speakers talked broadly about Christian involvement in politics, while the second day's speakers addressed more specific issues, including abortion and separation of church and state.

On abortion, for example, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the abortion issue's divineness shouldn't convince Christians to avoid the pro-life effort, but rather, give them hope and encouragement to continue the "struggle for hearts and minds."

"We've won in some respects," Land said. "Most of America is uncomfortable with

abortion today. Abstinence programs have been enacted, and the number of abortions has gone down."

But the fight is not over, Land said. Laws in support of abortion are still in place, and those laws "have chosen death and cursing over life and blessing."

Ultimately, Christians have a choice to make when it comes to the abortion issue, he said; they can choose to emphasize individual rights (such as those of the woman) or emphasize the human life which God has created. "For those who say we can't legislate morality, I say explain the civil rights movement," Land said.

The most effective way to affect legislation, including that of abortion, is through "prudent and principled" activity, said Michael Cromartie, a senior fellow in Protestant studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

One of the loudest and most accepted voices in the public squares of early America was that of the Protestant Christians, Cromartie said. But beginning with the Scopes trial of 1925, Christians began to shy away from the public arena,

even going so far as to say that God's work could only be done within the church's walls.

By the late 1970s, Christian involvement in politics revived, but mainly because Christians increasingly felt the government was working against them rather than with them. "They see themselves as defendants, and not the aggressors, in the culture war," Cromartie said.

The most effective Christian activism, Cromartie said, nevertheless will come from "epistemological humility, public modesty, and charity toward even our strongest opponents."

"The argument should never be whether Christians ought to be involved in social and political issues. Rather, the issue should be: on what matters should we be most concerned and what are the most prudent ways to express such convictions," Cromartie said.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, a professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School, insisted government and religious institutions cannot afford to separate themselves.

Ridding America's public life of any religious connotation is impossible and destructive, Elshtain said, noting: "Religion contributes to political life and its mores. Religion draws people into the community and away from themselves. Religion and politics

cannot be separated."

To separate the two compromises the Constitution's promise of freedom of religion, Elshtain contended. "A private religion is no religion at all. When religion is destroyed, it's not freedom but bondage," she argued.

Jim Skillen, executive director of the Center for Public Justice in Annapolis, Md., explained why government has a mandate to be just and why Christians must stay involved in public policy.

"The person, work and authority of Jesus Christ have to do with everyone and everything in all creation. Therefore, Jesus Christ has everything to do with government and public policy. The question then is how, not whether, Christian faith is connected with public policy," Skillen said in a chapel address to an audience of about 1,000.

Skillen pointed out first that Christianity is not a stranger to the world's governments. In fact, "Jesus is not a visitor to, or intruder into, a strange land," Skillen said. "This world, including human political responsibility, belongs to God through the Son even before the Son's incarnation."

That means humans, and even more so Christians, are mandated to do what they can to ensure that government and public policy are fundamentally just, he said. ■



Hardeman County DOM Watson dies

For Baptist and Reflector

BOLIVAR — Deryl Watson, 61, director of missions for Hardeman County Association since 1986, died unexpectedly Nov. 3 of a heart attack.

A native of Jackson, Watson was a graduate of Union University and held a master's degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Watson has served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. Tennessee pastorates included Calvary Church, Parsons; First Church, Gleason; and First Church, Rutherford. He was retired from the U.S. Army Reserve.

Watson is survived by his wife, Frances, and two grown children: Laura Morphis and Erin Watson. ■



WATSON



LAND

through the years and we have updated translations from time to time to help us better understand what the Bible says. However, the message of the Bible has not changed as God never changes.

One of the purposes of a college education is to mature and gain knowledge. These fine professors are striving to help their students in not only finding life's purpose but also having a better understanding and deeper appreciation for the Bible.

I do not write with eloquence but I am sincerely trying to express my love and respect for this great institution. I just hope and pray that my letter might help some of you who read this to see these professors for what they are — deeply committed teachers whose first commitment has been and always will be their commitment to God.

Dorothy Ellis Orr
Jefferson City 37760

Listen to Jesus

All sides in the controversy over the direction of the TBC need to realize that your battle

is not with each other, but against principalities and powers, and with spiritual beings in high places. God is the only one capable of protecting his written word and his people.

I believe many have been extremely presumptuous to believe that they are God's defenders. God doesn't need defenders; instead, he really wants obedient servants.

Obedience will show in one major way — by Christians who are known by their love for one another. Love gets thrown out the window too often in the idea that we must take care of God.

The attitudes of disrespect, secrecy, manipulation, slander, and all other attitudes that are strongholds of Satan need to be given up. Don't put God in a box. God can work in ways that will not match your expectations.

None of us should use our relationship with Jesus Christ as a means for tooting our own specialized theologies. Our relationship with Jesus is dynamic, not static; therefore, we need to be careful of the temptation to make legalistic systems out of our relationship with Jesus.

We must simply follow Jesus. That is our calling. Our calling is not to condemn our Christian brothers and sisters. My prayer is that God will do whatever is necessary to make all hostilities cease within the TBC, and I do mean hostilities on both sides of the issues.

There is only one who is right in all of this, and that is Jesus Christ the Lord. It is time to be quiet and listen to Jesus!

Donald A. Davidson, pastor
National Avenue Church
Memphis 38122

Measure by fruits

In his Gospel, Matthew reflects on Jesus' statement that everyone will be known by their fruits.

While Jesus is talking primarily about individuals, the concept can be expanded to include an institution whose mission statement includes preparing men and women to minister in Christ's name to a needy world.

How then can we measure Carson-Newman College?

Currently C-N alumni ranks total over 15,000. For those of

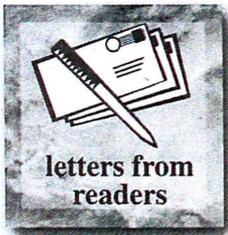
which records are available, over 64 percent are involved in service-related professions, including 11 percent in paid professional ministry, 7 percent in medical fields, and 46 percent in other service fields such as teaching, homemaking, counseling, and social services.

The latest enrollment figures for this current academic year indicate that over 2,200 students are enrolled in classes, including the graduate programs of nursing, school counseling, and teaching. Of those students, over 52 percent indicate interest in entering fields similar to those listed above. The percentage should increase once those with undeclared majors identify the field of their calling.

I will gladly send my children to Carson-Newman if that is where they wish to attend because I am proud of the record of Christian service exhibited by its graduates.

Congratulations to Dr. (Cordell) Maddox and the entire staff for the job they are doing in furthering God's kingdom.

Greg Sharpe
Jefferson City 37760



letters from
readers

Heavy heart

I have read with disappointment and heavy heart some of the things written about Carson-Newman College and its theology faculty. I am 72 years old and have lived most of these years in Jefferson City.

I have known many of their Bible professors and I know most of the present ones. They are fine Christian people who believe in the same Jesus Christ in which you and I believe.

In John 10:10b Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." These same professors try to help your sons and daughters find, through the Bible, what life's purpose is.

Meanings of words change

Make the B&R a part of your church family

By Lonnie Wilkey, Editor

In September the *Baptist and Reflector* entered a new era with the selection of a new editor. This followed a study conducted by Floyd Craig and Associates last year which basically examined why the convention has a newspaper. Is it vital? Is it needed? The answer to both questions is yes.

In the last few months the *Baptist and Reflector* has carried articles on the potential Y2K problem, forced terminations of pastors, families, gambling, and other topics of concern to Tennessee Baptists in general. Other stories have focused on the ministries and missions efforts of our churches. They are stories church leaders need to read.

All are designed to make Tennessee Baptists think about issues and to inspire churches and individuals to do more for

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The *Baptist and Reflector* is a tool all Tennessee Baptists need, especially as we near a new century.

The time is now to make the *Baptist and Reflector* a part of your church family. Many churches in Tennessee send the paper to every family in their congregation. We are grateful for them. There are many others, however, that receive only one copy of the B&R. That is not enough.

We want to target those churches and to challenge them to begin introducing the paper to their church by sending it to their leadership — deacons, teachers, church council, etc. Our Church Leadership Plan offers the paper to your leadership at a cost of \$8.50 per subscription with no minimum requirement. This is a savings of \$1.50 over our individual rate. The individual church leader may pay for his or her own subscription in order to get

the special rate, payment must be submitted by the church. We also will continue to have a special rate for churches that want to send the paper to at least 50 percent of its membership.

We also will be increasing our emphasis on Church Page editions. I am convinced that many churches can save money by using the *Baptist and Reflector* for their church newsletter. Just think, your members can get their church news, plus national and state Baptist news in one handy package.

Contact us about any of these plans.

As a pastor or church leader, seriously consider making the *Baptist and Reflector* a part of your church family in 1999 and in the future.

To quote from our new promotion theme for the Church Page Plan (see page 24), reading the *Baptist and Reflector* is indeed "a bright idea." B&R



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Mike: "Your wife used to be so nervous. Now she's calm as a cucumber. What happened to her?" Ollie: "The doctor told her the nervousness was the natural result of advancing age."

Take this truth

Not all sicknesses are psychosomatic, but many are. Not all problems can be solved with the mind, but many can. Attitude may not be everything, but it goes a long way in life.

Memorize this Scripture

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." — Proverbs 23:7

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to be honest with myself and realize many, perhaps most, of my problems can be solved by me and only by me."

Gambling victories in South pose threat to Tennesseans

By Lonnie Wilkey, Editor

Results from last week's elections across the South are in, and it did not bode well for those opposed to gambling.

Particularly disturbing was the defeat of two incumbent governors in South Carolina and Alabama to candidates who actively support a state lottery.

In South Carolina, Gov. David Beasley, a Southern Baptist, was lambasted by gambling proponents who poured millions of dollars into Jim Hodges' campaign. In a Baptist Press account, South Carolina pastor Mike Hamlet of North Spartanburg, who also serves as president of the

SBC Pastors' Conference, said the election there was not about the candidates. "It was about the impact of organized gambling. We are becoming a gambling-dependent society. The gamblers are spending enough money to even sell Christians on the lie that you can get something for nothing. The people lost and greed won."

Tennessee Baptists — we must wake up and not allow what has happened in South Carolina and Alabama to happen in our state. We have been fortunate to this point. Our state legislature, particularly the Senate, has successfully turned away every effort to take the word "lottery" out of the state constitution, thus opening

Tennessee up to any and every form of gambling imaginable.

We would be naive to think that the gambling industry will give up. Their victories in South Carolina and Alabama and in other states will only add fuel to their fire. They will gear up and put resources into the campaigns of legislators who will support their cause.

We need to let our state senators and representatives know we do not want legalized gambling in our state. Rest assured, some effort will be made to revive the gambling issue this year. Be on guard, pray diligently that the gambling industry does not take over Tennessee. B&R

New group leader looking forward to serving Tennesseans

making Christ known

by Bill Northcott
Executive Board
Ministries, TBC



I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as leader of the Church

Staff Leadership Group.

I come to this position from the pastorate of First Church, Covington. My heart is that of a pastor-servant. I love the local church and have served in that context for nearly 30 years, either as a pastor or staff member.

I bring to the group leader position a pastor's perspective. Because of that, my primary objective is to serve the Lord

and his kingdom by listening to the pastors and staff members of all our Tennessee Baptist churches and responding to your needs.

The Church Staff Leadership Group is composed of dedicated people whose mission is to support and help church staffs in discovering and fulfilling the call of God in their lives.

This mission is accom-

plished through work in five specific areas:

- (1) worship skills development,
- (2) administrative skills development,
- (3) relationship development,
- (4) career development, and
- (5) personal development.

I am excited about serving Tennessee Baptists. Please let us know how we can serve you. ■

Pastor learns willing volunteers need specific instructions

A funny thing happened on the way to the pulpit

by Daryll Smiley

Editor's Note: This column kicks off a new feature written by Daryll Smiley, a former bivocational pastor and now member of First Church, Estill Springs. Smiley is collecting short true anecdotes about the lesser known facets of ministry which allow readers to explore the gift of laughter from the Lord. Smiley hopes to publish

these stories in book form. He would be interested in hearing from our readers. If you have a story to share, write: Daryll Smiley, 635 Country Estates Drive, Winchester, TN 37398.

A pastor of more than 30 years tells the story of a baptism that he held in a series of tent meetings in the early days of his ministry. They had been holding these revival meetings and several people had come to know Christ during the services.

As the meetings ended those people wanted to be baptized by the minister before he moved on. But there was no

lake, stream, or baptistry in which to perform the service.

The preacher gathered a group of church leaders and asked if these men would dig a baptistry behind the tent so he could baptize the new believers. The men agreed to do so.

The preacher asked them to dig the hole, and from one end, dig steps down into the ground so the people could step into the water.

After the hole was dug they hauled water in barrels to fill the makeshift baptistry for that evening.

The pastor stood a scant five feet tall when he wore his cowboy boots. That evening,

he entered the water, carefully descending the steps so as not to ungracefully slip and fall.

However, when he got about chest deep, he believed he had gotten to the bottom of the baptistry. He stepped out toward the middle and plunged deep into the water. The men had dug the hole eight feet deep. It was a good thing he could swim or his ministry may not have lasted for more than 30 years.

The lesson for us here is to be specific in our instructions for the willing volunteers that we enlist to help in our ministry efforts. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests November

- 11 — Praise God for the immigration completion for Sam Viswasam and his family into Delta, British Columbia, Canada. He is the new pastor of Royal Heights Mission.
- 12 — Pray for the music ministries in Costa Rica.
- 13 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's deacons and wives retreat to be held Nov. 13-14.
- 14 — Pray for Tiffany Greene and Sarah Walters, BSU semester missionaries serving at HOPE Baptist Center in Detroit, Mich.
- 15 — Pray for Royal Heights Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada and pastors Paul Johnson and Tom Blackaby who lead the church.
- 16 — Pray for a new work in Orla Sul, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where a team of volunteers from Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, recently held a prayerwalk.
- 17 — Pray for Keith and Pam Travis, IMB missionaries to Costa Rica who are serving in the area of Guapiles.

Association church members teach English



By Ruth Robinson
Special to Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — "Kinna likae?" Edie Barry asked. Twelve pairs of eyes stared uncomprehendingly.

"Nala kunlik," she added, holding up several objects. "Nala tahjay. Nala dougho. Nala kunsak."

Had her students been Vietnamese they would have known she was asking "What is this?" and answering, "this is a calendar ... a paper ... a clock ... a book."

Her students, however, were local volunteers in their first session in learning how to teach conversational English to people in the community who come from other countries. It was a way of helping the prospective teachers identify with the frustrations and difficulties of their future students.

There will be many things the volunteers will not know about their students' many cultural differences, Loretta Swingle told the prospective teachers. But they will learn. She and Barry are certified teacher tutors who teach two classes a year for the Hamilton County Baptist Association, which sponsors over 16 classes a week with the help of 85 volunteer teachers.

"Don't panic. You may go insane, but you won't die," Barry said. The only requirement to becoming a teacher is to be able to speak English and pass the 16-hour course.

That's what they told Wilson and Frances Reynolds when they were enlisted last spring. He is a retired engineer, she a housewife. Both now teach at Oakwood Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

It's what they told Bill Rogers before he took the recent class at the Baptist Building. He's now teaching at Seaboard Farms, a nonchurch-related class, which the company asked the association to start last April in order to help its employees learn English.

There are several levels of instruction, depending on the ability of the individual student. "They may or may not know the alphabet or how to read and write in their own language," Barry

idioms."

Learning can be especially difficult for adults. Thus lessons make use of repetition. "It can't be too simple," she said. Gestures and body language are important. "You don't have to know grammar rules."

America is no longer a melting pot, she said, but a mosaic. People come from everywhere. It may take as long as 10 years for an adult to become familiar in the language. For that reason, students are encouraged to go to more than one class or center each week.

Some people may be hesitant to come to the classes because they are held in churches, but the object is not to push Christianity on them, she said.

Conversational English "is as much a ministry as missions," Barry said. "We meet basic human needs. Employment opportunities are better for internationals coming to this country. English is a big thing for employment. Highly educated, professional people who do not speak the language cannot get good jobs."

Olga and Aleksey Shcherbakoy came to the United States from Russia to try to have a better life. They came to Chattanooga because he has a brother living here.

Shcherbakoy was a civilian pilot, flight instructor, and test pilot, and she was an elementary school teacher and administrator of a children's dance school in Moscow.

The couple came to classes at Oakwood Church last spring to brush up on their conversational English. They now are attending classes on English as a second language at Chattanooga State, and he hopes to get into work with computers.

First Church in the Golden Gateway

Free English Classes

Churches —

- Red Bank Church, Sunday, 5-6 p.m.; Monday, 7-8:30 p.m., (423) 870-8323
- University of Tennessee — Chattanooga Baptist Student Union, Monday, 2-3:30 and 6-7:30 p.m., (423) 629-1301
- Brainerd Church, Monday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., (423) 624-2606
- Memorial Church, Hixson, Tuesday, 10-11:30 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m., (423) 877-7922
- Concord Church, Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m., (423) 892-9313
- Middle Valley Church, Hixson, Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., (423) 842-1911
- Oakwood Church, Wednesday, free dinner at 5:15 p.m., caiss 6-7:30 p.m., (423) 892-6414
- First Church, Chattanooga, Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., (423) 265-2257
- Woodland Park Church, Thursday, 3-5 and 7-8:30 p.m., (423) 899-9185

Industrial (for employees only) —

- BSI, Tiftonia, Thursday, 2-3:30 and 3:45-5:15 p.m., beginning Oct. 8
- Seaboard Farms, Tuesday, 1:30-3 and 3:15-4:45 p.m.

said. "Or they may be able to read English but not comprehend it, or speak it but not read or write it. Their grammar may not be good, and they don't know

Beulah Association Baptists give, receive from MRM

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — Beulah Association's Baptists certainly have benefited from the Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) volunteers who traveled to serve in the association. But they also have benefited from what they did themselves to participate in the MRM, said James Kinsey, MRM director for Beulah Association for the past six years. Kinsey also is pastor of Sunswept Church here.

The MRM is an emphasis among Southern Baptists to respond to the many needs of residents living along the

Mississippi River.

During the past year, members of Beulah Association, which is based here, joined volunteers from other areas of Tennessee and other states on most of the MRM projects, he reported.

Many of the projects were special, but a few were memorable to Kinsey, he said. MRM workers were blessed as they built an entire building for Greater Hope Church, Union City. The church has African American members.



KINSEY

Baptists were amazed when they built a house for a flood victim. The house cost \$28,000 to build, but it only cost the family \$22,000 because of help from MRM funds, reported Kinsey.

Another family who was helped stands out in Kinsey's memory. The residents were an elderly lady, who was bedridden, and her disabled daughter. Their roof leaked. When it rained, plastic was draped over the elderly woman in her bed to keep her dry, described Kinsey. The women were so appreciative for their repaired roof, he said.

Kinsey also told of helping a family whose house had no in-

door toilet, bathing facilities, or hot water. He had been warned they wouldn't be receptive to help. He went to see them anyway.

Kinsey learned a family member was in a wheelchair, so the lack of facilities was difficult for her. Of course, she and the rest of the family, including an elderly woman, were dreading winter.

Volunteers built a bathroom with a shower and hot water. The disabled woman told Kinsey she had prayed for help and believed God sent the volunteers.

"Those were the happiest people and the Lord did that for them through the

Mississippi River Ministry," said Kinsey.

This year Beulah Association Baptists worked alongside eight teams of 221 volunteers who had traveled here to serve. Another result of the efforts, Kinsey reported, was that 47 people made professions of faith.

"We should not expect someone to come in and do something we aren't doing ourselves," said Kinsey.

The MRM experiences have "caused us to have a global vision of missions and ministry and to be aware of local ministry needs — that we don't have to go off to do missions," he concluded. **B&R**

Lenoir City pastor ministers with humor

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

EDITOR'S NOTE: For several weeks Thom Tapp's cartoons have appeared in the Baptist and Reflector. Tapp provides the cartoons at no cost to the paper as a ministry to Tennessee Baptists.

LENOIR CITY — It doesn't take long to find out Thom Tapp has a sense of humor.

Humor is important, Tapp maintains, noting the world sometimes paints Christians as humorless.

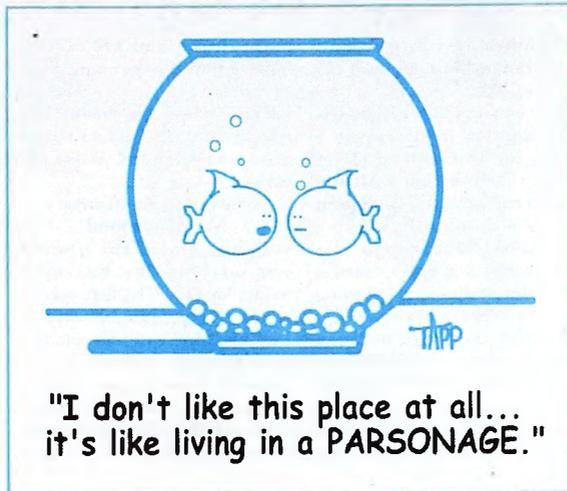
"I believe the Christian life is a happy life and we should have humor and fun in our life," says Tapp, pastor of Oral Church here.

He uses Proverbs 17: 22 to back up his belief: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. ..."

The Springfield native admits now he was not always happy. In 1987 he had brain surgery to have a tumor removed. "After that I didn't know if I would ever do cartoons, or would have a sense of humor again," he recalls.

He began drawing cartoons, however, to pass the time away. "The cartoons became a vehicle for mental healing," Tapp says. "It helped me to not take everything so seriously."

Tapp takes his humor to the printed page through Eli



Chortlesnort, pastor of the Church of the Covered Dish.

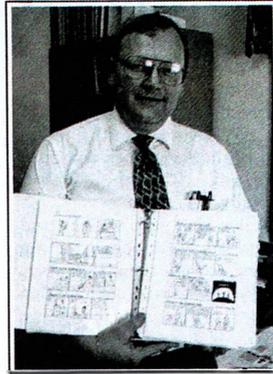
Chortlesnort is the main character of Tapp's cartoons which appear in the *Baptist and Reflector* as well as several other publications including *Leadership Journal*, *Preaching*, *Ministries Today*, *Christian Computing*, the *Maryville Daily Times*, and others.

Why the Church of the Covered Dish as the name of where Chortlesnort serves? Tapp, who has been at Oral Church for about two years, noted his congregation always seemed to be having covered dish meals. "I kidded our members that we were the Church of the Covered

Dish," hence the name of his cartoon strip.

Tapp also makes his cartoons available to churches for use in their newsletters and bulletins on the World Wide Web at www.baptist1.com/toons. The cartoons are available for a modest fee (approximately \$1 per cartoon if bought in a package). Since January his cartoons have been viewed by people from 47 countries. As of Oct. 21 his site had been visited 19,136 times since Jan. 21.

About 900 churches, including churches in Taiwan, Australia, and Singapore, have requested his strips for use in



LENOIR CITY Pastor Thom Tapp displays a notebook with some of his cartoons. Tapp has served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee. His dad, Gerald Tapp, is pastor of Ozone Church in Cumberland County.

their bulletins and newsletters, he adds.

Tapp also has made his strips available to Ray Luck, his local director of missions, for use in Loudon County Association's newsletters.

By posting on the Internet, Tapp became acquainted with a bulletin board for professional cartoonists called "The Wisenheimer." He started posting his Christian cartoons and began developing friendships with different cartoonists worldwide. He is now their "unofficial chaplain."



Tapp notes he received an e-mail from a cartoonist in Greece who professed to be an atheist. "He told me, however, that if he was to go to church anywhere, he would want to go to mine because of what he has seen in my comic strips."

Tapp confesses with a smile that in some ways he is Eli Chortlesnort. "Almost everything that happens to me in the pastorate will end up in a comic strip," Tapp notes.

"In most of my cartoons there is some element of truth in them somewhere underneath the surface," he says. "The cartoons take the real and exaggerate it to the humorous."

"My goal for the cartoon strip is to provide Christian humor and things for churches to use that are attention-getting," he adds.

Tapp notes he has always enjoyed expressing himself through cartoons. "I have never been able to feel comfortable with 'real art,'" he laughs.

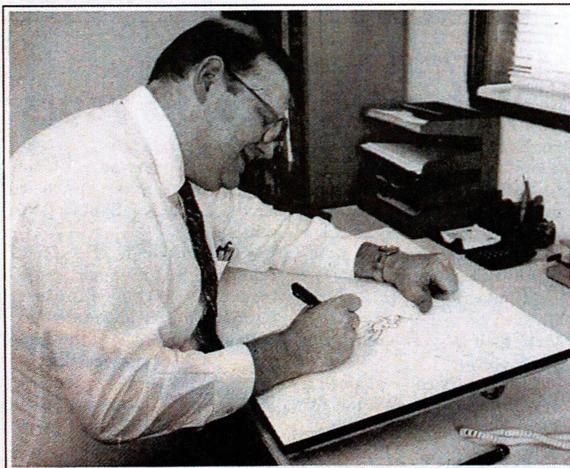
Prior to developing Eli Chortlesnort and the Church of the Covered Dish, Tapp drew editorial cartoons for the *Roane County News* of Kingston, while serving as a bivocational pastor in Big Emory Association.

Tapp says his primary motives for drawing the cartoons are to provide a ministry and to relieve personal stress rather than make a profit.

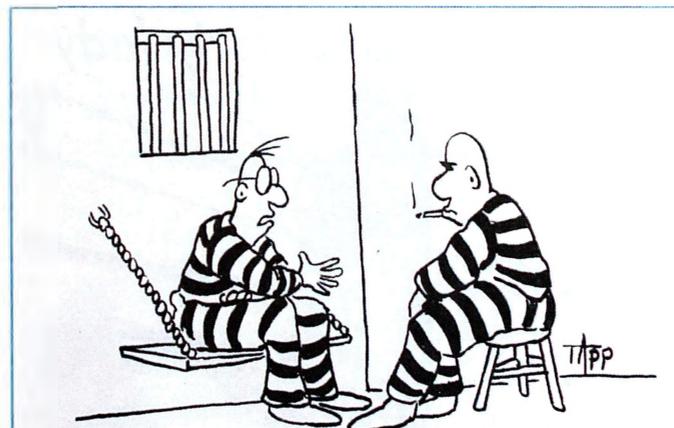
He thinks his cartoons have been received well because they are not negative. "I do not try to make someone look bad."

Tapp notes "God has given me something I can do that others cannot."

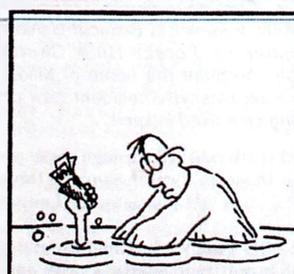
"I try to take that and do the most I can for his purposes." B&R



PASTOR THOM TAPP of Oral Church, Lenoir City, works on a Church of the Covered Dish comic strip. Tapp's cartoons appear in the Baptist and Reflector as well as other publications throughout the United States.



"As a pastor, I've always wondered if I was filing my taxes right. It's a relief to finally find out for sure."



Church of the Covered Dish
can be viewed on the
World Wide Web at
www.baptist1.com/toons

After pursuing missions call with 40-day fast

Wiles accepts call to church in Hawaii

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — It may seem peculiar that a call to missions would lead a pastor to serve in Hawaii. To most people, Hawaii is a paradise without problems, the subject of day dreams rather than a place where the residents need missions workers.

Yet Emerson Wiles, pastor, First Church, Fayetteville, has found the latter is true. He has learned a lot about Hawaii in the last several months. Wiles will begin serving as pastor of Mililani Church, Oahu, Hawaii, Jan. 1.

Wiles isn't sure why he and Mary, his wife, began feeling the call to missions this year. Maybe it was his participation

in a church growth conference at Glorietta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center this spring. Or it may be traced to the family's participation in Crossover - Utah, the evangelism effort held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in June.

About 20 years ago

Emerson had experienced a call to home missions following graduation from seminary. When he and Mary pursued that call, they learned that experience was needed and they had none.

So Wiles accepted a call to serve as pastor of Friendship Church, Culleoka. He ministered there from 1982-85, when he began serving as pastor of First Church, Fayetteville.

Emerson and Mary have participated in missions efforts over the years. For 10 years, Wiles led a group to witness and minister in New Orleans, La., during the Mardi Gras festival. He learned about missions opportunities during the event while a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Several years ago, Emerson Wiles participated in an exchange program with a Scottish pastor. He was part of a group from his church which built a church facility in Geor-

gia. And he and his family have enjoyed other missions experiences.

But during the weeks following summer, his spiritual need was different, Wiles explained.

So he fasted for 40 days.

Not about food

It was one of the easiest commitments he has ever made, he said. The fast wasn't about denying himself food. If that were the case, he couldn't have done it, said Wiles, because he loves food too much.

The fast was to help him understand God's will concerning seven desires. God helped him with six, reported Wiles. In addition he lost about 35 pounds. The seventh was whether he was to be involved in missions work.

Then he was contacted by the Mililani Church in Oahu.

Still not easy path

Although Wiles is sure God wants him to serve as pastor of Mililani Church, he said the decision-making process wasn't an easy one.

The church wasn't sure about him, either, at first. In fact, he wasn't its first choice.

But Wiles said he felt a peace during the process. He answered questions without trying to impress committee members. In fact, when they asked him about his goals for

his career, he described a professional golfing job. Then he added he didn't desire a career, but a ministry.

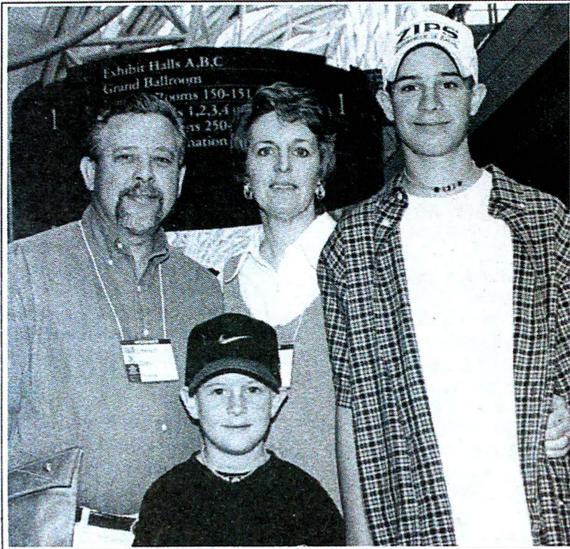
A missions field

Serving at Mililani Church will be a challenge, reported Wiles. The congregation is made up of several ethnic groups, including Filipinos, Japanese, and Koreans. It has seven worship services each Sunday, allowing separate Korean and Filipino congregations, which use their native languages, to use the building.

And Mililani Church is so committed to developing congregations, the church is helping a new congregation build a facility which will be bigger than its building and which will be located on more land than the church has.

Wiles asked for prayer for his family. They must downsize to move and accept a much smaller house. And although they will be living in "paradise," their home will be confined to an island.

"We'll be a long way from home and friends," said Emerson. "We'll miss Tennessee," he said. **BER**



THE WILES FAMILY pause at the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting this June in Salt Lake City. They are, from left, Emerson, Auburn, 9, Mary, and Caleb, 14. The family served as workers for the Crossover witnessing effort prior to the meeting.

Belmont students assist elderly lady

By Ian Campbell
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — At 70 years of age, Mildred Sawyers has grown up and lived almost all her life in the same East Nashville home.

However, since becoming disabled and going on a fixed income, winterizing her home and doing basic maintenance has become impossible for Sawyers. This made the prospect of staying in her home this winter potentially dangerous.

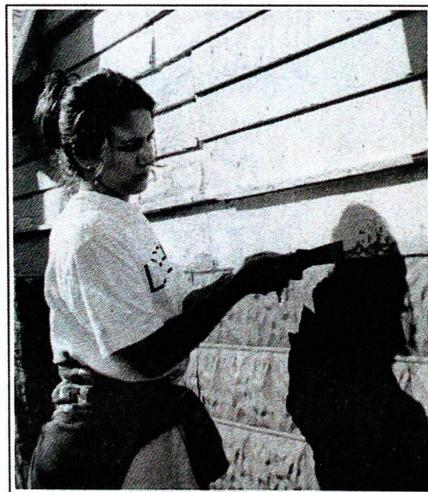
Working with a new non-profit organization in Nashville called Mprint, which conducts home repairs for elderly Nashvillians who are disabled and living on a fixed income, 12 women from Belmont University resident halls, along with representatives from the college's physical education, health, and wellness department, took it upon themselves to make sure Sawyers has a warm, dry place this winter.

The students painted and made general repairs on her home during the weekend of Oct. 9-10.

"It was such a blessing to help someone who really needed our help," said Heather Lannom, resident assistant at Belmont and a member of Brentwood Church, Brentwood.

"We really enjoyed working that day. It felt good helping out someone who really could not afford to repair her home," said Lannom, who coordinated the service project.

She noted that the students received the support and participation of campus organizations and people throughout the university, including Food Services which provided lunch for every-



LISA LAMPMAN, a senior at Belmont University and member of Forest Hills Church, Nashville, helps to paint the home of Mildred Sawyers, an East Nashville resident now disabled and living on a fixed income.

one. "The Lord really worked through these people to minister to me as I was organizing things and getting together all the details," Lannom said.

"All of the girls that worked had an experience which changed their hearts. I pray and I hope that it is permanent." ■

As minister of music at Immanuel

Vick celebrates 30 years

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — While serving 30 years as a minister of music at one church is not a record, it certainly is a noteworthy achievement.

Members of Immanuel Church here honored Beryl Vick, their 30-year minister of music on Nov. 1.

Immanuel's choir planned a special worship service for Vick, followed by a reception.

What makes Vick's feat even more unusual is that he has served under only two pastors in those 30 years — Gaye McGlothlin for eight and current pastor David George for 22.

Both men have been very supportive of Immanuel's music ministry, Vick affirmed.

Vick personally directs the older children's, youth, and adult choirs as well as two handbell choirs and three ensembles.

Vick has enjoyed the fellowship and people of Immanuel over the years. "Immanuel is a warm, caring church."

In addition to activities at Immanuel, Vick has been ac-

tive in church music on the state level, according to Julian Suggs, church music specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Vick has been president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference and a member of the Tennessee Baptist



VICK

Chorale since coming to Nashville 30 years ago from Montgomery, Ala.

"He has had a sterling record of service with the Chorale," Suggs said. Vick has assisted Suggs by serving as instrumental coordinator and instrumental arranger for the Chorale, which has sung some of his compositions over the years.

Vick has been supported by his family over the years. Wife Pat and son Mark are deacons at Immanuel. A daughter, Jennifer, lives in Gallatin. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Orr serves as interim pastor of 30th church

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

DYERSBURG — Although Robert Orr is 85, he's feisty. He keeps a schedule that would tire a young man.

Orr serves as interim pastor of a church, the 30th church he has served in that capacity since his retirement. And he visits a nursing home twice a day, always dressed in his dapper style.

He, like others, thought his final full-time service before retirement would be the pinnacle of his career. Orr's 27 years as pastor of First Church here were a pinnacle, he confirmed. But that period of his life ended in 1977.

Since then he's enjoyed a slightly different ministry. And he's been busy consistently. In the 21 years he has been retired, Orr only has spent about a dozen weeks in which he didn't preach in a church.

That's not unusual for him, he explained, because he's been preaching in churches for 65 years.

A busy schedule

Since Orr serves churches only as interim pastor and those churches are limited in number, he must travel to serve them. He often travels in his "Cadillac," he joked, which actually is a red pickup given to him by a friend.

He no longer accepts assignments in churches located far from his home in Dyersburg. The distance is a factor not



ROBERT ORR talks about his life and ministry in the library of First Church, Dyersburg. He served the church as pastor from 1950-77. — Photo by Connie Davis

because of his age, but because Orr spends time twice a day with Sally, his wife.

Sally Fulghum Orr, his wife for 63 years, lives in a nursing home because she has Alzheimer's disease.

Speaking of his wife brings tears to Orr's eyes. But he also enjoys the visits, especially since he has developed a ministry among the residents of the home.

Orr has visited the nursing home twice a day for the past seven years. He's supported in his efforts by many people.

Members of Caruthersville Church, Caruthersville, Mo., where Orr current-

ly is interim pastor, allow Orr to arrive about 10-15 minutes after the Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services have begun to allow him to help Sally with supper. The church is located about 18 miles from Dyersburg.

Also helping Orr are staff members of the nursing home, who provide the meal early. And a friend relieves him each Sunday afternoon by serving Sally lunch.

Serving 'country churches'

The churches Orr has served as interim pastor have ranged in size from smaller than First Church, Dyersburg, to bigger. And they have been located as far away as Central Church, Johnson City, which he served by moving to East Tennessee temporarily.

But most of the churches he has served are "country churches," said Orr, and he loves them.

When he preaches to congregations of small churches, he preaches the same way he does at First Church, Dyersburg, or at Central Church, Johnson City, he explained.

He may be able to relate well to members of rural churches because he is a "country preacher boy," described Orr.

His first and only career

When Orr graduated from high school in 1929, he had several choices even though the Great Depression had

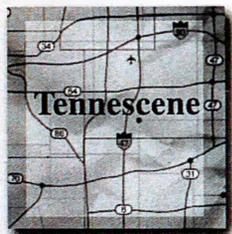
just begun. He could become a farmer in Henry County like his parents and other relatives. He could play baseball on a minor league team of the St. Louis Cardinals. He could attend a basketball school in Maury, Ky. Or he could follow his call to the ministry which would require an education. But he had no money for an education.

Then Union University took a chance on him by offering him a scholarship. That allowed Orr to begin his first and only career — the ministry.

He has preached most of the 65 years of his ministry in Tennessee churches. To serve as pastor of his first church, he walked six miles to Bethlehem Church in Brownsville/Whitesville. He served churches in Oklahoma and Mississippi but returned to Tennessee.

Orr loves Tennessee Baptists and reads about them every week in the *Baptist and Reflector*, he said, which he learned about as a child when he saw his mother reading it. Except for the years he served outside of Tennessee, Orr has read it nearly every week.

Concerning his story, Orr said, "You've come to a goat's house for wool," revealing his humbleness. "The Lord has been so good to me, I don't know how to say thank you," said Orr. *B&R*



■ Messengers attending the annual meeting of **Watauga Association** Oct. 22 voted to dedicate its 1998-99 annual to the memory of **William J. Powell**, who served as director of missions of the association from 1977-90. Also recognized was **Bob M. Polk**, director of missions from 1991-97, for his leadership and labor on the new Hale Community Ministries building in Elizabethton. Messengers decided a plaque of appreciation for Polk should be placed in the building. The association is based in Elizabethton.

■ Messengers to the recent annual meeting of **Stone Association** based in Cookeville adopted the largest budget in the association's history. **Jim Malone**, pastor, Midway Church, was named the Volun-

teer of the Year. Pastor **Dewey Masters** and Poplar Springs Church; and Pastor **Earl Dirksen** and Trinity Church, Cookeville, were named Bivocational Pastor and Church of the Year. Messengers also adopted a resolution mourning the late **Tommy Burks**, state senator of Monterey, and extending sympathy to his family.

■ During its recent annual meeting **Concord Association** based in Murfreesboro elected two laymen as leaders — **Fred Rolater** of Southeast Church, as moderator; and **Buck Arms** of River Rock Church, as assistant moderator. Messengers dedicated the minutes to **Helen Brown** of First Church, Murfreesboro, who served as the association's librarian until her death. Messengers added **Greystone Church**, Nolensville, of which **Ralph Carroll** is the pastor. And they honored **Jim Powers** for serving as director of missions for 12 years.

■ **Nolachucky Association** based in Morristown held its annual meeting and messengers decided to begin a counseling ministry and dedicated its annual to the memory of **Charles "Buddy" White**.

■ **Fayette Association** based in Somerville held its

annual meeting recently. Messengers acted to form a Special Missions Committee to help new congregations. They honored **Emma Sue Carpenter** for serving for many years as historian of the association, and **Jesse Price Sr.**, for serving on the administrative Committee and **Mrs. Price** as clerk and treasurer.

■ **Bradley Association** which is based in Cleveland held its annual meeting in which messengers recognized **Harvey Booher** as Bivocational Pastor of the Year and acted to receive **Corinth Church** back into its fellowship. It also approved members of a search committee for a director of missions.

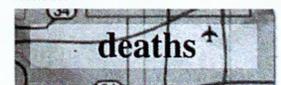


■ **Calvary Church, Oak Ridge**, held revival Oct. 18-21. Twenty-one people made professions of faith and many others made other spiritual decisions. **Henry Linginfelter**, evangelist of Alcoa, spoke.

■ **First Church, Milan**, held an evangelistic crusade recently and as a result 59 people made professions of faith and more than 100 people made other spiritual commit-

ments. **Harold Hunter**, evangelist of Nashville, spoke.

■ **Holiday Heights Church, Hendersonville**, celebrated homecoming on Oct. 11. The church had 207 in Sunday School, the highest attendance in recent years. A week later, the church held a surprise reception for Pastor **Terry Clapp** to celebrate his first anniversary with the church.



■ **David R. Walker**, 77, of Seymour, died Oct. 14. He was pastor of several churches in East Tennessee including **First Church**, Cleveland, and **Broadway Church**, Maryville, and interim pastor of churches. He also served as an evangelist in the United States, Canada, and overseas. And he was police chaplain in Knoxville and chaplain for **Sevier County High School** football teams. Walker celebrated 50 years of ministry recently. He is survived by his wife, **Maxine Walden Walker**.

■ Retired pastor **John Cantwell Parrish Jr.**, 80, died earlier this summer in Seymour. He was pastor of several churches in Tennessee

and Texas. He is survived by his wife, **Maggie**, and son, **John C. Parrish III**.



■ **Madison Street Church**, McMinnville, recently honored **Carl Smith** on his 40th anniversary as pastor. During the morning service Smith received several letters from fellow pastors and he and his wife were given a money tree. A "roast the preacher" service was held that evening.

■ **Wayman Jones**, president of the Tennessee Drug and Awareness Council (TDAC, formerly United Tennessee League) based in Nashville has been elected president of the American Council on Alcohol Problems (ACAP). ACAP, headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., is made up of 36 state temperance organizations, 22 national Christian denominations, and other fraternal organizations which support ACAP's philosophy of abstinence in regard to the use of alcohol and drugs. Jones has led TDAC since 1984. He also has served two Nashville churches — **Belmont Heights** and **Two Rivers** — as minister of education.

people

■ Bethlehem Church, Springfield recently ordained **Chris Hall** and **Billy Jenkins** as deacons. Earlier the church held a commissioning service for **Tony and Lisa Cobb** who are serving as journeyman missionaries to Indonesia.

■ Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier, ordained **Billy Roger Key** as a deacon Nov. 1.

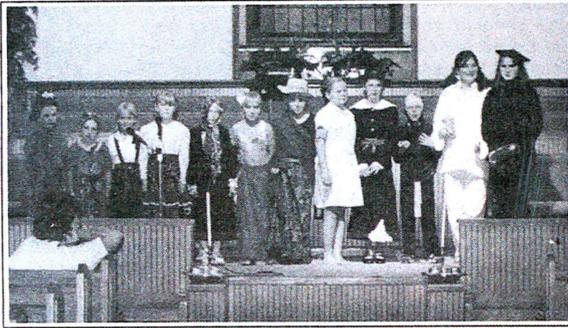
leaders

■ Eastland Church, Nashville, has recently called three ministry teams. **Brian and Bernie Baker** are ministers to youth. Brian has been min-

ister of music, Pleasant Hill Church, Orlinda. Bernie works for Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries. **Darrell and Mary Nimmo** are serving as ministers to senior adults. Darrell has served on the staff of churches in Kentucky and Texas and as an employee of LifeWay Christian Resources. Mary works with Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries. Finally the church has called **Rick and Gina Bennett** as ministers to young adults and families with children. Gina directed the children's ministry of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville. The couple met while involved in missions work in Scotland.

churches

■ Cross Roads Church,



GIRLS IN ACTION members of Pine Eden Church, Crossville, wear the dress of different countries during World Hunger Day at the church on Oct. 11.

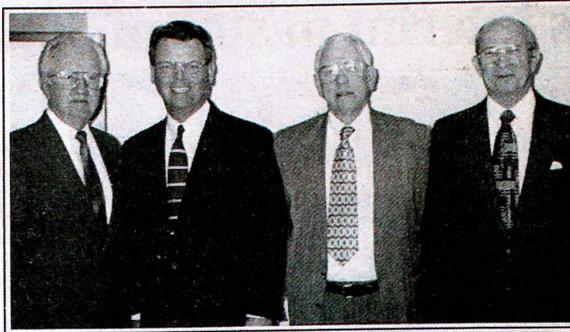
Covington church celebrates 125th anniversary



BECKY SMITH, seated, is honored by some of her students, who stand beside her, and Liberty Church, Covington, for teaching Sunday School for 48 years. She was honored during anniversary activities at the church on Oct. 11.



RECEIVING a plaque from TBC Executive Board Ministries in recognition of the anniversary is **Charles Timberlake**, left, pastor, from Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie Association.



ELECTED AS officers of Shelby Association during its recent annual meeting were, from left, **Irvin Hays**, pastor emeritus, Bartlett Church, clerk; **John Allen**, pastor, Mullins Station Church, moderator; **Bud Clements**, Brookside Church, treasurer; and **Paul Brown**, interim pastor, Balmoral Church, vice moderator.

Greenbrier, held revival recently and as a result 12 people made spiritual decisions including one for baptism. Don Russell spoke.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, will host The Bishops in concert Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 444-5923.

■ **Richland Church, Nashville**, will hold several activities on Nov. 22. A Thanksgiving Dinner on the Grounds will be held along with Homecoming and Old Fashioned Day. For more information, call (615) 356-4409.

associations

■ Messengers attending the annual meeting of **Jefferson County Association** voted to sell the house provided for the association's director of missions, invest the money, and give the DOM a housing allowance. Messengers also voted to implement action plans of a strategy planning committee and dedicated the association's minutes to **Glenn A. Toomey**.

■ At its annual meeting **Riverside Association** voted to begin its associational year in September. Messengers recognized **Cherry Road Church, Memphis**, for working in the association by doing construction work on the associational office building and on four churches. Members of the Memphis church also conducted five Vacation Bible Schools while in Riverside. They also thanked State Representative **John Mark Windle** for recruiting construction workers for four churches. Finally, the messengers dedicated its annual to the memory of **Ralph Riley**, an executive board member for 15 years.

■ During the recent annual meeting of **Carroll-Benton Association** messengers learned its churches increased

total baptisms for the last three years. They dedicated the annual to **James Humphreys**, director of missions from 1979-89, and his wife. Humphreys also was moderator of the association last year. They also recognized the late **Joe Harris**, a former director of missions who died during the past year.

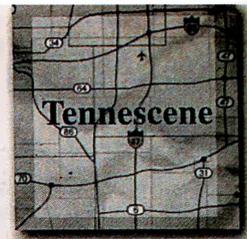
■ Messengers of the **Shelby Association** voted to consider selling 50 acres of Camp Cordova. Proceeds would be used to renovate the remaining camp. The camp will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. Messengers also added the Vietnamese Church, of which



NEW LEADERS of Big Hatchie Association pause during the recent annual meeting. They are, from left, **Paul Olson**, First Church, Covington, treasurer; **Frances Slover**, Pleasant Grove Church, clerk; **Rodney Harden**, pastor, Ashport Church, vice moderator; **Mike Owens**, pastor, Fellowship Church, moderator; and **Ray Jones**, director of missions.



DURING THE recent annual meeting of **Carroll-Benton Association** **Angela Wheel** presented a check to **Paul Veasey** of Union University. The funds are from the association's scholarship fund for a UU student from the association. Wheel received the scholarship for the past two years.



Douglas Kellum is pastor, and **Zoe Church**, of which **James Henderson** is pastor. Added to the association's one-year watchcare program was **Covenant Church**, of which **Davy Henderson** is pastor, and **New Dimension Christian Community Church**, of which **Christopher Church** is pastor.

■ Messengers attending the recent annual meeting of **Big Hatchie Association** passed a resolution condemning the recent immoral actions of President Bill Clinton and committing themselves to pray for him. They honored **Pat Landrum**, retired pastor, Brighton Church, Brighton, who is retiring as Sunday School Director after serving 30 years. Messengers also honored **J.V. and Ernestine Reeves**. J.V. Reeves retired recently after serving **Smyrna Church, Burlison**, for 34 years. Messengers dedicated the annual to them.

SEEDS

MATTHEW 13:8

A Newsletter
for Church
Leaders From
Union University
•
FALL 1998

Dynamic Baptist duo joins Union team

Greg and Kimberly Thornbury, a dynamic couple in Southern Baptist life, will join the Union University team on Feb. 1, 1999. Greg and Kimberly will serve as instructor of Christian studies and dean of students, respectively.

The Thornburys come to Union from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where Greg earned his master of divinity in 1996. Greg will receive his doctorate in systematic theology from Southern in December 1999. He has completed other studies at Green College of Oxford University and the Beeson Divinity School of Samford University.

Union President David S. Dockery describes Greg as "one of the most brilliant, gifted and godly young theologians in Southern Baptist life. His commitment to teaching and scholarship will serve as an exemplary model."

Greg has lectured at several academic institutions, including Harvard Law School and the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. He has served as a graduate teaching fellow at Southern since the fall of 1995 and previously was a teaching assistant in New Testament Greek at Messiah College in Grantham, Penn. From 1993 to 1996. He was minister of education and interim pastor at First Southern Baptist Church in Clarksville, Ind.

Kimberly is currently Southern Seminary's director of student life. Her new role as dean of students involves direction of Union's student services office, which includes campus life, housing, career services and other areas. Prior to her work as director of student life, Kimberly was Southern's coordinator of student activities for three years.

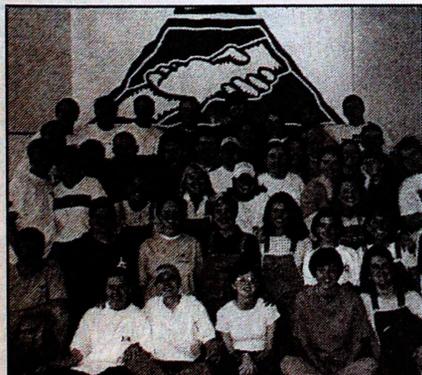
"Kimberly is a multi-talented administrator who will make an immediate positive impact on the Union University student body. We are blessed indeed to have her join our leadership team," Dockery says.

Also working on a doctorate, Kimberly expects to earn her Ph.D in organizational leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. by May 2000. Kimberly received a bachelor of arts from Messiah College and a master of arts from the University of Louisville. During her studies at Messiah, Kimberly worked as a radio producer, disc jockey and promotions director for WVMM FM 90.7 in Grantham.

The Thornburys are members of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. ➤

Union students grouped to serve

The transition from high school to college can be the most frightening time in a person's life. Each fall, thousands of young people embark upon their college years full of anxiety about the future. For many, it is the first big step toward independence, individual responsibility and the adult world. Prior to a student's coming to college, however, a recruiting war begins perhaps as early as the sophomore year.



Union's LIFE Group leaders assist students in adjusting to college life.

For Union University, the recruiting process is somewhat different. "At Union, we desire to simply share with a student about what we believe as an institution. Our primary focus upon Scripture as the foundation for all learning is the unashamed commitment of our administration and faculty," stated Robbie Graves, Director of Enrollment Services.

"Never do I seek to twist the proverbial arm of a student. I am not forced to do so," Graves remarked. "I am always grateful for the many students who enthusiastically approach us about their future. We always are honest with them. I often say 'here at Union you will be challenged academically. More importantly, you will be challenged by a Christian worldview which seeks to undergird all of your learning.'"

Such comments are more likely found in the office of a Pastor rather than a college recruiter. "But that's just what this place is all about," stated Union Campus Pastor, Todd Brady. "At Union we seek to train the heart and mind for Christ. How to accomplish this, however, requires much thought and prayer. The mind instructed and shaped by Scripture, therefore, cannot but be led to

other believers for true Christian fellowship and encouragement," Brady continued.

This is the heart of a major thrust of Union Campus Ministries called LIFE Groups. LIFE Groups are designed to bring the student from the point of entry to the point of involvement at Union. The first experiences of college can make or break an incoming student. "We desire to share with incoming students a place prepared for them where they can learn Scripture, pray, and make new friends," stated Brady.

"Most prospective students are delighted to learn of such a Biblically centered program such as the LIFE Groups," stated Carroll Griffin, Director of Admissions. "The vital place Campus Ministries gives to our students is often that which helps the new student the most."

LIFE Groups provide the new student with an immediate place of belonging. The LIFE Group Ministry also provides the opportunity to meet other people in the context of an organized and comfortable setting as it aids in the transition to a new environment. Providing an upperclassman Leader/Mentor who gives

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

leadership and friendship to new students is a powerful way to become grounded in the university's activities.

LIFE Group leaders are students who faced the same fears of college life and found LIFE Groups to be a great way to grow in Christ. Union junior and LIFE Group Leader, Natalie Nelson, remembered her first experiences on campus. "When I first came to Union, I was a little nervous at first. The LIFE Groups will help new students develop close friendships with other students, almost like a second family."

"This is our goal," stated Brady, "nothing less than becoming like Christ. We, as a Christian university, seek to passionately befriend others in the name of Jesus Christ in order that by doing so we may be obedient to his greatest commandment of loving God and loving others. To this end, we encourage all our new students to be a part of LIFE." —



Dockery Book Deals with Theology and Life

While the sheer mention of the word "theology" can produce fear or disinterest for many laypeople, Union President David S. Dockery says that theology is too important to be relegated to an elite few. Dockery reminds modern evangelicals that "theology is the backbone of all our understanding and that which gives shape to the foundations of the Christian faith."

In Dockery's new book, *New Dimensions in Evangelical Thought*, he seeks to highlight and articulate pertinent issues facing the church as she faces a new century of existence. The book, which includes essays by a host of evangelical theologians, is written in honor of Baptist theologian, Millard Erickson, who has taught at a variety of Baptist institutions including Southwestern Seminary.

Dockery has structured the book around the areas of theological thought and study. Biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology, and applied theology mark the landscape on the road toward a deeper understanding in the domain of theological study.

"Certainly, the practical implications of Biblical living as a Christian are important for living in today's world, but the information and teaching gleaned from others who have gone before us should not be discounted simply because it is not something new," states Dockery.

With great concern for understanding the dimensions involved in thinking correctly about theology, Dockery explains, "Biblical theology concerns itself with a sweeping look at a particular area of the Bible seeking to understand what that particular passage in that particular context gives the reader. You have therefore, a theology of Matthew, Exodus, or James."

The church has not been alone throughout its life. God has

raised up many along the pathway of history to comment and add their comments reflecting their thoughts and interpretations to key passages and concepts. "Historical theology examines the thinking of a Luther, Calvin, or Broadus. It is an examination of their thought." Systematic theology is a combined effort "whereby the whole of Scripture is examined and placed into logical thought expressed in contemporary language."

Underscoring the valuable contribution of Millard Erickson to the world of theology in the twentieth century, Dockery comments, "this is perhaps the great genius of Erickson. His understanding of difficult passages combined with his writing skill make theology readable to anyone."

Applied theology is "where the rubber meets the road," explained Dockery. "It is the wide sweep of understanding gleaned from the study of all the elements of theological thought -- Biblical, historical, and systematic -- brought to bear on the minds and hearts of contemporary people." Without a careful study with these building blocks the "the understanding of the church on particular issues can become skewed and move in the exact opposite of where attention should be focused."

"This book is written for this new generation of college students, seminarians, and the church at large, to help bring discussion on points of disagreement, added light to difficult texts and concepts, and to move all toward a greater appreciation for the Word of God and one another," commented Dockery. "Toward this end, the book is sent forth for use in the church and academy to the glory and praise of God."

The book was recently released by InterVarsity Press. —

Speaking Engagements

Union faculty and staff speak regularly for churches and church-related programs in Tennessee and across the nation.

David S. Dockery - President

- January 3 First Baptist Church - Tullahoma, TN
- January 10 First Baptist Church - Nashville, TN
- January 12 Doctrine Study, Mississippi State Convention - Jackson, MS
- January 17 Whitten Memorial Baptist Church - Memphis, TN
- January 18 Western District Baptist Association Pastors Conference
- January 22-24 Immanuel Baptist Church - Lexington, KY
- February 7 Broadmoor Baptist Church - Memphis, TN
- February 14-17 First Baptist Church - Jasper, AL
- February 22 Beulah Baptist Association Pastors Conference
- February 28 First Baptist Church, Bradford, TN
- March 7 Madison Baptist Church - Jackson, TN (AM)
- March 9 Doctrine Study, Birmingham Baptist Association, Birmingham, AL
- March 14 First Baptist Church - Medina, TN
- March 21 Kirby Woods Baptist Church - Memphis, TN
- April 1 Doctrine Study, West Tennessee Association, Jackson, TN
- April 6 Doctrine Study, Middle Tennessee Association, Brentwood, TN
- April 7 Doctrine Study, East Tennessee Association, Jefferson City, TN
- April 11 Cordova Baptist Church - Cordova, TN
- April 18 Skyview Baptist Church - Memphis, TN (AM)
- First Baptist Church - Huntingdon, TN (PM)
- April 22-24 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Doctrine Study
- May 2 Georgian Hills Baptist Church - Memphis, TN

Ron Boud - Professor of Music

- November 1 and 22 Trinity Baptist Church - Cordova, TN
- November 8-10 Clinician, Baptist General Convention of Virginia
- September 23-25 Clinician, Florida Baptist Convention

Todd Brady - Campus Minister

- Interim Pastor- First Baptist Church, Jackson, TN
- January 1-4, 1999, Passion 99 - Fort Worth, TX - Community Group Leader

Terry and Michaelle Buford - Missionaries in Residence

- November 11-15 Global Impact Conference, Two Rivers, Nashville
- November 15 Calvary, Jackson
- November 18 Lucy, Millington
- November 30 Madison-Chester Co Pastor's Fellowship
- November 13 First Baptist Church, - Rutherford, TN
- November 16 Calvary Baptist Church -Parsons, TN
- March 14-21 World Missions Conference, Dyer Association
- March 28 Southside Baptist Church -Savannah, TN(AM)
- Mt.Herman Baptist Church -Savannah, TN (PM)

John Adams - Vice President for Church Services

- November 1-4 World Missions Conference, Hardeman Baptist Association
- December 14 Carroll-Benton Baptist Association Pastors Conference

Dave Gusbee - Associate Professor of Christian Studies

- January 7-10 Society of Christian Ethics, San Francisco
- January 22-14 Presentation at Christianity and the Holocaust symposium
- January 25-26 Lectureship at Georgetown College
- March 5-6 Presentation at national Holocaust conference, Long Island, NY
- May 29-June 13 Book tour on Holocaust book to Austria, Switzerland, East Germany

UNION UNIVERSITY
Church Giving Report
 September 1, 1997 to August 31, 1998

BEECH RIVER			
Bear Creek	100.00	0.00	
Crossroads	0.00	100.00	
Flatwoods	0.00	300.00	
Lexington, First	0.00	5,300.00	
Mr. Anzot	1,100.00	350.00	
Parsons, First	0.00	38,500.00	
Sand Ridge	500.00	0.00	
Sardis	275.84	0.00	
Scotrs Hill	0.00	175.00	
Union	375.00	0.00	
	\$2,350.84	\$44,725.00	
BEULAH			
Martin, First	3,900.00	0.00	
Mr. Olive	100.00	0.00	
Ridgely, First	4,235.62	3,670.00	
South Fulton	0.00	5,700.00	
Tipsonville, First	0.00	4,643.69	
Union City, First	3,900.00	0.00	
Union City, Second	0.00	3,008.08	
Woodland Mills, First	623.65	0.00	
	\$12,759.27	\$17,021.77	

BIG HATCHIE			
Ashport	0.00	100.00	
Charleston	300.00	0.00	
Covington, First	4,000.02	10,666.71	
Faith	458.26	0.00	
Fellowship	300.00	0.00	
Grace	390.00	0.00	
Healing	586.68	0.00	
Pleasant Grove	2,982.14	250.00	
Ripley, First	2,000.00	141.86	
Smyrna	750.00	0.00	
	\$11,767.10	\$11,158.57	

CARROLL-BENTON			
Camden, First	0.00	1,296.00	
Howse	1,500.00	0.00	
Huntingdon, First	0.00	11,233.14	
Trezevant, First	0.00	2,000.00	
	\$1,500.00	\$14,529.14	

CROCKETT			
Alamo, First	0.00	1,700.00	
Friendship	306.61	0.00	
Gradsden, First	150.00	150.00	
Mauy City, First	2,291.74	0.00	
	\$2,748.35	\$1,850.00	

DYER			
Dyersburg, First	0.00	4,838.37	
Finley	0.00	1,520.00	
Fowlkes	0.00	900.00	
Halls, First	0.00	5,000.00	
Macedonia	0.00	100.00	
Newbern, First	2,566.90	10,927.91	
New Mitchell	0.00	167.00	
Southside	0.00	750.00	
	\$2,566.90	\$24,203.28	

FAYETTE			
Somerville, First	3,500.00	5,000.00	
	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	

GIBSON			
Bethpage	200.00	0.00	
Bradford, First	0.00	2,400.00	
Calvary, Humboldt	693.65	0.00	
Clear Creek	0.00	225.00	
Dyer, First	0.00	91.50	
Fellowship	300.00	0.00	
Humboldt, First	6,000.03	2,250.01	
Keaton, First	0.00	2,500.00	
Lavinia	0.00	64.00	
Milan, First	300.00	3,400.00	
New Bethlehem	1,902.87	0.00	
New Hope	0.00	1,200.00	
Northside	1,300.00	0.00	
Oak Grove	417.00	0.00	
Old Bethlehem	100.00	0.00	
Poplar Grove	1,600.00	0.00	
Poplar Springs	550.00	0.00	
Rutherford, First	500.00	0.00	
Salem	0.00	1,394.89	
Trenton, First	0.00	6,306.60	
	\$13,863.55	\$19,832.00	

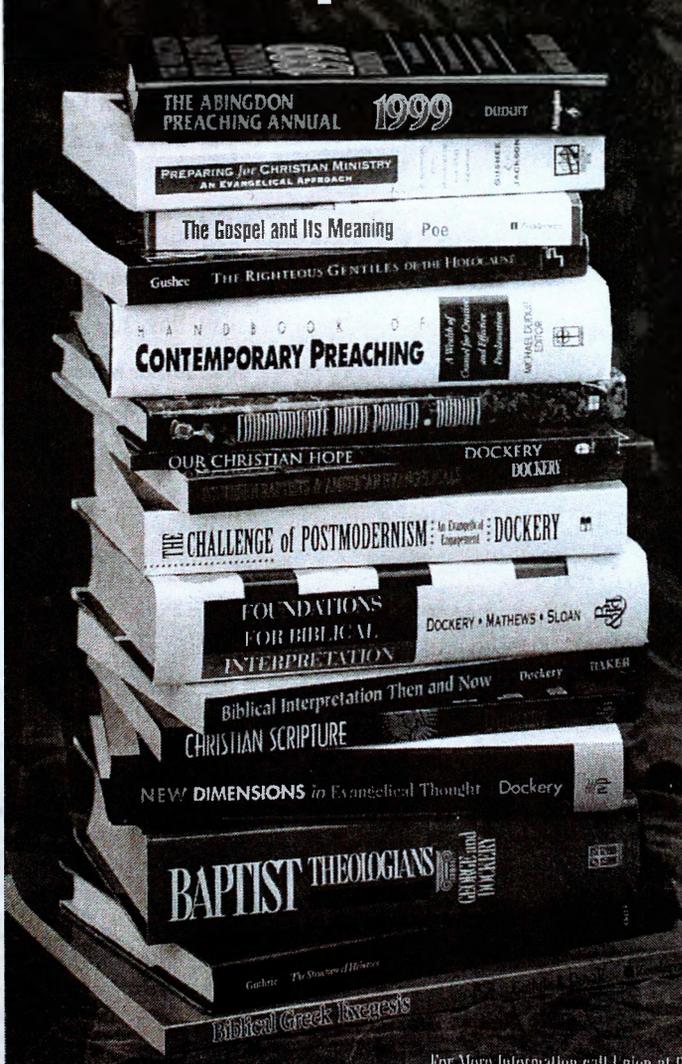
HARDEMAN			
Bolivar, First	600.00	2,939.00	
Cloverport	0.00	300.00	
Dixie Hills	0.00	100.00	
Grand Junction, First	1,992.00	0.00	
Hebron	0.00	100.00	
Middleburg	0.00	100.00	
Saulsbery	300.00	125.00	

Sileron	0.00	100.00	Meridian	1,200.00	0.00
Toone	0.00	1,931.89	North Jackson	0.00	2,750.00
Trinity	150.00	100.00	Parkburg	38.00	143.00
Whiteville, First	0.00	1,172.00	Pinson	0.00	89.39
	\$3,042.00	\$6,967.89	Poplar Heights	1,980.00	355.00
HAYWOOD					
Allen	1,000.00	0.00	Unity	0.00	236.00
Holly Grove	0.00	1,540.96	Wards Grove	300.00	0.00
Poplar Corner	0.00	1,250.00	West Jackson	350.00	32,224.39
Shaw's Chapel	500.00	450.00		\$4,788.00	\$96,721.60
Stanton	200.00	0.00	SHELBY		
Woodland	0.00	2,000.00	Ardmore	1,340.27	0.00
Zion	0.00	2,412.52	Audubon Park	1,200.00	0.00
	\$1,700.00	\$7,653.48	Bartlett	0.00	1,083.29
MADISON-CHESTER					
Ararat	0.00	7,500.00	Brookside	0.00	100.00
Beech Bluff	0.00	2,825.43	Cherry Road	2,000.02	0.00
Calvary	0.00	3,900.00	Faith	0.00	150.00
East Laurel	0.00	300.00	Leawood	903.81	0.00
East Union	0.00	3,205.01	Lucy	0.00	80.00
Englewood	0.00	21,433.38	Millington, First	1,500.00	2,400.00
Enville	0.00	150.00	Mullins Station	1,184.13	0.00
Jackson, First	0.00	21,610.00	Raleigh	146.00	1,604.00
Madison	720.00	0.00	Trafalgar Village	749.78	0.00
Malexus	200.00	0.00	Union Avenue	500.00	0.00
				\$9,524.01	\$5,417.29

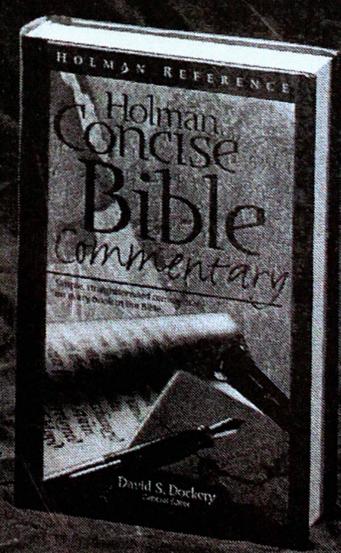
SHILOH					
Adamsville, First	250.00	2,750.00	Clear Creek	0.00	250.00
Eastview	0.00	450.00	Good Hope	600.00	0.00
Gravel Hill	1,375.00	0.00	Mr. Zion	120.00	0.00
Selmer, First	0.00	23,107.04	Sharon	43.23	0.00
	\$2,388.23	\$26,557.04	WEAKLEY		
WESTERN DISTRICT					
Maplewood	0.00	5,807.23	Belhel	0.00	500.00
Oak Hill	220.00	0.00	Central	1,200.00	0.00
Paris, First	1,360.00	6,640.00	Dresden, First	0.00	1,000.00
Puryear	1,100.00	100.00	Gleason, First	0.00	400.00
West Paris	0.00	100.00	Jolley Springs	300.00	0.00
	\$2,680.00	\$12,647.23	OTHER CHURCHES		

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Athens, First (McMinn-Meigs)	0.00	1,200.00
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Warren (Augusta, GA)	0.00	1,000.00
West Frankfort, Second (IL)	0.00	515.41
	\$120.20	\$18,919.51
Unrestricted Total		\$76,798.45
Restricted Total		\$315,133.80
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Tuesday evening, join us for our annual Union Alumni & Friends dinner at 5:00pm in the Meadowview Ballroom (Tickets are \$16 and available at the Union exhibit.)

And throughout the convention, come visit us at the Union booth in the exhibit hall where there will be fun, gifts, and a chance to visit with Union faculty, staff and students.

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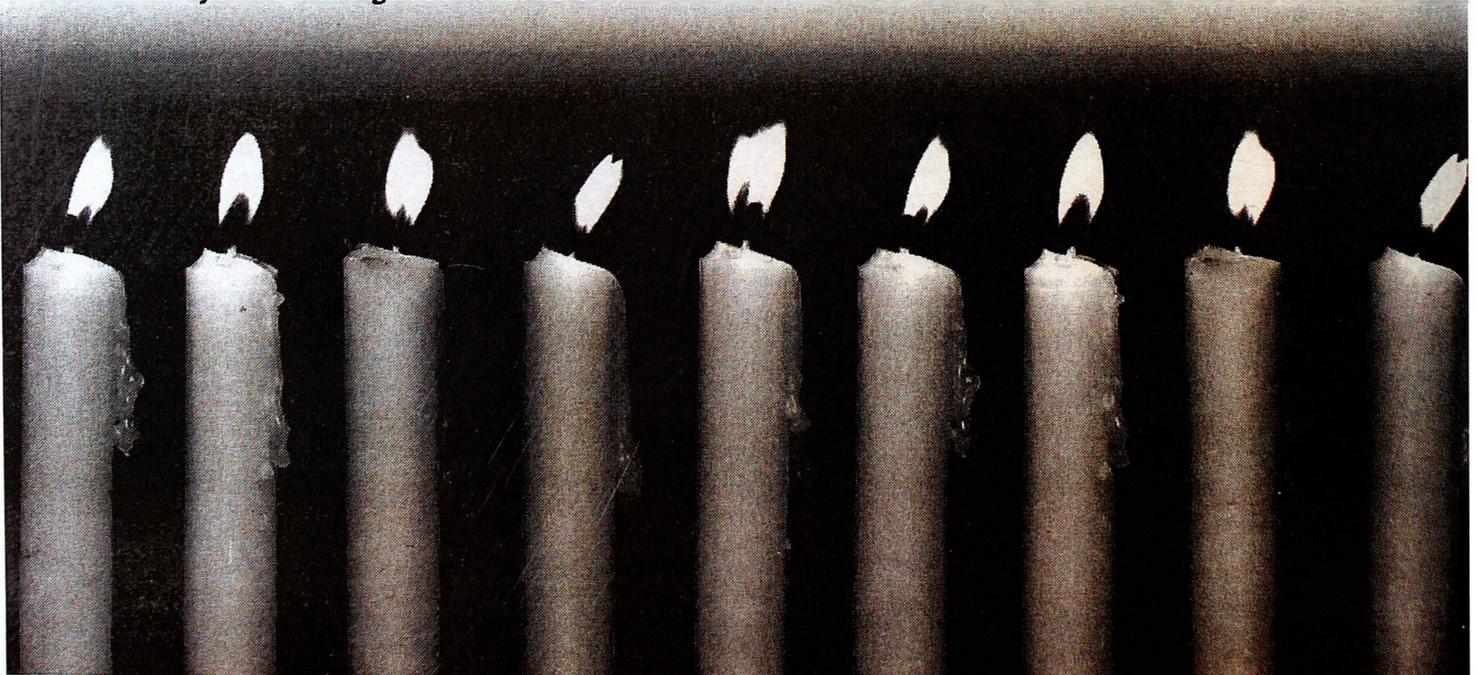
Alumni & Friends Dinner

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1998 - 5 pm

Meadowview Ballroom

Meadowview Conference Center

Tickets \$16- available at the Union booth



At First Church, Smyrna

Continued growth creates need for relocation

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

SMYRNA — Members of First Church, Smyrna, here may have been landlocked, but their sensitivity to God's leadership has freed them to grow.

With three Sunday Schools and three worship services, a facility of 37,000 square feet has crowded the congregation for the past few years. Attendance, more than doubled in a decade, meant the 950 average attendance was likely to peak.

"The option of staying here and continuing to grow did not exist," said Eddie Mosley, minister of education. "The people are very sensitive to God's leadership."

Pastor Ken Hubbard agreed, saying, "God sent us people with good Southern Baptist backgrounds and we began to grow others."

Mosley credits a new member class and the study of *Experiencing God* with the willingness of members to move in order to reach others. And while the 65,000-square-foot new facility will be very different from

the old church building, long-time members are willing to "change locations to add people," he said. A heritage area will incorporate the historic stained-glass windows and other memorabilia to make the modern facility seem more like home to some.

Mosley laughingly refers to the first-phase facility as a "sancti-nasium or gym-atorium. We want worship to be first, and then if we play basketball there, too ... fine."

Worship capacity for 850 people and classrooms for 1,200 people does not mean a reduction to one Sunday morning worship service and one Sunday School. Plans are for two of each to promote continued growth. Later, a sanctuary and more classroom space is anticipated. "Only God knows when the next phase will begin," Mosley said.

God's timing has been a long-term part of the journey to new land, Hubbard added.

The property they will leave behind was first used by the congregation in 1913.

"A very small congregation

of 30 to 40 people built what was for them an enormous building," Hubbard said. "The original sanctuary featured preaching in-the-round — a very modern concept."

Over time, the church grew to fill its once-oversized home, and by the time Hubbard arrived in 1988, he sensed the church would grow dramatically to require more space. At the same time, he recalled, "God spoke to me and said, 'Let your people discover this, too.'"

Within a year, more nursery space was needed. Leaders discussed adding more space for babies, but the city would not allow them to build due to insufficient parking for a larger building. It was then that the people began to discover the need as God had told Hubbard they would.

The following year the church purchased 45 acres of farmland two miles from the

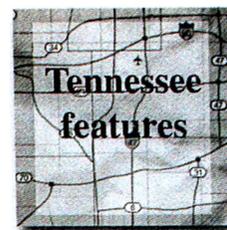
old church and near the Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation facility, a recent addition to the community.

"Before we finalized our building plan, the property was paid for," Hubbard said.

A subsequent period of work with an architect proved unsuccessful. A free-flowing discussion between the architect and church members resulted in a project of such magnitude, including a running track, schools, and a retirement center, that the cost overwhelmed them. The project was put on "hold."

The church continued to grow, and three years ago the topic of a new facility resurfaced. A space study conducted by the church architecture department of LifeWay Christian Resources confirmed the need, and Mosley said LifeWay's staff "made a good impression on our staff."

"They placed ministry first, rather than the architecture," he recalled. "First, they asked us to list our ministries. That was the first architect I had worked with who had asked



such specific questions. They really put forth a ministry mindset. They fit the building to meet our ministry needs; they sat with each ministry organization and with each minister, and they continue to do that. Our master plan is evolving."

Hubbard agreed, adding, "They really understand where we are. They realize we are not a wealthy church at all. The plan and the approach helped our dream come to fruition."

An added positive result of the move is that when First Church moves two miles away in May 1999, the facility they leave will be occupied by Mt. Zion Church, a black Southern Baptist congregation that has outgrown its space a mile away.

Hubbard reflected on the chain of events that began 85 years ago with those early First Baptist members and declared, "What God has done here is an awesome thing." ■



HUBBARD

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Gary Rickman
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TENNESSEE
BAPTIST
CONVENTION

Gambling proponents prevail in four states

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — If political pundits are having a difficult time discerning the mind of the American voter after the Nov. 3 election, the results of ballot initiatives across the country provide a clear indication of voters' thoughts on several bellwether social issues.

Voters in Alaska, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington signaled their approval of the medical use of marijuana. Arizona voters agreed with their West Coast neighbors, repeating their 1996 vote to legalize a measure allowing physicians to prescribe marijuana. The vote overturns the state's legislature request to delay legalization until the federal government approves the drug for medical use.

In results bound to cheer right-to-life proponents, Michigan voters rejected a ballot measure that would have allowed physician-assisted suicide while also re-electing Gov. John Engler over challenger Geoffrey Fieger, an attorney who represents assisted-suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian.

Colorado voters approved a measure requiring parental

consent for minors receiving an abortion, but joined Washington State citizens in refusing to criminalize the medical procedure known as partial-birth abortion.

Two states — Alaska and Hawaii — banned same sex marriages by a 70 percent margin.

A measure to expand casino gambling on Indian reservations was given the nod by Californians. The victory culminated a pitched battle — the costliest ballot initiative campaign in U.S. history — between several Indian tribes and Las Vegas casino owners seeking to maintain their hold on the area's gaming market.

Passage of the ballot measure titled "boats in moats" in Missouri frustrated anti-gambling groups, already stung by the infusion of gaming industry money into the gubernatorial races in South Carolina and Alabama that saw lottery proponents unseat social conservatives' favorites in the two Southern state governorships.

In South Carolina, incumbent Republican Gov. David Beasley, a member of Columbia's Shandon Church, lost to Democrat Jim Hodges 53-45

percent. Hodges, who supports a state lottery to help pay for education, was supported by millions of dollars in campaign advertising provided by the state's \$2.5 billion-a-year video poker industry, which Beasley pledged to eliminate. Though Hodges opposed video gambling as a House minority leader, he favored letting the people of South Carolina decide the future of the industry's fate. Gambling proponents plastered the state with billboards that attacked Beasley.

In Alabama, Lt. Gov. Don Siegelman, who proposes a state lottery which he says would provide an estimated \$150 a year for merit-based college scholarships, pre-kindergarten programs, and computers, defeated Gov. Fob James, 58-42 percent.

Siegelman, the first Democrat-elected governor since 1982, said his victory "sends a clear message to the Alabama legislature. ... The people of Alabama deserve the right to vote on an education lottery."

The South Carolina and Alabama governors' races seem to indicate that traditional moral and religious opposition

to gambling is disappearing across the South. Charles Bullock, a University of Georgia political science professor, told the Associated Press earlier this month that residents of non-lottery states are realizing that their counterparts in states with lotteries, like Georgia, are getting a big paycheck: dollars for public education without increased taxes.

"It pits two kinds of competing ideas. It's the lottery and it's bad and it's wrong, juxtaposed against" belief that lottery proceeds benefit education, Bullock said. Education now "sells well in the South," he said. For example, some Georgians who initially oppose the state lottery have changed their minds, now that it is paying for their sons and daughters to attend college.

"The southern electorate is far more opposed to raising taxes than to gambling," he said.

In Missouri, voters amended their constitution to legalize slot machines on casinos that float in artificial moats, handily passing a "boats in moats" gambling proposal. Missouri voters had already approved riverboat gambling in 1992, but gambling foes said the



"boats in moats" — or 10 of the state's 16 casinos — did not qualify. Ultimately, "boats in moats" was put on the ballot following a Missouri Supreme Court decision that said the legislature overstepped its authority when it permitted casinos in artificial basins up to 1,000 feet from the Mississippi and Missouri rivers' channels.

"We're seeing, even in states where there is a strong Christian presence, that there are many who don't see anything wrong with it," said Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg and president of the SBC's Pastors' Conference. "It's a reflection of a society that says, 'Give it to me today, I don't care about tomorrow or what it does to anyone else.'"

"It is also a reflection of our culture where we seem to be rejecting any type of moral standard." ■ — Compiled from Baptist Press stories written by Don Hinkle and Dwayne Hastings.

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Olympic medalist finds greater prize at C-N

By Jason Bailey
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — To meet Lazaro Reinoso, one would not think he could hurt anybody.

Reinoso possesses the characteristics of a Boy Scout — amiable smile, polite voice, and friendly eyes.

Yet, as with true champions, his daily countenance provides a balance to his searing intensity — a side of him that is revealed on the wrestling mat.

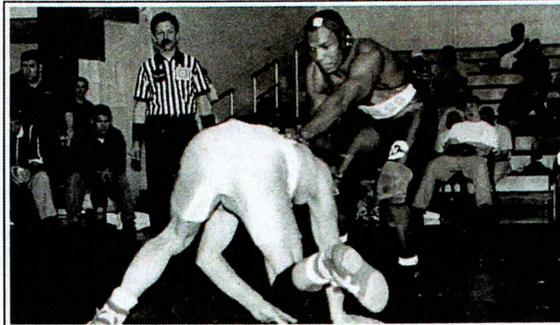
As a freestyle wrestler in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, Reinoso powered his way to the bronze medal in the 135-lb. class. He quickly achieved notoriety in his home country of Cuba.

Six years have passed since Reinoso stood on the Olympic pedestal with his medal.

His life is entirely different. He is still wrestling, but he is now doing it in the United States as a member of the Carson-Newman College wrestling team.

What's more, he has something today he did not have six years ago — a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reinoso began thinking about his future shortly after



LAZARO REINOSO, standing, takes down an opponent. The former Cuban Olympic medal winner now wrestles for Carson-Newman College. The former wrestler in a Communist country now has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

his Olympic triumph. In communist Cuba, he was not allowed to be anything but a wrestler. He felt he wanted to do more and his thoughts turned 90 miles to the north — to the United States.

"When I made my decision, it was a hard, hard decision," Reinoso said. "To leave for another country where you don't know the language, the culture is different, the people are different. But I decided to leave because I didn't have a future in Cuba. I think people have more of a future here."

Reinoso made his move to freedom in 1994. The Cuban team had a layover in the Miami airport on the way to a tournament in New Jersey. Having secretly packed several personal items, including his Olympic medal, Reinoso approached a customs agent and asked how he could defect. In one bold move, he gave up his life in Cuba for a new start in the United States.

He stayed in Miami for eight months and then moved to Oklahoma, where he helped coach the University of Oklahoma's

club for international wrestlers. There he became close friends with Naret Viravong, a Laotian wrestler who was being recruited by Carson-Newman College. Viravong asked C-N wrestling coach Don Elia if he could bring his friend (Reinoso) for a visit.

Elia received a video of Reinoso wrestling but did not view it until some time later. "I put the tape in and it was of his Olympic bronze medal match. I thought somebody was pulling my leg, but I kept seeing the camera close in on his name and it was the same name that Naret had told me. I quickly got on the phone."

Before long, both young men were enrolled at C-N. Reinoso, however, had a long way to go because he could not speak English. With Elia's help he enrolled in C-N's English Language Institute where he studied the language intensely for four hours a day.

After the first year, his English skills were polished enough where he could enroll in regular classes full time.

He attributes much of this to the opportunities presented by C-N. "He told me that we were the only people who told him that he could go to school and



have goals and dreams," Elia said.

Yet, for Reinoso, his success ultimately has a divine source.

"Where I was before, I wasn't close to God. I believe more in God than ever before.

"I look at the things that have happened to me — to just come from a small country and come here and get an education at one of the best schools in the U.S. — it must be God."

Currently a sophomore at Carson-Newman, Reinoso is studying education and hopes to teach Spanish and coach wrestling after he finishes his degree. On the mat he was selected an All American despite wrestling at over 20 pounds above his usual weight class, finishing the year with a 32-3 record.

He would like to participate in the 2000 Olympics — this time for the United States, if he has his citizenship by then and, he says modestly, if he can make the team. ■

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FBC, Soddy-Daisy, sponsors first mission trip

For Baptist and Reflector

SODDY-DAISY — Members of First Church here have returned from their first mission trip and already have another one planned for next August.

The team this year traveled to southern Honduras to the impoverished little village of Santo Domingo.

Sponsored by First Church, the team of medical and dental missionaries were led by Lara Blanchard, wife of former pastor Bill Blanchard (he has since accepted a pastorate in Arkansas), and Don Reynolds, a physician and member of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, who has led about 18 mission trips in the past seven years.

The villagers lined up and registered for medical exams, dental treatments, eyeglasses, and pharmaceutical supplies, according to Mickey Cline a member of First Church who served as team photographer and journalist as well as assisting with other mission-related duties.

Some of the people waited in line all night, Cline said. By noon the team had seen 500 patients.

Throughout the three days team members witnessed to the villagers of the everlasting love of Jesus Christ, Cline related.

There were 311 professions of faith made throughout the day and during the evening worship services. In addition, numerous children prayed to receive Christ during Bible lessons which were taught by the children's ministry team headed by Mary Alice Pickett.

During the first day alone the team taught about 1,000 children of the love of Jesus Christ. Mario Marini, the team's translator, led the children in songs before the lesson and then led them through the plan of salvation following the lesson presentation.

Team members visited homes of people who were unable to attend the clinic. Family bags containing clothing and toiletry items for an average family of five were given out at

each visit as team members witnessed to and prayed for them. Many people accepted Christ as a result of those visits, Cline reported.

He noted the last day was an emotional roller coaster for team members. "All were in agreement that this was the hardest work we have ever done, but it was also the most rewarding.

"We were sad to leave these beautiful people we had grown to love in three hectic days," Cline said.

Team member Vicki Suttle noted leaving Santo Domingo "was a sad and emotional experience. However, one day we will see many of them in heaven. How exciting and rewarding to know that we played a role in that victory."

Pickett, who led the children's ministry team, was

pleased with how the entire team cooperated for the cause of Christ. "One thing that really impressed me was the fact that the team members who were selected for me to lead were compatible, and their spirits were willing to do whatever needed to be done.

"The look on the children's faces as they listened to the stories of Jesus were priceless. They loved the puppets and the salvation bracelets, but they were especially enthralled with the teaching pictures of Jesus and the other Bible characters."

Team co-captain Lara Blanchard noted every team member was "equally important and valuable to the mission



team. Our value is determined only by our obedience to the Lord's leadership in our lives," she said. ■

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26 Southern Baptists re-elected to U.S. House

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — All Southern Baptists in the U.S. House of Representatives seeking re-election, including two from Tennessee, regained their seats in Nov. 3 voting.

Among the at least 26 Southern Baptists returned to office were Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and House minority leader Richard Gephardt.

Re-elected from Tennessee were William Jenkins, First District, First Church, Rogersville, and Zach Wamp, Third District, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga.

No Southern Baptists sought re-election in the Senate. Wendell Ford, a Southern Baptist who has served as a senator from Kentucky for 24 years, retired rather than seek re-election.

In the House, Bill Hefner, a

congressman from North Carolina since 1974, was the lone Southern Baptist to retire. ■

Colorado Baptists celebrate CP record

Baptist Press

MONTROSE, Colo. — Colorado Baptists upped their budget and celebrated a record year of Cooperative Program giving during their annual meeting Oct. 27-28.

The convention's 342 churches and missions, encompassing 72,000 members, gave \$1,675,000 to the Cooperative Program this past year.

The 1999 budget of \$3,210,025 restores funding for a women's missions and ministry director, including responsibility for Woman's Missionary Union, which was shifted to auxiliary status during the mid-1980s in a time of convention financial cutbacks. The convention honored Sydney Portiss who retires Dec. 31 after 28 years as WMU director. ■

Va. conservatives add new churches

Baptist Press

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia held their second annual meeting as a state

convention Oct. 27, approving 54 more churches for SBCV affiliation.

The convention now totals 212 churches.

Of the 54 new churches approved, 42 are uniquely aligned with the SBCV and 12 are dually aligned with the SBCV and the Baptist General Association of Virginia, which together encompass approximately 1,580 churches.

Messenger registration totaled 587 for the sessions. They adopted a budget of \$3.3 million, twice its 1998 budget. ■

New music album complements popular study

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — When God speaks, people should listen and respond, according to one of seven precepts of the popular *Experiencing God* study.

And that's what John Mays did when he began developing the *Experiencing God* CD due out Nov. 17.

"You don't pray for God to bless what you're doing. You look for what God is blessing and you do that," said Mays, senior vice president of artists and repertoire for Star Song Records, a division of EMI Christian Music Group.

Based on the popular Chris-

tian study, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, the 11-song compact disc delivers through music the seven biblical principles authors Henry Blackaby and Claude King write about in their discipleship course. ■

IMB releases new missions bulletin

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A new publication designed to tell Southern Baptists how God is at work around the world jumped to 500,000 copies in its first two months on the market.

The International Mission Board's new "mobilization fliers" are a bulletin-size insert news sheet loaded with concise reports from the cutting edge of world missions, according to Louis Moore, the agency's associate vice president for communications.

The fliers are delivered free of charge to congregations each month.

Moore said they could be used for Sunday School classes, prayer meeting, or Woman's Missionary Union meetings, or simply as a bulletin insert.

The primary value of the fliers is to help people catch a vision for God's work around the world, said IMB President Jerry Rankin. ■

Tennessean joins ethics agency staff

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Baptist communicator Pat Cole of *Elizabethton* has been named associate director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, effective Nov. 2.

Cole, 40, has been partnership editions editor for *Western Recorder*, Kentucky Baptists' weekly newspaper since 1996.

At BCE, Cole will direct the organization's communications and marketing efforts and will coordinate the production of congregational resources.

Prior to joining the *Western Recorder*, Cole served for nine years as director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also has been a reporter for the *Elizabethton Star* in his hometown. ■

Iowa Baptists increase CP giving

Baptist Press

IOWA CITY, IOWA — Iowa Baptists adopted a 1 percent-of-budget increase in giving to Southern Baptist Cooperative Program missions and ministries during their annual meeting Oct. 30-31. ■

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global/national
news

Annuity Board offers booklet

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board is offering churches assistance in planning financial support for pastors and staff members.

A 24-page booklet, titled Planning Financial Support, is available in English and Spanish and is offered free of charge in quantity to meet the needs of any size church. In workbook form, it leads a church committee to de-

termine pay arrangements for every church employee. The five-step process includes: determining needs, consideration of a method for paying ministry expenses, establishing a benefits plan, setting personal income, and completing a financial support worksheet that can easily transfer to the church's annual budget document.

The workbook is designed to function cooperatively with state convention's personnel who provide direct assistance to churches on the same subject.

The publication also introduces the church committee to relevant Internal Revenue Service regulations and lead to a realistic analysis of personal financial needs of each staff member.

To order the booklet or other resources, call the Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511 and press 1. ■

Harmony, prayer mark Miss. meeting

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The four sessions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's 163rd annual meeting Oct. 27-28 here were marked by harmony and emphases on prayer.

Convention actions included re-election of the entire slate of 1998 officers, all by acclamation; adoption of a 1999 Cooperative Program budget of \$26.6 million without a dissenting vote; unanimous adoption of a final step in constitutional changes concerning trustees of institutions; and unanimous approval of six resolutions, including one opposing the "plague of gambling."

A seventh resolution concerning "breaking fellowship

with the president of the United States" was not reported out of the resolutions committee because, as members said, it was in violation of the convention's constitution which prevents actions against autonomous and independent churches and prevents matters relative to local church membership. ■

S.C. paper moves to bi-weekly format

Associated Baptist Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — South Carolina Baptists' 129-year-old newspaper, the *Baptist Courier*, will reduce its frequency from weekly to every other week starting next year, the paper recently reported.

Directors of the *Courier* adopted the change in part on

recommendations by a consultant that publishing larger issues on a less frequent basis would serve readers better by allowing "more diversity in content," according to an article written by Editor Don Kirkland.

Beginning Jan. 7, the paper will print a 32-page paper every other week. The typical paper is now 16 or 24 pages and is published weekly except for seven skip weeks in May, June, July, August, and December.

The action came on the heels of an announced 13 percent increase in costs to mail the magazine-size newsprint publication in 1999. It now costs nearly as much to mail the paper as to print it, the article said.

The *Baptist Courier* has a circulation of more than 98,000 subscribers. ■

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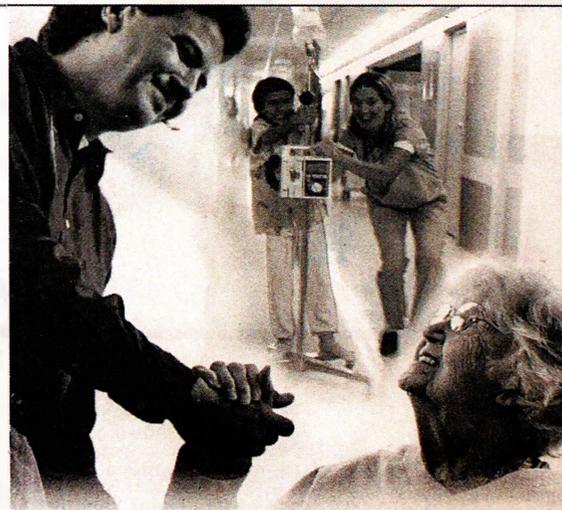
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SBC Cooperative Program posts increase

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for October increased nearly 18 percent over the same month a

year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

The October receipts of \$15,526,056, compared to last October's total of \$13,176,027, an increase of 2,350,029 or

17.84 percent.

Designated gifts for the month totaled \$2,216,392 compared to the same month a year ago of \$1,964,478, an increase of 251,914 or 12.82 percent.



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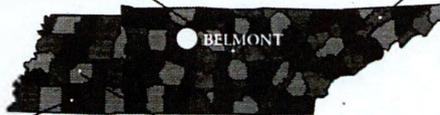


Aaron Elmore
First Baptist Church of Alexandria

"I found at Belmont a small community atmosphere in a large city setting. I found opportunities being in Nashville that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. Belmont's reputation in Nashville opened doors for me to be involved almost everywhere I went. The education I am receiving at Belmont is equipping me to better serve my God and my fellow man."



Brian Wright
SGA President
Belmont Baptist Church
of Mt. Carmel



"Belmont has given me great opportunities to participate within the music industry; it has given me opportunities to serve in ministry as well. In addition to currently serving as the Baptist Student Union president, I have also had the chance to participate in several mission trips. Serving in this leadership position helps me to recognize that we should be challenged to reach out and love those who do not have a personal relationship with our Creator, through Christ."



Chad Crawford
BSU President
First Baptist Church of Belvoir

"Four years ago when I began to explore various colleges, all I knew was that I wanted to go to a small, academically challenging, Baptist school. I have been strengthened as a student, a person, and a believer because of the supportive and challenging environment that I've found here at Belmont, and I thank God for the blessing of my time at this school."



Natasha Lindley
Calvary Baptist Church of Jackson

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Missions and Evangelism

Over the last three years, Belmont has sponsored numerous mission and evangelism trips for students and faculty-staff. These include outreach ministries to Costa Rica, Poland, Chile, Gaza, Rio, rural Kentucky, Charleston, S.C., Chicago, etc. Belmont people touch thousands of lives annually in Christ's name through this growing ministry.

Baptist Students

Baptist students make up the largest denominational percentage of Belmont's student population and receive over \$4 million in institutional financial aid and educational subsidies.

Bible Studies and Christian Activities

Belmont students participate in eight official Christian student organizations including the Baptist Student Union and Campus Crusade

for Christ. Another 20 informal Christian groups and Bible studies offer additional opportunities for involvement and ministry.

Convocation

The Convocation Series will offer more than 40 religious programs this year. Each opportunity counts toward the student's fulfillment of required academic credit for faith development.

School of Religion

The School of Religion provides required religion classes to all students in all majors. In addition, it prepares those called into the ministry for seminary and immediate vocational Christian service.



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Samford divinity school taps Miller

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Christian author and speaker Calvin Miller, who has taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1991, has been named professor of preaching and pastoral ministry at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.

The position becomes effective, Jan. 1, according to Samford officials.

Miller, 62, has written more than 40 books and numerous articles on religion and preaching. He was pastor of Westside Church in Omaha, Neb., for 25 years before becoming professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence at the SBC-related seminary. ■



Tennessee Baptist Summer Camps '99
where memories are made
... and lives are changed!

Youth ImpactX2 Camps

Camp Carson (June 21-25) and Camp Linden (July 12-16)

A coed weeklong church youth camp for youth (completed grades 7-12). ImpactX2 camp is a high energy, totally relevant experience with Bible studies, creative worship, wacky wreckreation and a special one-day opportunity of local ministry and missions. Churches provide sponsors but we provide the entire program staff and worship leaders. Contact Bruce Edwards or Christina Peters at the TBC State office.

Children's Impact Camp- Camp Linden (July 19-23)

A special week is in store for children (completed grades 3-6) at Camp Linden. This Bible-based, exciting camp experience for boys and girls is one that will change their lives and the lives of the church sponsors. Program staff provided, but churches send adult sponsors with children! Contact Liz Lee at the TBC State office.

WMU Camps 1999- Camp Carson and Camp Linden (multiple weeks at each location)

GA/Accteen Camps and Mini-Camps are designed for girls in grades 2-12. These are missions-based camps where girls can meet new friends, explore other cultures, interact with missionaries, and learn more about Jesus and their relationship to Him. Staff is provided. Mother/Daughter Weekends are for girls in grades K-3 and their moms. Moms and daughters experience missions together and are introduced to the GA camping program. Dad/Daughter Weekends are for girls in grades 1-12 and their dads. Dads and daughters spend quality time together as they discover more about God and missions. Contact Vickie Anderson or Carol Growden at the TBC State office for dates, costs, and registration information.

TRAC '99 (Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camps)

This summer there are nine weeks of missions education opportunities for Royal Ambassadors (boys), Challengers (young men) and an all-NEW coed youth missions experience. Locations are all across the state with one week at Camp Linden. Contact Bob Davison at the TBC State office for dates, locations, and registration packets.

Music Camps '99

Youth Music Camp- Camp Carson- July 12-17

Youth Music Camp is for students entering grades 7-12. Youth Choirs from across the state come for music training and fellowship.

Children's Music Camp- Camp Linden- August 2-6

Children's Music Camp is for boys and girls entering grades 4-6. Join with children's choirs from across the state as they come together for music training and fellowship.

For complete information and registration packets, contact Angie Hughes or Julian Suggs at the TBC State office.

ALL Nations Camp-Camp Linden- July 5-9

This exciting camp is a coed camp experience specifically designed for ethnic children and youth (ages 7-17). For information packets and registration information contact Tim Hill at the TBC State office.



To receive information on any of these summer camp opportunities, call the contact person at the Tennessee Baptist Convention State office at 1-800-558-2090 or 615-373-2255. You can email your request by putting the first name Initial, last name @ mbaptist.org of the contact person (e.g. bedwards@mbaptist.org)

“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, ‘Come over into Macedonia, and help us.’

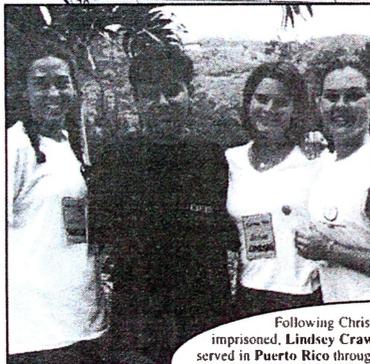
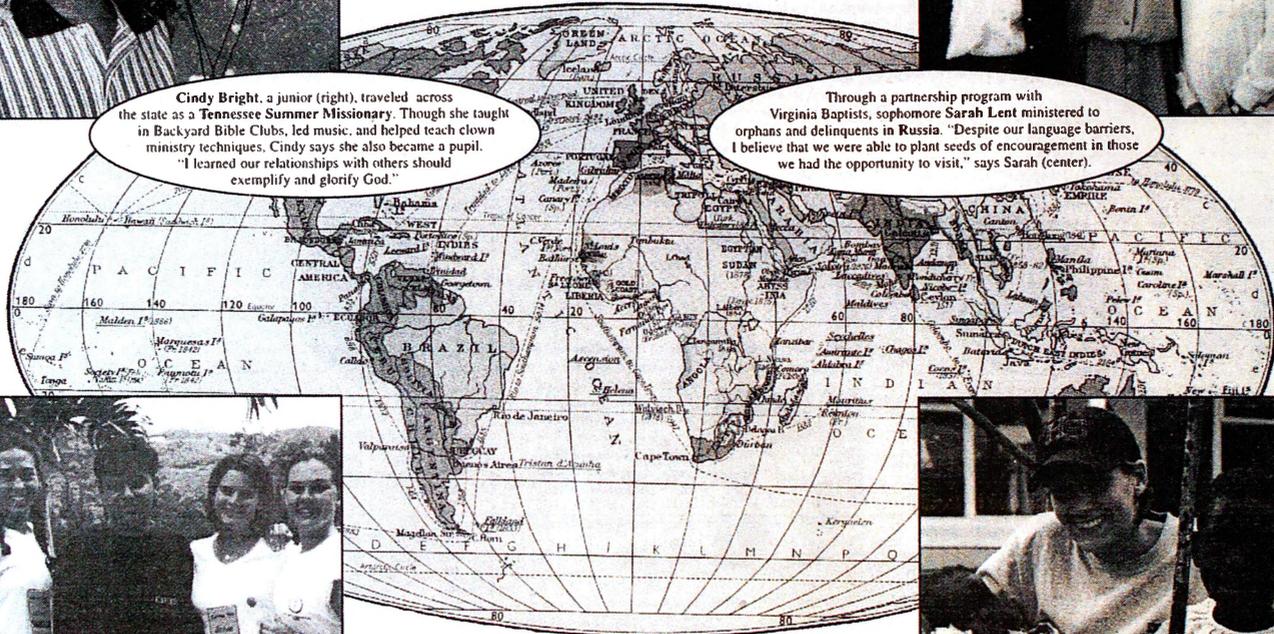
And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them.” (Acts 16:9-10)



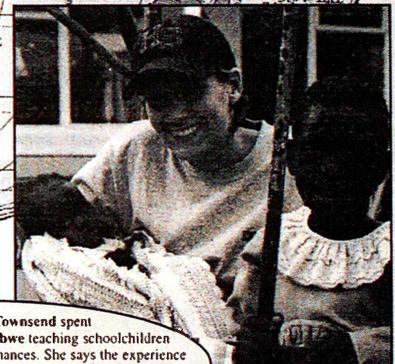
Cindy Bright, a junior (right), traveled across the state as a Tennessee Summer Missionary. Though she taught in Backyard Bible Clubs, led music, and helped teach clown ministry techniques, Cindy says she also became a pupil. “I learned our relationships with others should exemplify and glorify God.”



Through a partnership program with Virginia Baptists, sophomore Sarah Lent ministered to orphans and delinquents in Russia. “Despite our language barriers, I believe that we were able to plant seeds of encouragement in those we had the opportunity to visit,” says Sarah (center).



Following Christ’s call to minister to the imprisoned, Lindsey Crawford, a senior (second from right), served in Puerto Rico through the TBC’s Collegiate Missions program. The experience had a great impact on her, she says. “Worshipping in a different culture helped me become even more open to others.”



Sophomore Cherry Townsend spent part of this past summer in Zimbabwe teaching schoolchildren about Jesus through skits and performances. She says the experience gave her a new understanding of Christian outreach. “God really opened my eyes to all of the opportunities available in missions.”

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Overcoming

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 4:1-3, 6-12, 14, 19-20

One day a pastor received an anonymous note with nothing but the word "Fool" written on it. The next morning he got up in church and said, "I've gotten many notes without signatures before, but this is the first time I got one where someone forgot to write the note and just signed his name."

No matter what your position in life, you can rest assured that when you get serious about doing the Lord's work you are going to face opposition in one form or another. As Nehemiah's workers began to construct the walls around Jerusalem, some of the leaders of the surrounding areas began to toss ridicule and scorn in their direction. There was a general hostility that existed between the Jews and their neighbors, but the greatest contributing factor for the verbal abuse was that the existence of the walls would represent a military threat to the surrounding nations. As long as the walls were down, the Samaritans, the Ammonites, and the other nations could keep an eye on Israel. Nehemiah was successful in encouraging his builders to continue their progress on the walls.

Since the verbal attack did not work, Sanballat (the governor of Samaria) and Tobiah (the leader of the Ammonites) began to arrange a military advancement against Nehemiah. Nehemiah took two key steps; he encouraged his people to pray, and he set a watch day and night. You see, it is not a matter of "if" the enemy attacks, but "when" he attacks. The responsibility of the Christian is to be consistent in your prayers as you keep a watchful eye for the coming attacks. On Nov. 30, 1991 fierce winds from a freakish dust storm riggered a massive freeway pileup along Interstate 5 near Coalinga, California. At least 14 people died and dozens more were injured as topsoil whipped by 50 mile-per-hour winds reduced visibility to zero. The afternoon holocaust left a three-mile trail of twisted and burning vehicles, some stacked on top of one another 100 yards off the side of the freeway. Unable to see their way, dozens of motorists drove blindly ahead into disaster. The Christian who is not watchful is headed for certain disaster. Knowledgeable of this fact, Nehemiah was faithful to keep watch over the work of rebuilding the wall.

The situation brought with it great discouragement. They became overwhelmed when the great task of the wall construction began to take its toll on each person. They became physically exhausted, and this led to a negative attitude.

Alexander the Great conquered Persia but broke down and wept because his troops were too exhausted to push on to India. It is a fact that your physical condition plays an important roll in your emotional outlook. When you couple the physical exhaustion of the Israelites with the reports of a sudden attack, it's understandable why the builders became discouraged.

Nehemiah prepared the people. He prepared them militarily by providing them with weapons and guidance and then reminded them of the ever-present God who was leading them. The Lord is never going to lead his children into any circumstance and abandon them therein.

Finally, Nehemiah divided the people in a way that half of them could work on the wall, and the other half could stand guard in case of an attack. Preparation is the key to victory. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

False hopes, judgment

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage — Jeremiah 19:1-4, 10-11; 21: 1-2, 8-10

It had been 100 years since the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians. At that time, Hezekiah was king over Judah. He was a good king. When the Assyrians threatened Judah, Hezekiah prayed to God for deliverance. God heard his prayer and promised through Isaiah that he would deliver Judah from the hands of the Assyrians. However, Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, was an evil king and sealed Judah's fate during his long, infamous reign. Jeremiah's ministry as a prophet had a long tenure. He began prophesying during the reign of Josiah and continued through the reign of Zedekiah, Judah's last king. Jeremiah 19 probably occurred during the reign of Jehoiakim. Whereas, Jeremiah 21 occurs during the reign of Zedekiah.

represented the nation of Judah. It was as if God was saying to Judah that they could be the most beautiful and prosperous nation on the face of the earth if they would only obey his commands and follow him. However, God told Jeremiah to smash the vase into pieces before them, signifying what they could have been as a nation, would be lost forever. Judah would face death and destruction.

It always depresses me when I hear of those who have great potential and beautiful futures dashed to pieces by alcohol and drugs. Beautiful marriages and relationships destroyed by adultery and infidelity. Families torn to pieces by materialism. All that is left is the ugly aftermath. God can show us what we can be. But, if we willfully refuse to acknowledge him disaster awaits us.

Destroying false hopes (ch. 21:1-10). Twenty years had passed since the events in chapter 19. The Babylonians had laid siege to Jerusalem. Zedekiah had sent some messengers to Jeremiah asking him to pray and asked if God would deliver Judah from the hands of Babylon. Zedekiah had hoped that Jeremiah would tell him that the Lord would defend Jerusalem just as he had done over a century ago. The religious and political leaders assumed that because the Lord delivered Jerusalem from the Assyrians, he would do the same for future generations. However, Jeremiah dashed Zedekiah's false hope and security with his reply. Judah was to not only fear the Babylonians, but even he himself would wage war against them.

It is interesting to me how many people today espouse this same belief. They say, "My God is a God of love. He would never send anyone to hell and eternal suffering." Others believe that a mental acknowledgment of God is all that is required to earn passage to heaven. Still others believe that regular church attendance and contributions earn them the privilege of self indulgence in a few vices once and awhile. These are false hopes. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.

Family Bible Lesson

Pronouncing judgment on sins (ch. 19:1-15). The Lord had given Jeremiah a command to purchase a clay vessel. This was not just a simple pot. The Hebrew word for "bottle" actually refers to an artistic and expensive pitcher. Then he was to invite several elders of the people to accompany him to the valley of Tophet. This valley would be called the valley of slaughter. It was here that human child sacrifices were made. Jeremiah conveyed that God's judgment would match the terrible sins committed in the valley of the son of Hinnon because it would be covered by unburied bodies of those slain by the sword of an enemy whom God would send upon Judah.

Here you have two pictures. One, a beautiful vase and two, a despicable picture of death. The beautiful vase

Guidelines for right action

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 22:22-27; 23:6-8; 24:1-4

There is within most of us a powerful pull for the underdog. We want the mistreated to be treated better and the losers to be winners. We want the misguided to find guidance and the neglected to be cared for. We want justice for the guilty and recompense for the victim. We want salvation for the sinner and humility for the saint. We want to protect the underdog from the top dog.

God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, but he also gave them guidelines as to their application in daily life. Our lesson today focuses upon Israel's ethical and moral responsibilities to helpless individuals. Israel had once known the same conditions which are addressed in our scriptural passage. Therefore, they were called upon to empathetically identify with the unfortunate.

Israel was challenged not to afflict the widows and orphans. The prominent idea was that God himself provided justice for the underprivileged. If Israel stood in the way of a caring God, they would suffer extreme consequences. God wanted his people to feel a strong need to meet the needs of widows and orphans. These verses seem to be addressed to a male audience which must act appropriately to these folk. If not, their wives could become widows and

Explore the Bible Lesson

their children fatherless.

In verse 25, God forbids the charging of interest to the poor when they need a loan. The law expressed a concern that wealthier Israelites were not to take advantage of those who were economically vulnerable. The relationship toward a less fortunate member of the faith community was to be that of brother and not banker or creditor. The real point here was a call for generosity to rule over greed in dealing with the poor.

The command in verses 26 and 27 dealt with using one's cloak for collateral when a loan was made. If the cloak was used as collateral, it had to be returned by night. The cloak was an outer garment worn during the day as protection against the weather, but used at night as covering for sleep. It was essential to a poor person who might not have a house in which to sleep. To keep it longer than a day would work a hardship on a needy brother.

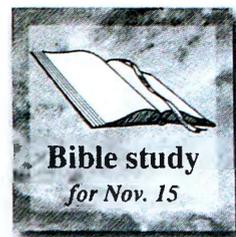
Laws were given in chapter 23, verses 6-8, to protect the rights of needy people. Two specific warnings were given to the people of God about hindering justice. For one thing, they were forbidden to falsely accuse an individual. Such dishonest testimony

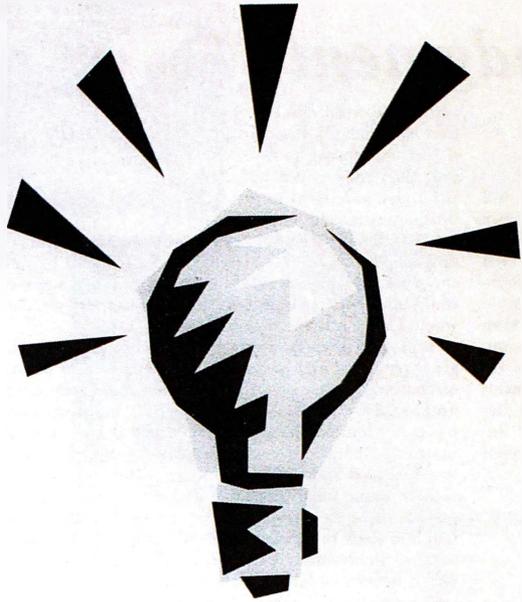
would be a violation of the ninth commandment and could lead to the punishment, or even death, of an innocent victim. The good name or reputation of a person could be jeopardized by the careless handling of the truth. God would not equip those who distorted the facts.

Another warning was that of taking a bribe. A bribe was wrong because it hindered the rights of the innocent by blinding the eyes of the officials. A bribe undermined justice, and a God of justice was never pleased with the unjust actions of his people. The legal system of Israel was to make every effort to guarantee the rights of the innocent.

The process described in Exodus 24:1-4 was the sealing of the covenant. Moses, Aaron, Aaron's two sons, and the 70 respected elders of Israel were summoned up to the Lord. Only Moses was to come near to God. This event was an occasion of worship which included eating and drinking in the Lord's presence, as indicated in verses 9-11.

Moses then presented to the people all the words and ordinances of the Lord, to which the people pledged their obedience. Moses punctuated the people's commitment to the covenant by writing down the laws for posterity and by building an altar as a witness to the covenant-making relationship between God and Israel. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.





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