

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

Volume 164/Number 45

Statewide Edition

November 25 1998

this week's news

- ▶ IMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties. — Page 2
- ▶ Lancing congregations buys old school to reach residents — Page 3
- ▶ Tazewell church copes with problems caused by road construction. — Page 3
- ▶ Check out partnership missions in 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 7-10
- ▶ New level of training offered for laypeople. — Page 13

For Knoxville missionary

'Visit' to Lottie sparked interest in missions

By Betty Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

CARACAS, Venezuela — Missionary Susan Hutchens considers herself a product of a mission-minded Tennessee church.

"One of my earliest memories is of going to 'visit' Lottie Moon," Hutchens said. She explained that her Mission Friends teacher at Inskip Church, Knoxville, lined up chairs for an airplane trip to China. "The teacher gave us 'lifesavers' in case we crashed into the ocean," she laughed.

Hutchens, who now serves with her husband, Rich, as a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Caracas, is a nurse. Rich Hutchens is a church planter and leader of a ministry team targeting low-income people in Caracas.

The Hutchens' front gate is about a block from the highway that leads to the homes of the people they hope to reach. Caracas, a city of five million, is built all over the mountainsides. Some of the neighborhoods are dangerous and hard to penetrate. The people, though needy both physically and spiritually, have not been reached with the Gospel.

One way they reach the Venezuelans is through ministering to people's medical needs. As a nurse, Susan Hutchens is thinking about a "well baby" clinic. "The medical needs are so great here. We really see the importance of that kind of ministry," she said, adding that they want to involve the churches in a medical ministry to low-income people.



RICH AND SUSAN Hutchens, greet a member of Monte Carmelo Baptist Church, near Caracas, Venezuela, after a recent Sunday morning service. — Photo by Betty Poor

New TBC president

Gilmore encourages continued missions work

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Participation in partnership missions is the heartbeat of new Tennessee Baptist Convention president Larry Gilmore.

"Personal involvement in missions will enhance our churches' awareness of missions," said Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin.

The western Kentucky native shared his hopes and dreams for the TBC during an interview with the *Baptist and Reflector* last week.

Gilmore's interest in missions is reflected through his own ministry. When he was in school at Georgetown (Ky.) College, his dream was to plant a church, begin a school, and "plant my life in that ministry."

And that is what he has done at College Heights. He is the only pastor the church has known in its 22-year history. The church also sponsors a K-4 through 12 program at College Heights Baptist Academy.

Gilmore said he is seeing the difference participation in missions has made in his



NEW TBC PRESIDENT Larry Gilmore speaks to messengers at the annual meeting in Kingsport.

own church which has been involved in projects in Michigan, Mexico, India, and other places.

"We are seeing mission possibilities be born in the hearts of our people. It has already happened in many churches in our convention, but many more can catch that vision," Gilmore said.

"I would like to see every church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention send someone out through our partnership efforts in the state, or through the International Mission or North American Mis-



Week of Prayer for International Missions

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\$100,000,000

In addition to her nursing, she also sees her home as an avenue for service. With three teenage children, their home "needs to be a place open to our children's friends and people of the church," she said.

Hutchens also works with Venezuelan children and passes on what she learned growing up in Tennessee.

Is it worth it to teach boys and girls about missions?

Do they remember what they learn about Lottie Moon and the missionaries whose names are on prayer calendars?

Susan Hutchens is living proof that educating children about missions is an investment for eternity. ■

sion boards," he added.

Gilmore noted that when people go out on missions projects they gain "courage and boldness" to come back in their local setting to share the message of Christ.

"The key to revolutionizing local ministries is involvement in ministries away from the church," Gilmore said.

He noted participation in missions will help members become more committed to missions giving, including the Cooperative Program.

Gilmore acknowledged the level of CP giving at College Heights has not been to the level he would like due to some financial struggles the past two to three years.

"I see this as a temporary situation," he said. Due in part to his members' participation in missions efforts, Gilmore said "we are now positioned to begin increasing our gifts and we are committed to doing so."

Gilmore acknowledged there are some concerns that need to be addressed in the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The key to addressing those concerns will be listening, Gilmore said.

"However, listening does not mean we — See Gilmore, page 2

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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- ▶ **For production answers** - Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** - Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Convention Communications Committee**: Mattie Mullins, chairman; Benny Keck, vice chairman; Randall Cummings, Pat Fife, Jerry Legg, Mark Mangrum, Wallace McGill, Bill Parks, Vern Powers, Glenda Roach, Michael Smith, Joseph Sorah, Thomas Vinson, 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
- E-mail** - 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- Membership** - Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** - Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) **POSTMASTER**: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** - The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on recycled paper

IMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — Three couples with strong Tennessee ties were appointed missionaries Nov. 17 by the International Mission Board during a service in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

They join nearly 4,400 Southern Baptist missionaries who share Christ in 125 countries among 336 ethnic groups.

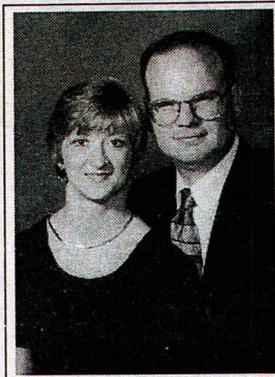
The following are among those appointed.

David and Laurie Mitchell Bledsoe will live in Brazil where he will start and develop churches and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Since 1996 he has been a community missions ministry assistant at Bellevue Church, Cordova.

A native of Memphis, Bledsoe considers Millington his hometown and Bellevue Church and Lucy Church, Millington, as his home churches. He holds a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

Mrs. Bledsoe is a native of Corinth, Miss., but considers Bellevue her home church. They have one child, Marissa Joy.



THE BLEDSOES

Edward and Lynnette Weaver Johnson will serve as missionary associates in the Philippines. He will start and develop churches and she will be involved in outreach ministries. Missionary associates are persons appointed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which he or she is equipped by education and experience.

Both are natives of Mississippi. Johnson has served as pastor of two churches in Tennessee — Prospect and Maranatha, both in Fayetteville. The couple has two



THE LOVELLS

grown children.

Joseph and Ann Anderson Lovell also have been appointed as missionary associates in the Philippines. He will work in financial administration and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Born and reared in Knoxville, Lovell is the son of Robert and Lela Lovell of Mascot. He considers Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, his home church, and Clear Springs Church, Mascot, as being influential in his Christian growth. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jef-



THE JOHNSONS

erson City.

Mrs. Lovell is the daughter of Bob and Elnora Anderson of Knoxville. She, too, considers Wallace Memorial her home church and Grassy Valley Church, Knoxville, as being influential in her Christian growth. The Lovells have one child, Lauren Marie.

Two other missionaries were appointed with Tennessee ties: Monte Mills and Mark Tetley, both graduates of Mid-America Seminary. Tetley also served as a youth minister at Kirby Woods Church, Memphis. ■

Growth occurs as Baileyton congregation reaches out

For Baptist and Reflector

BAILEYTON — First Church here has seen tremendous growth in recent months with 23 new members, 21 of those by baptism.

The growth in attendance has necessitated the renovation of the old church basement into four new classrooms, the conversion of one classroom to a nursery with separate areas for toddlers and bed babies, two Sunday morning worship services, two

new Sunday School classes, the parking lot has been doubled in size, the church exterior painted, a Baldwin organ purchased, and more.

Several new ministries have begun, including a new member's class, a free community car wash which was held recently, an outreach ministry to widows, a weekly Bible study at nearby retirement apartments, a church newsletter, and more.

A steering committee has been formed and will be making recommendations to the

church for ongoing and future expansion of all phases of the ministry.

Pastor Jerry Pullum attributed the growth to a "healthy congregation that is in fellowship with each other. There is a sweet spirit here and the community senses that."

Pullum also observed the church is doing things outside its walls and ministering to the community. "Everytime the church decides to go forward, the Lord has blessed it and that has resulted in more growth," he said. ■ — Sara Johnson

Gilmore encourages continued missions ...

— Continued from page 1

will always agree nor that we can condone the actions of others.

"I believe that to deal with conflict, we must be willing not to just talk about the issues before us, but we must be in an arena where individuals in leadership positions can share their journey, hopes, and dreams so that there can be an understanding of each others' hearts.

"When that is established, I believe we can talk about volatile issues with greater hope of resolution."

Above all, Gilmore stressed, "we need to do what we do, even when we disagree, in an agreeable spirit."

Another dream of Gilmore is to see Tennessee Baptists become "instruments in God's

hands so we can participate in our culture as Godly influences."

He noted it is becoming increasingly difficult for Christians because "we are living in a society that basically ridicules the lifestyle and moral absolutes that are taught in the Word of God.

"We must emphasize to our people that while our culture will be antagonistic, we must stand firm in God's Word."

Gilmore noted that secular humanism and the New Age Movement are growing at a rapid pace and are attempting to gain control of the minds of the youth and adults in our nation.

"This is a challenge every Tennessee Baptist church must face," Gilmore said.

Gilmore, a member of the TBC Executive Board, praised

the efforts of the board in assisting churches and encouraged churches to take advantage of that assistance.

"We have leadership teams through our Executive Board Ministries that are available to help churches establish ministries that are biblically sound."

In regard to the Executive Board Gilmore said he would like to see a coordinated effort to pray for its staff and leadership.

"The Executive Board leadership teams are available as resource people for our churches. They are missionaries. We should pray for them as we do our North American and international missionaries. I believe God will enhance our ministries together as we pray for one another by name." *B&R*

Tennesseans support Disaster Relief effort

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists are responding to meet the needs of hurricane victims in Central America, said Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director.

Bearden thanked Tennessee Baptists for their support, noting five teams are fully staffed to go to Central America. More teams will be needed after the first of the year.

Also, Tennessee Baptists have given more than \$15,000 in relief funds. Donations are still being accepted. Mail gifts marked for "general disaster relief" or "Hurricane Mitch" to TBC Disaster Relief Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

Small congregation buys school to grow

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

LANCING — In the sharply rising hills north of Harriman is the small town of Lancing, home to about 50 families whose fathers and grandfathers moved there to live near the railroad. Now people travel to work by car into Oak Ridge, Harriman, or Rockwood.

Resting on the hills alongside houses is Faith Missionary Church, which like the town is small. But the congregation can't be described as restful.

Although Faith Missionary only has about 25-35 people attending Sunday morning worship services, it has bought a building across the street and plans to renovate it and then relocate to it, described Shannon Walls, pastor.

Leap of faith

The decision to buy the facility, which was a school and then a manufacturing plant, was a big one not only because of the small number of members, explained Walls.

The church is young. It reopened in 1992.

The church's current building is adequate and attractive since it was renovated recently by members.

However, parking at the church is very limited because of the small amount of land it has at its current site. And the current building doesn't have space for activities other than worship and a few classes.

In other words, explained Walls, if Faith Missionary Church wanted to reach the many people in Lancing not going to church, it needed a bigger building.

In the center of town

Located just across the road from the church, in the center of town, sits the former school.

Church members bought the facility this year. And recently, the Tennessee Baptist Founda-

tion, based in Brentwood, gave Faith Missionary members a loan of \$46,000 to assist them with their dream. Because of the loan, the members pay no interest for three years and then only seven percent interest for the remaining 10 years of the loan.

Pastor Walls

"God does work in mysterious ways," said Walls. He explained he used to drive a truck through Lancing as part of his coal and trucking business. So he knew the area and he even used to stop at the school building when it was a manufacturing plant to visit with the owner, a friend.

Walls felt called to the ministry several years ago and now serves as a bivocational pastor. Faith is the first church he has served as pastor.

During the almost two years Walls has led the congregation, the members and Walls have become "a family," he said. Although he might still be considered an outsider by some in the rural community, he feels at home in Lancing, Walls added.

And he's proud to be pastor of Faith Missionary Church, as proud as if he were pastor of a 2,000 member church, Walls said.

His commitment is such he invests

his salary in the new building. With that the church had enough to make the down payment for the building without borrowing any money.

The church also was helped in the venture by Bill Bargiol, director of missions, Big Emory Association, based in Harriman, said Walls. Bargiol referred the members to the foundation for the loan.

Steadily following

"We didn't do this," said Walls, referring to the church's expansion. "The Lord has showed us that he not only can give the vision, but he can give the building and the other things we need," said Walls.

Walls spoke with confidence about the task ahead of the congregation. They will have to do a lot of work on the building. They need to sell the old building. And they will have to make some transitions.

But the church can reach more residents of Lancing than it is currently reaching, predicted Walls, especially

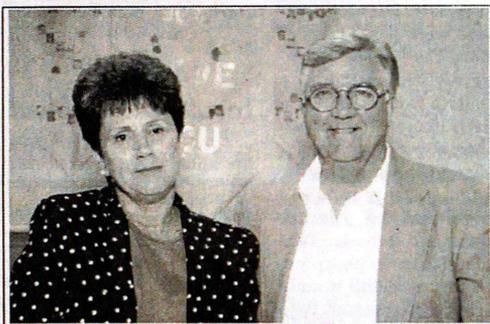


when it has more to offer to the community.

One measure of the potential for growth is the response to a Vacation Bible School held by the members with help from Baptists in another church. About 50 children and youth attended, reported Glenda Walls, wife of Shannon, who leads youth and children activities at the church and serves as pianist.

Of course, the main reason the church can grow is that it is God's plan, said Shannon Walls, and it will help them reach the community in the 21st century.

"God's been in this community all along. He just lets us find what he's been doing and participate in his plan," said Walls. *B&R*



SHANNON and Glenda Walls pause as they report on their ministry and its new challenges.



SEEN FROM Faith Missionary Church are Jerry Landrun, left, deacon and trustee of the church, and Shannon Walls, pastor, standing in front of the school which the church owns.

Highway progress damages church in Claiborne County

By Cathy Casper
Special to Baptist and Reflector

TAZEWELL — For some residents of Claiborne County, four-laning Highway 25E is a signal of progress.

For members of Mount Pleasant Missionary Church, however, the road construction has brought only problems.

The problems began Oct. 25 when their water turned muddy. Later that day and throughout the week, church members noticed numerous cracks in the concrete, along with other damage in both the church and fellowship hall.

Parts of the carpeting in the church have come loose and the side wall of the church has pulled away from the base causing structural damage.

Church members suspect the cause of their property damage is from blasting that has taken place for the new road.

Blasting has occurred at various times in different locations. Blasting did occur between the

church and the highway when the damage was discovered.

According to Mount Pleasant Pastor Wayne Epperson, many of the cracks are in the church's most recent addition which was built with the best concrete the church could get at the time.

"They assured me that this was the best concrete and the best re-enforcement steel and it should never crack even if you drove a bulldozer over it," Epperson said.

No estimate has been obtained yet on the damage, but church officials say they expect it to run into thousands of dollars, considering the amount of structural damage that seems to have occurred. The outside wall of the church has shifted two and one eights of an inch.

"If the wall moves anymore, we have no other choice but to close the building down and stay out," Epperson said.

Church leaders are not sure who is the responsible party for the damages — the construction

company or the company which actually did the blasting. The church has had trouble getting construction officials to listen to their concerns.

"We just want to get someone to listen to us. We are having a hard time getting someone to just talk to us," Epperson said.

Church leaders have requested help from local county and state public officials who have promised to do so.

The church investigated the possibility of the damage occurring before the blasting. Youth director Rufus Cook and his wife, Verde, who serves as the church secretary, called the earthquake center in Colorado and learned there had not been an earthquake in the area in the last two months.

Cumberland Gap Association Director of Missions Frank Hickman has been assisting the church in finding help.

"They (the congregation) plan on having church, unless something interferes or appears they

would be in danger," he said.

Epperson agreed, noting they plan "on having church somewhere."

Church leaders and members are confused and upset over what has happened to their facility. The church does not have insurance and does not have funds needed for repairs.

"We are devastated. All we want is for someone to help us. We are sending out a cry to save our church," the pastor said.

"They just want the security of having their place of worship to be here when they come to worship," Hickman added.

The original building was constructed in 1908. Other sections were added in 1976, 1980, and 1988. The church fellowship hall was constructed in 1991 with restrooms added just two years ago.

Mount Pleasant has about 40-50 active members. ■ — Casper writes for the *Claiborne Progress*. The story is used with the writer's permission.

Memphis pastor killed in plane crash with brother

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — John Wayne Hamilton, 55, pastor of Berclair Church here, was killed in a plane crash Nov. 14, about two miles south of the Olive Branch, Miss., airport.

Also killed in the crash was Hamilton's brother, Ernie, who was piloting the plane. The two were returning from a one-day trip to Decatur, Ala., where they were visiting family. Ernie was owner of Shelby Systems of Memphis, a company providing software to churches.

Reports indicate they encountered heavy fog during the return trip.

The Memphis pastor is survived by his wife, Cheryl, and two daughters. ■



letters from readers

about letters

- > Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- > Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- > Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- > Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- > Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- > If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- > Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff.

Plan not considered

I regret that my motion to reconsider motion number one concerning Carson-Newman College did not receive recognition. If the move to reconsider had been allowed, the following is the substitute motion that would have been offered:

(1) We as Tennessee Baptist church messengers to the 1998 Tennessee Baptist Convention are saddened and displeased at the April 17 actions of the Carson-Newman board of trustees.

(2) We love Carson-Newman and our hopes and prayers are that the college will come back under the convention's constitution and bylaws before the 1999 TBC convenes.

(3) Surely, the trustees and all concerned realize that to rescind the action of April 17 is the wish of Tennessee Baptists. This would be in line with the rich heritage enjoyed by both the convention and Carson-Newman for all these years.

(4) If the above action does not take place by budget time of the 1999-2000 Cooperative Program budget meeting, their money going into Christian education will be put into a reserve that would be requested for Carson-Newman, pending a satisfactory resolution.

Jim Carr, pastor, First Church, Gordonsville 38563

Carr was recognized at the close of the Wednesday afternoon session. He was informed time for miscellaneous business had expired. He chose not to challenge the ruling of the chair. — Editor

Scholarship funds

Much has been said about the Tennessee Baptist Convention taking over \$2.4 million of scholarship funds from the students of Carson-Newman College. Nothing could be further from the truth. I want to share several reasons this is not true.

The over \$2.4 million for Carson-Newman College from the TBC is available for the school. The funds are being held in escrow awaiting the trustees' decision to rescind the charter change of April 1998. If the school does not receive these funds, it is not the fault of the TBC but the unwillingness of the trustees to return to the time-honored relationship between the school and the TBC.

The money from the TBC given to Carson-Newman is not designated as scholarship funds. It is given to the general fund of the college.

Carson-Newman may give over \$2.4 million in scholarships each year, but the funds from the TBC are given for whatever use the college desires. If the college had a shortfall in revenue, I would hope that they would do as most institutions and reduce each budgeted item proportionately to the shortfall.

I am sure that they would not take it all from scholarship funds.

*W. Wayne Allen
Cordova 38018*

Lottery not needed

In the Nov. 11 issue I read both an editorial and an article addressing the issue of a state lottery funding public education in Tennessee.

As a Christian and public school teacher, I do not support lotteries as a source of funds for public education. However, it is understandable, given the condition of many public schools in our state, that this is an issue that continues to come up. According to a report issued by the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations in October 1997, Tennessee ranks 43 in the nation in expenditures per pupil while our neighbors — Virginia, Kentucky, and Georgia — rank 22, 24, and 27, respectively. This is shameful! Tennesseans are not being good stewards of our resources to prepare our children for the future.

I believe Christians hold the key to improved education without a lottery. There are many things we can do that cost little money and provide a big impact on public education.

Some of these are: voting for political candidates who have a strong commitment to educa-

tion, voting for public school issues, volunteering at a local school to work with students who need help in basic skills, becoming a mentor to a student who needs the attention of a caring adult, providing money for basic supplies and field trips to a disadvantaged student, asking the administrator at your local school what other things you can do to help (I've never known a school to turn down volunteer help), and above all PRAY for those who work with children in public schools.

If every Christian in Tennessee would commit to these, within a few years there would be no need for a lottery.

*Melonye Bartlett Lowe
Franklin 37069*

Unhealthy message

What happened to me as a person is not important. What happened to Tennessee Baptists is important. I was told three years ago that I was standing in the way of "our plans." In recent months I was targeted in letters mailed across the state. On Monday (before the TBC annual meeting), flyers were passed out at the Pastors' Conference recommending my replacement on the Executive Board. This is a mean spirit expressed in a secular political process in what should have been a gathering of loving and caring people. I had prayed that this polarization would not come to Tennessee Baptists.

My church is in full compliance with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Last year our church gave over \$40,000 to the TBC. To attack me on the basis of other commitments of my church violates the autonomy of the local church. Either a lot of Baptists do not understand Baptist polity or they choose to ignore what they know for their own selfish grasp for power.

Either way, Tennessee Baptists are the losers. To seek to exclude, divide, and separate does not come from the Gospel revealed in the Bible. If our love for God is shown by our love for one another, this convention sent an unhealthy message across the state.

*Howard Olive
Maryville 37803*

Regrets rift

This letter is to commend Carson-Newman College on its growth and quality of instruction. The college has been recognized nationally for its excellence.

Much of the credit goes to the president. He sets the tone of life on the campus. The college will not rise above the vision, the ideals, and the con-

cepts of its chief administrator.

The faculty of Carson-Newman is second to none in educational qualifications and dedication to Christian education, and no group of people outside the college should try to dictate what they teach or how they shall teach.

The trustees are elected to set the policies for the college. I know personally that they are Christian men and women who have a deep love for the college and have no other desire than to help provide the best Christian education possible for its students.

Who knows better who should be elected to succeed them in carrying out the long-range programs that they through prayer and untold hours of work have set in motion? Certainly not people who have had no connection with the college and know nothing of its ideals, aspirations, and needs.

I regret deeply the rift in the Tennessee Baptist Convention and believe the best way to resolve this difficulty is for the convention to adopt the Protocol for College Trustee Selection.

*Harley Fite, president emeritus
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City 37760*

Loyalty can be blind

I am writing in response to the unbalanced presentation of letters from readers in the Nov. 11 issue. It is interesting that anytime one writes a concern and caution about Carson-Newman College people get on the defense immediately and accuse those who have legitimate questions as not having Christian love. As Bible-believing Southern Baptists, we have a responsibility to hold our institutions accountable financially, spiritually, and doctrinally. It is not because of a lack of love, it is because of a deep abiding love for the cause of Christ and purity of truth and doctrine.

Above all, our loyalty should be to Jesus Christ and the truth. Some times it is hard to face the truth when there is sentimental feelings and loyalty to institutions involved. No doubt there are some fine Christian folks on the faculty of Carson-Newman College. I am sure that in a lot of areas, Carson-Newman excels in education. But there are some youth pastors in our area who graduated from Carson-Newman College who affirm the theology taught at the college was less than sound. A couple of them thanked me recently for the articles I have written on this subject and affirm to me that I am correct in my assumptions.

We need to be careful as Tennessee Baptists that we be-

come so blindly loyal to institutions that we begin to sacrifice truth. Institutions can become "sacred cows." When we begin to get comfortable and trust institutions to always do right because they were doing right when we went to school, we become an easy target for Satan to move us away from what we have always held precious and dear in truth and doctrine.

Blind loyalty is very dangerous indeed.

*Terry Tuley, pastor
Smoky View Church
Maryville 37801*

Irony

On Nov. 11, at about the time the TBC was voting to escrow Carson-Newman's funds, a rather ironic thing happened to me. I received a call from an 85-year-old layman telling me how much he appreciated the Old Testament textbook that I have written. He had gotten it from his grandson who took the course at one of our colleges. I am one of those "liberal" professors that the more conservative brethren are always talking about.

Folks who really know me would be shocked and amused to hear that label put on me. I am from the shouting, mourner's bench tradition among Baptists and count as my friends ministers who are as conservative as any of those who voted against C-N. One brother with money offered one school \$3 million if they would burn my book and a dozen others on the administration building steps. He admitted that he had not read the book; he was going by what his pastor had told him.

Before I retired in 1992, I had taught more than a generation of Baptist ministers, some of whom now hold prominent places in Southern Baptist life. Strange that they should turn out so well after being taught by a "liberal" like me.

Incidentally, almost one-third of the profits from that textbook furnishes scholarships for students from Nigeria, where my wife and I taught for two years as special project missionaries. It has already educated a number of promising Baptist leaders for that country.

*John H. Tullock
Delano 37325*

Tullock is professor of religion emeritus at Belmont University, Nashville. — Editor

Tapes available

Tapes of messages given at the TBC annual meeting and Pastors' Conference are available for \$4 each. For more information, write: Jerald E. Smith, 1590 Orndorff Mill Road, Russellville, KY 42276.

Attributes of families are cause for thanksgiving

families matter

by Paul Barkley,
counselor,
educator, pastor



As our nation enters this very special time of the year when we turn aside to remember the things for which we have to be thankful, I would like to remind us that the Apostle Paul said that we should be thankful in all things. I am especially thankful for Christian families. I use this litter acrostic to enumerate why.

Together-ness is a priceless gift that costs little. I cherish the memory of times together with family.

Hope is the legacy and legend of the Christian family. The thought of the Christian family is an island of hope in the present and the light of hope in the future.

Adventure abounds in the Christian family. One never knows what will happen next, but in the Christian family it can lead to a sense of adventure with the security of his presence and protection.

Nurture is certainly the foundation of the Christian family. It is within the safety of the Christian family that the child is nurtured into the nurturing adult.

Kinfolks are always glad to see you. That acceptance is an island in the turbulent sea of life in the closing days of the 20th century.

Stability is a calm assur-

ance of the family for the stressful and stormy days of change brought about by the fast paced technical change of today's world.

Guarantee of acceptance offers a sense of belonging and oneness that every human being needs. God created man with a need for each other that was acknowledged when God "saw that it was not good for man to be alone."

Identity is an integral part of human nature. The Christian family is a central force in helping adolescents especially answer the question, "Who am I?"

Variety is one of the unique blessings of the Christian family. We learn in the family that we do not have to be alike to be accepted.

Incredible love is the hall-

mark of the Christian family. So much of the world operates on a performance-based concept of love; the family is often the only sanctuary of unconditional love.

Normalcy seems to have vanished from the face of the earth, yet in the Christian family I find what has always been held up as the standard of normal.

Generosity is another standard of the Christian family for which I am thankful. They are generous with each other and generous with others.

These attributes brought to mind by the letters of the word "Thanksgiving" remind me of only a few of the things that Christian families have to be thankful for not only at this time of year, but all year long. ■



Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,
editor



This week millions of people will observe Thanksgiving.

For Christians, it should be like every other day of the year (except for the turkey and dressing) because we should be thankful to God each and every day he gives us. There is no promise of tomorrow.

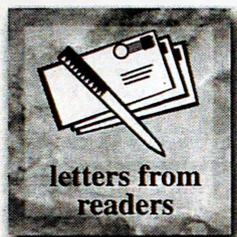
Too often, however, we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life and we neglect to thank God for the blessings he gives us. So, it is good that our nation does set aside this important day for us.

As Americans we have so much to be thankful for. With all our faults and problems, America is still the greatest place to live. We still have freedom to worship and opportunities unavailable elsewhere.

As Christians, we owe everything to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Without him we are nothing and would have nothing.

Let's never forget to be thankful for our families and friends who love us in spite of ourselves, and for our health.

The list could go on. As Christians, let us make a habit of making every day a day of "thanksgiving." B&R



Likes coverage

Thank you for covering the annual convention in the Nov. 18 issue. It hardly seems possible that so much business and activity could be done in just two days.

It is with interest that you parenthetically reported on the CP money and members of the officers nominees' churches. Let it never be said that our convention leadership can be brought by big churches who give the most money to the TBC. Thank you for graphically calling that to our attention.

C. Marvin Spivey, pastor
Ardmore Church
Memphis 38127

Mixed emotions

I came away from the TBC with mixed emotions. I was sad that I was put in the position of escrowing funds for Carson-Newman College, but glad that the convention was able to speak to this issue in a Christian manner.

I have been very upset and displeased at the action C-N trustees took April 17 to elect their own trustees. This action was a clear violation of the TBC Constitution and Bylaws. The trustees chose to take matters into their own hands rather than go through the proper procedures. This left the convention with only two choices: escrow funds or overlook the violation, and thus encourage other institutions to take like action.

I wanted to speak at the convention and was at a microphone to speak but debate was cut off. Here's what I wanted to say.

I have waited, listened, read everything I saw printed about this situation, and hoped to hear something from the C-N trustees that indicated any admission of hasty action on their part. I have not heard or read one word to that end. Someone said the convention needed to exercise grace. I agree. But my understanding of grace is that it requires confession of wrong, and repentance on the part of the individual (s) who were the offenders, and forgiveness on the part of those who are the offended (Luke 17:3-4, I John 1:9).

I am willing to forgive the C-N trustees, but I am waiting for them to admit their action was hasty and turn from it.

I pray that the Spirit of God will direct us all to be reconciled to one another, the issue peacefully resolved, and our Lord to be glorified.

Clayton Dunsmore
Philadelphia 37846

World is watching

Debate was cut off before I could be recognized at the TBC. I disagree with those who say what happens in Tennessee Baptist life has nothing to do with what happens in SBC life. In SBC life a political movement occurred which created a one-party system where fundamentalists only serve on committees and boards.

After the movement was complete, state conventions became the targets. Just as the targets at the SBC level were dedicated, competent, and Godly seminary professors, the targets at the state convention level are dedicated, competent, and Godly college professors.

Second, I want to respond to

those saying "They stole the school from our convention." This is the ownership argument which is misleading at its core. The TBC has never owned Carson-Newman. The school, whose existence predates the TBC by 60 years, entered a cooperative, but voluntary agreement in 1919 to allow its trustees to be elected by the convention at its annual meetings. With the recent attempts to give appointive powers to the TBC president (the same method used in the SBC), it is no mystery why C-N did what it had every legal right to do: remove the school from the ongoing political battle.

If the school was stolen, then will someone please answer this: Why doesn't the TBC take legal action to recoup what was stolen? The obvious answer is this: there was no theft.

Can the TBC and C-N sustain an ongoing relationship? There can be if Tennessee Baptists agree to practice a ministry of reconciliation which Paul says is God's gift to us through Christ (II Corinthians 5:17-19). The world is watching us to see if we practice toward one another what God practiced toward us while we were yet sinners. He did not escrow his grace until we changed; he bestows his grace as functional reconciliation power.

Our hope of reconciliation is in seeing the value of our relationships through the eyes of our Father. If we will, the proposed Protocol can be an instrument of reconciliation.

Frank Hawkins, pastor
First Church
Kingsport

Found difference

As parents of a high school senior who is considering music ministry as a vocation, we

recently attended college preview days at two TBC schools. While we did find some similarities in the two, we found a major difference in their attitude about their Christian identity.

At School A, our orientation session began with prayer. We heard students, faculty, and administrators speak freely and openly about the distinctives of Christian higher education and the school's relationship with Tennessee Baptists, along with other concepts we expected to hear and were pleased to hear.

At School B, had we not known beforehand it was Christian and Baptist, we still would not know. Faculty, administrators, and students seemingly avoided touching on any of the above-mentioned concepts. The use of the terms values and fellowship were the closest thing to Christian terminology we heard all day long. In the music department orientation session, church music ministry was not even mentioned until a parent asked about it.

Recently, we as the TBC, voted to withhold funds from one of these schools. Whether the issue is presented as the method of trustee selection or as the amount of control that the convention exerts, the underlying concern is that this school will move away from its Baptist identity. Only time will tell if this action was warranted or appropriate.

Ironically, this action was taken against School A, which, in our experience, did a most effective job of letting its Christian and Baptist light "shine before men." School B did an equally effective job of "hiding its light under a bushel." That lack of identity should be a greater cause of concern for Tennessee Baptists.

John Tappan
Chattanooga 37411

just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Passenger to Porter on a Pullman: "I have never traveled this way before. What's your average tip?" Porter: "Ten dollars, sir." Passenger: "You fellows must make good money." Porter: "Well sir, I've been a porter for 20 years and you're the first man that's ever come up to average."

Take this truth

What's average? And, who really wants to be only average? The Greek word translated "perfect" in the New Testament means fully developed or mature.

Memorize this Scripture

Mathew 5:46-47

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to set my goals by your will for me not by what others are doing. ■

Painter considers his passage through grief

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSFORT — He lost Betty Ruth (Hurley Painter), his wife of 37 years, in 1993 after watching her fight a brain tumor for 11 months. Then he lost Betty Jean (Reeves Painter), his wife of only nine months, in 1997 in a car wreck.

Omer Painter said after Betty Ruth's death he was broken hearted and after Betty Jean's death, he was "doubly heart broken."

He has quit trying to understand what has happened to him, said Painter, who is director of missions, Tennessee Valley Association. He has served there for 13 years. Painter also has served as pastor of churches for 29 years. He left North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, to serve the association.

Painter said many times he felt hopeless and abandoned by God. He wasn't able to pray like he wanted.

He didn't get caught up in questioning God or anger at him.

But he realized his role had changed dramatically.

"What I had preached for 40 years and shared in counsel

was as valid for me as for others," said Painter.

He realized for the first time the pain of others in grief. Thankfully he knew he was enduring something that changed people and even forced ministers from their ministry.

Eventually, the truths of his faith comforted him, explained Painter, especially as they were communicated and reiterated by family and friends.

Two different experiences

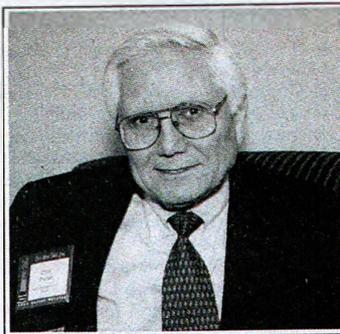
The two grief experiences Painter suffered were entirely different for many reasons, he said.

Of course, that makes sense because his relationships with the women were different.

In ways, the death of Betty Ruth was the hardest, he explained. Through the years their lives had become intertwined. They raised two sons. Finally, they suffered as she struggled against cancer.

A lengthy illness is so difficult for both marriage partners, said Painter.

Betty Jean's death was less painful, but not easier to experience because he already had lost a wife to death, reported



OMER PAINTER shares his story of grief and some understanding.

Marriage

Despite the pain, Painter said both relationships were worthwhile.

"The joy we had was better than all the grief that followed.

"I have been blessed more than most men because I have had two absolutely wonderful wives."

Lessons learned

Painter said he has learned to reach out to grieving people.

People shouldn't worry about what to say or about making people in sorrow feel uncomfortable. Grieving people simply need the presence of friends and family, he explained.

Eventually the grief-stricken person will learn that "God's grace is sufficient," he declared. "I can't imagine what people do who do not have the relationships of the church and the Lord through these devastating experiences."

He believes God will tell him more about the deaths of Betty Ruth and Betty Jean if he ever needs to know. God might tell him some time during the eternity Painter will spend with God in heaven, he speculated.

Painter. "Experience doesn't count," he said.

Betty Jean was a former classmate at Carson-Newman College. They were reunited at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center while attending training there.

Her death was difficult in other ways, he explained. Their relationship ended so abruptly and prematurely. Painter didn't even get to see her body because of the wreck.

In both cases, his grief was deep, he said. Any time a spouse dies, "truly a part of you has died," explained Painter.



Thanks

He has passed through most of his grief thanks to family and Christian friends, especially fellow Tennessee directors of missions, said Painter.

"I was saturated in prayer by my friends," he said. "At times, if I didn't know that, I don't know what I would have done."

Local friends provided food for Omer and Betty Ruth for months during her illness, he cited. The association gave him as much leave as he needed during her illness and provided extra nursing care.

Fellow DOMs gave Painter a gift of money to defray medical expenses for Betty Ruth. And in 1997 following Betty Jean's death they elected him president of the state DOM association.

"They were with me in my blissful happiness and they were with me in my lowest days," said Painter, referring to DOMs.

"I've learned we need each other and we've got to love each other." B&R

N. McClendon to speak in Johnson City

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Neil McClendon, one of the founders of "See You at the Pole," will speak in Johnson City.



MC CLENDON

On Nov. 28 he is the featured speaker of a youth rally at University Parkway Church here. The 7 p.m. rally is sponsored by Holston Association. It will begin with a snack at 6:30 p.m.



MILLS

Also leading the youth rally will be Brett Mills of

Waco, Texas, worship leader. Mills leads Shout Worship Ministries and a Bible study at Baylor University, Waco.

McClendon and Mills also will lead a revival at Grace Church here Nov. 29 - Dec. 2. ■

More views of the 1998 TBC annual meeting



HONORED during the TBC annual meeting were retiring director of missions, from left, David Tydings, Grainger County Association, and his wife, Sarah; Harold Smith, New Duck River Association; and W.L. Shipman, Polk County Association, and his wife, Lucille.



CHURCHES recognized as Global Priority Churches by the International Mission Board were, from left, Andrew Brown, Westside Church, Halls; Danny Sinquefield, Faith Church, Bartlett; Joseph Rosas, Union Avenue Church, Memphis; Carey Bates, IMB; Louis Rideout, Lincoln Heights Church, Tulsa; Jim Snyder, Broadway Church, Maryville; and Doug Sager, First Church, Concord, Knoxville.



The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

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

From your missionary

What a joy to see how God is calling out volunteer missionaries from Tennessee! Last year over 1,450 volunteers from our state served globally through the IMB, while thousands more served in Tennessee and in our nation.

During this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for the privilege of serving Tennessee Baptists. Thank you for allowing me to carry out my missionary calling as your Partnership/Volunteer Missions missionary.

I also want to thank my assistants, Kim Huff and Heather Wilson. God has put together a great Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team. In addition, Marcia Knox does a fine job helping me with the *Macedonia Call* and other publicity.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office staff!



SHARP

Yours truly,

Doug Sager

150 teams needed in Rio

The response to the Rio Simultaneous Revivals and the Citywide Crusade, scheduled for May 23 – June 1, 1999, has been great with people wanting information. However, those who want to be “on mission” need to send in their deposits as soon as possible.

God is at work in Rio and Tennesseans are demonstrating that they want to be “on mission” where he is working. A total of 150 evangelism teams are needed for these Rio revivals.

For more information, contact the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office. ■

‘Volunteer Challenge 2000’

Tennesseans need world vision: Sager

By Marcia Knox
For *The Macedonian Call*

Tennessee Baptist churches need to wake up and have a world vision, and not just rely on the International Mission Board, according to the 1997-98 president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, who is also a trustee of the IMB.

“We are on the cutting edge of the 21st century,” said Dr. Doug Sager, TBC 1997-98 president and the pastor of First Church, Concord, Knoxville. “Tennessee Baptist churches have to have a world vision, even those churches who have never looked at the world as a mission field.”

Sager’s TBC presidential sermon was specifically designed to motivate for missions the 2,245 messengers to the 124th annual meeting of the TBC at MeadowView Convention Center in Kingsport on Nov. 10.

Prior to his sermon, Sager referred the messengers to the “Volunteer Challenge 2000” brochure, and encouraged them to tear off the bookmark and fill out the commitment card to go on mission.

“Volunteer Challenge 2000,” the TBC Partnership/Volunteer emphasis for the next two years was introduced by Sager who believes that Tennessee Baptists can

be brought together in missions. “We need to get on with the program to win the world for Jesus,” he said.

“My goal was to leave with 2,000 commitment cards for missions,” Sager said. “My goal within our church at Concord is to have people going on mission projects 52 weeks of the year. We even tell people who join the church to go get your passport. We need to be on mission with God every week.”

The “Volunteer Challenge 2000” headlined the theme: “Tennessee Volunteers...Still Making a Difference” and recognized the thousands of Tennessee Partnership Volunteers that have already gone to the mission fields and honored those who are to carry the banners into the new millennium.

The emphasis remunerates that Tennessee volunteers continue to be an important strategy in reaching Tennessee, the United States, and the world with the Gospel. It also challenges every Tennessee Baptist church, now totaling around 3,000 churches, to send out at least three volunteers over the next two years on a Partnership/Volunteer Missions project.



WELCOMING Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, right, pastor, First Church, Rio de Janeiro, and president, Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio, to the final session of the TBC annual meeting Nov. 10-11 in Kingsport is Doug Sager, TBC president.

A commitment card to accept the “Volunteer Challenge 2000” asked the individual to serve in a Tennessee, National, or International Volunteer Mission Project.

In addition, the commitment card asked for churches to be a Partnership — See Tennesseans, page 8

Children’s homes team explores ministry in Rio

For *The Macedonian Call*

A partnership team of six volunteers from the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes, Inc. recently received a blessing in Brazil while exploring ways to help the Christian Social Ministries of the Carioca Convention.

“We went to bless others in Brazil, but we were blessed,”

said Tennessee Baptist Children’s Homes president-treasurer, Gerald Stow, following a missions trip Oct. 25-Nov. 4 to Rio de Janeiro and Santos, Brazil.

“We probably learned a lot more from them than they learned from us,” Stow remarked. “We were also greatly impressed by the sincere dedication of the national

workers to the Lord’s work and by the good work of the missionaries in Brazil.”

In addition to receiving a blessing, the TBCH volunteer team laid the foundation for working with the Carioca Convention Christian Social Ministries, according to Stow.

“We will continue to evaluate and explore the ways TBCH can develop resources to assist the Christian Social Ministries in Brazil,” Stow added.

As team leader, Stow led the TBCH team to work with the staff of the Christian Social Ministries where the primary focus of the trip was to help alongside the Brazilian staff in their various social ministries.

Others making up the team were: Barbara Stow, wife of Gerald Stow; Sara Shaw, TBCH social worker from Memphis; Natalie Steward, TBCH social worker from Brentwood; Bert Sutton, Millington’s TBCH Boys Ranch vice president, and his wife, Virginia Sutton, both who are

former missionaries to Brazil.

The team also met IMB missionaries, Craig and Ellen Steele, Ray and Sharon Fairchild, Elizabeth Oates, and Wendy Stout.

Part of TBCH team ministry included working three days in the slums. They also viewed a number of mothers come to know the Lord during a church service at the Mission Batista Novo Rumo. Several of the church families were in grief over the loss of their children who had been murdered due to drugs, according to Stow.

“We were able to give encouragement and hope to these families by sharing Jesus Christ, praying and singing with them, and giving them comfort and help in the loss of their children,” Stow said. “This church serves as a light-house in a dark place.”

The TBCH team at the Novo Rumo Mission also worked on clinic day which took care of many needs. On clinic day people came to the — See Children’s, page 8



PAUSING during a visit in a home are, from left, front row, Barbara Stow and Virginia Sutton, Tennessee; Elizabeth Oates, missionary; Natalie Steward, Tennessee; back row, Sara Shaw, Tennessee; Gerald Stow, Tennessee; Steve Fairchild, missionary kid; Bert Sutton, Tennessee; Ray and Sharon Fairchild, missionaries; and Craig and Ellen Steele, missionaries.

Holds first senior adult convention there

Senior adult team works with seniors in Rio

By Don Mauldin
For The Macedonian Call

In January 1998 Elizabeth Oates, IMB missionary challenged me, to lead a team to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to start and improve church Senior Adult Ministry Programs in the Carioca Convention.

As we corresponded about the project, we decided to plan a senior adult convention. A team of three people worked Sept. 20-29 in Rio including my wife Carolyn Mauldin, a retired physician Roy Renfro, and myself.

The first Senior Adult Convention was held at Baro de Taquara Church in Rio.

The convention was held in the evening to accommodate the seniors that were retired. Each evening the attendance ranged from 80 to 150 people. The Baro De Taquara Church choir, youth choir, and soloists provided the special music for the convention and local pastors led the Bible studies.

Renfro led four sessions on "How to Live Longer and Love It." He lectured on diet, exercise, weight, meaningful work, safety habits, health checkups, positive attitudes, meaningful

family relationships, and the effects of alcohol and smoking on the body.

On Friday evening we held a panel discussion where the majority of questions were asked about health and exercise. Another highlight was appropriate exercise for senior adults, led by Carolyn Mauldin. The conferees practiced each exercise and learned how the exercise benefited them.

In senior appropriate exercises slow joint movement is emphasized along with stretching muscles. Each movement is designed to help seniors stay flexible, mobile, and able to maintain their independence and ability to care for themselves. Common safety tips were also discussed.

The leadership period of the convention taught "How to Provide and Lead a Senior Adult Ministry Program in the Church." This is a new idea in Rio because in Brazil adults are called "The Third Age." All adults over 35 are grouped together for Bible study. This broad grouping is done because of inadequate space and trained leadership. The conferees were very receptive to the new ideas presented about Se-

nior Adult ministry.

We need to pray that God will raise up leaders in Brazil to do Senior Adult work. Brazil is like America because both populations are growing older. Some Brazilian churches have already established weekday gatherings for seniors.

In addition to the senior adult convention, we led programs in churches and institutions that had senior adult weekday ministries. We also visited the "Baptist Old Folks Home" in the Camp Grande area of Rio.

The Rio nursing home had 84 persons in the residence where they received good care and were very happy. The oldest person was over 100 years of age and still very active.

About 20 people from the nursing home traveled two hours both ways Saturday evening for a special senior recognition service at the Casadara Church. One of the nursing home residents was a deacon, and he spoke for the group in presenting an award to the oldest lady resident.

In addition to our church visits and nightly conferences,



PAUSING DURING A meeting with the director of a nursing home in Rio de Janeiro are Tennessee team members, from left, Roy Renfro, Forest Hills Church, Nashville; Carolyn Mauldin, wife of Don Mauldin; the director of Campo Grande Nursing Home; and Elizabeth Oates, missionary.

we had the opportunity to make two visits to the Baptist Community Center to visit their senior adult day care work. While at the Center, we led a devotional and conducted an exercise class.

All the people that we met were happy, outgoing, and friendly. Even with the language barrier, we were able to communicate with each other.

God has given Tennessee

Baptists an opportunity to be personally involved in his Kingdom work in Rio de Janeiro. The churches that we visited wanted us to see their mission sites. Though some of the Rio churches are small they are looking ahead to start new works.

— God is doing great things in Rio. I hope that you have the opportunity to join him in spreading the Gospel to the people of Brazil. ■

Children's homes team explores ministry in ...

— Continued from page 7
church to receive medical help from a doctor, legal advice from lawyer, counseling from social workers, and fluoridation treatment for children's teeth. They also picked up food, clothing, and other personal items.

Shaw and Steward discussed personal hygiene and other parenting skills with mothers. Virginia Sutton used her barber skills to cut hair. Bert Sutton served as the interpreter for the team. Barbara Stow helped prepare printed materials for work in the slums.

In addition to the ministry in the slums, the team worked at a halfway house for drug ad-

dicts and a halfway house for women. One resident at the men's halfway house displayed marks on his arm where he attempted suicide. He told the team Christ had led him to save himself from bodily harm and a terrible death. At the halfway house, the drug addict had come to know Jesus as his Savior and praised Him for what He did in his life.

The Resocialization Center for Street Children was one of the most challenging and exciting ministries that the team witnessed where abandoned children find a home, Stow added. "The center receives the children into its care and uses a strong ministry in the Word to restore them."

The TBCH team worked with Enrique Caesar, director of Christian Social Ministries for the Carioca Convention. Caesar explained to the TBCH team the philosophy of the Resocialization Center which included helping children learn that the chapel is where they meet with God, to pray, to learn his word and his way.

The Resocialization Center staff prays for the children, and the children are taught Scripture memorization as a means of therapy and for a strong spiritual base for resocialization. The staff also teaches the children basic social skills that the children would normally have learned from their parents.

Tennesseans need world vision: Sager

— Continued from page 7
Anchor Church. In order to become a Partnership Anchor Church, the church would commit to two or more Partnership/Volunteer Mission Projects per year and provide link-up opportunities for other churches.

The commitment card also announced the Regional Volunteer Recognition and Commission Services for Feb. 23 at Una Church, Nashville; April

29 at First Church of Concord, Knoxville; and Sept. 21 at Union University, Jackson.

Dr. Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, will speak at the services scheduled for Feb. 23 and Sept. 21. Dr. Donald Kammerdiener, IMB executive vice president, will speak at the services on April 29.

In addition to "Volunteer Challenge 2000" emphasis, the brochure and the commitment

card provided information to complete a current Volunteer database, denoted the history of the Partnership/Volunteer program with flags of all the former and current partnership countries, states, and other volunteer areas, and provided a colorful bookmark.

To date around 660 commitment cards have been returned to the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team that were distributed at the end of Sager's

sermon. The commitments included: 440 who committed to each challenge; 30 who will send a volunteer from their church on missions projects; two who volunteered their churches to be an anchor church; 10 who said they would serve in a National project; 50 who will serve in a Tennessee project; 40 who will serve in an International project; and 65 who are praying about missions. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests November - December

- 25 — Pray for wise and devoted leaders to lead Grace Thru Faith Church, Memphis. Ask God to bless the church leaders as they serve as part of the Mississippi River Ministry.
- 26 — Pray for Christians across Canada to cooperate to present the Gospel.
- 27 — Praise God for the Oct. 27 Executive Board meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 28 — Pray for the Tucurrique Church in Costa Rica. Ask God to bless the church as it reaches out to the community.
- 29 — Pray for people to commit to soul winning in Michigan.
- 30 — Pray for Christians to mobilize in prayer for spiritual awakening in Canada.
- 1 — Pray for 150 Tennessee volunteer teams needed to help lead the May 1999 Simultaneous Revivals and Citywide Crusade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to call out these teams.

Bluegrass Church visits sister church in Michigan

For The Macedonian Call

Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, youth recently returned from Michigan where they helped their sister church, Houghton Lake Church in Prudenville, Mich., teach Vacation Bible School.

A total of 23 Bluegrass Church volunteers made the trip this summer to Prudenville. The team was made up of: Bluegrass Church youth minister, Mike Strickland; three college students serving as church interns, five adults, and 14 teens. For some of the youth it was a return trip to Houghton Lake Church where they renewed their old acquaintances.

"We were loaded on two vans like a bunch of sardines to go to Michigan," said Gail Bobel, Bluegrass Church youth worker. "Obviously we had underestimated the packing skills of 23 people."

"We were all pumped up and excited because God had called us to go to a small church in Michigan to teach VBS.

We had completed about six weeks of training, and we were ready, willing, and able to do VBS."

The team arrived at West Minister Presbyterian Camp near Prudenville, to find a two-bedroom cabin where 23 people were housed with two bathrooms. However, the team arrived Monday morning at the camp dining hall for breakfast on time, all washed, brushed and smiling on our first day, Bobel added.

"We had prepared our classrooms at the church the day before so all that was left to do was to pick up the kids that didn't have rides to come to VBS. Driving through this Michigan remote vacation area where there are little resort cottages helped



LEADING A VBS session at Houghton Lake Church for fifth graders is Mary Head, fourth from right, of Bluegrass Church.

us evaluate the needs of the children who came to VBS.

"Not only were they hungry for God's word, but some of them appeared to be just plain hungry," Bobel said. "Crafts

were planned everyday so that the children had something to take home and songs were sung."

The VBS averaged around 55 children per day, which was an increase over last year's attendance. Four professions of faith were reported during VBS. Another profession of faith was made at a grocery store where the VBS team set up a puppet stage and hot dog stand to attract prospects. They also passed out balloons and literature sharing the news about VBS.

"We look forward to another year of our commitment to our sister church in Michigan where some will return to pick up sharing the good news about God's love," Bobel said. ■

Health care professionals serve Indian tribe in Costa Rica

For The Macedonian Call

An eight-member Tennessee medical team was able to work with an indigenous people tribe and relate to Costa Rican health care professionals while on a recent partnership volunteer trip to the South Zone.

Sponsored by First Church, Powell, the medical team worked Sept. 18-28 with an indigenous people, the Guaymi Indians, and other patients in nearby rural areas.

"The Costa Rican doctors could not understand why we came and worked so hard in their country," said Howard Ragsdale, a semi-retired physician from Baptist Hospital, Union City. "Through this mission effort, we opened doors so that IMB missionary Bill Egbert could go into the mountain areas and show the 'Jesus Film.'"

"I was able to use my skills to help people in need and show the love of Christ," said Larry Sheperd, a pharmacist at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. "I also worked with some of the local health-care professionals, and got to live with a missionary family. I soon discovered that Costa Rican healthcare professionals shared with us the attitude of caring for other people, and that missionaries are real people just like us with families."

Ragsdale, a member of First Church, Union City and member of the TBC Ex-

ecutive Board, served as co-team leader along with Sheperd, a member of First Church, Powell.

Other team members included: Billie Ragsdale, pharmacy technician, wife of Howard Ragsdale and member of First Church, Union City; Fred Caffey, retired dentist and a member of First Church, Martinsville, Va.; Jane Dozier, a nurse practitioner and a member of First Church, Powell; Linda Coakley, a nurse practitioner and a member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville; Jean Quinn, a retired nurse and a member of First Canaan Church, Clarksville; and Jack Sparks, a laboratory/pharmacy technician, medical assistant, and interpreter and a member of First Church, Paris. Six of the team members were graduates of the University of Tennessee.

Joining the team in Costa Rica were: Sue Smith, IMB Missionary Volunteer Partnership coordinator; Walter Rodriguez, partnership assistant; Bill Egbert, IMB missionary; Phillip Johnson, IMB missionary to Honduras; Herbert Soto, Costa Rica national missionary; and San Vito Hospital personnel who worked in the clinics.

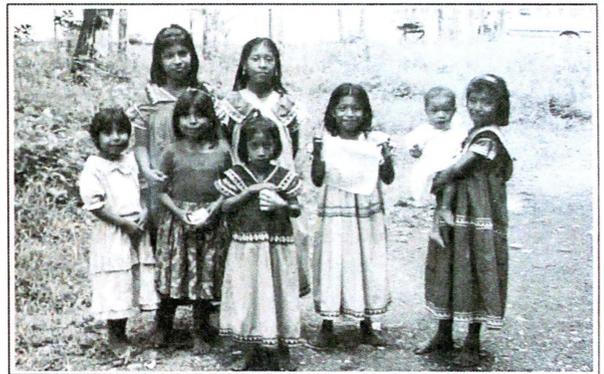
The Tennessee team ministered to 690 patients in a rural clinic outside the city of San Vito. They also sent a small clinic team to two remote villages of the Guaymi Indians in the mountains where 225 people lived. Some of the Indians were treated at the clinic

where many vitamins were distributed. Over 1,000 contacts were made by the team.

In addition to the clinics, Egbert showed the "Jesus" film to the Indians, which was dubbed in Spanish. Spanish is the second language for the Guaymis and 518 viewed the film. A total of 19 Indians showed interest in learning more about becoming Christians.

"We have received e-mails from Egbert that indicated he has been invited to each of the Guaymi villages to show the 'Jesus' film as result of our clinics," Sheperd said.

"The Tennessee team became close as they worked everyday side by side in the clinics. The work was hard due to daily mid-nineties temperatures. The clinic also had no electricity with fans or lights. The work was only done in the daylight while breezes came



GUAYMI INDIAN children pause in their community where a clinic was held by Tennesseans.

through the windows. In the middle of the day it rained very hard so mud was waded through each afternoon."

"Prayers and words of encouragement kept everyone going strong even though it was hot and wet," Sheperd added. "The team could see that their efforts made a difference in the physical lives of the people, and they hoped that their service showed the patients the love of Christ that they could experience."

"In fact, First Church, Powell is already planning a second mission trip to Costa Rica in September next year." ■

Clarksville ministers lead revival in Saskatchewan

For the Macedonian Call

Two ministers from Clarksville recently returned from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, after serving as a guest revival team at Scarborough Church.

Jim Phillips, minister of recreation and students at First Church, Clarksville, and

Wesley Pitts, director of missions for Cumberland Association, Clarksville, led a revival Nov. 1-4 at Scarborough Church, Prince Albert.

Scarborough Church is the only Southern Baptist Church in Prince Albert, a city of around 40,000 people. Jerry Wortman is the pastor of Scarborough Church, which aver-

ages 50 people in Sunday School.

The purpose of the revival meeting was to encourage the congregation to commit themselves to the work that the Lord wants them to do. There were public decisions in all services except one. The pastor and the people reported that through the revival they experi-

enced a time of renewal of their dedication to the Lord.

The revival team visited the International Refugee Center and talked with people from 20 different nations. They also toured the First Nations Headquarters Evangelical Mission where several members of Scarborough Church work with the missionaries in administra-

tive and publishing work.

"The people of Scarborough Church appreciate Tennessee Baptists," said Pitts. "The Tennessee partnership has magnified their work."

"They asked us to pray for Scarborough Church as it ministers to the city of Prince Albert. They also have a burden for the First Nations people." ■

The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed	Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Contact Persons
Rio de Janeiro Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Rio de Janeiro	Medical Clinic	medical	open	31 teams of 10	Memphis	T-99-50	camp	open	Penny Looney - (901) 372-6835
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999995	chiropractor	open	1	Bolivar	T-99-51	camp	open	Hardeman Assoc. - (901) 658-3534
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999994	piano tuner	open	1	Beulah Assoc.	T-99-61	construction	open	Jerry Essary - (901) 885-2151
Rio de Janeiro	PM41998931	hospital chaplain	open	1	Memphis	T-99-30	construction	open	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Rio de Janeiro	EVN3	construction/VBS	open	20	Beulah Assoc.	T-99-62	construction	open	Jerry Essary - (901) 885-2151
Rio de Janeiro	Prayerwalk	prayerwalking	open	two teams of 20	Cordova	T-99-63	construction	open	Effort Alexander - (901) 398-5000
Rio de Janeiro	Church Start	church planting	open	42 teams	Lawrenceburg	T-99-16	construction	open	June Sandlin - (931) 766-1914
Rio de Janeiro	Evangelism	music/drama	open	two teams	Pulaski	T-99-75	construction	open	Carl Bond - (931) 363-3529
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999900	student ministries	1/3 - 1/12/99	1	Henry	T-99-27	construction	open	Larry, Tammy Bell - (901) 243-7150
Rio de Janeiro	213	semester missions	1/9 - 5/15/99	1	Nashville	T-99-43	construction	open	Paul Morris - (615) 776-2266
Rio de Janeiro	212	semester missions	1/9 - 5/15/99	1	Ripley	T-99-56	construction	open	Wayne Rowan - (901) 635-7128
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999991	ESL/education	1/20 - 2/28/99	4	Memphis	T-99-29	students	open	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999904	revival	5/23 - 6/1/99	150 teams of 2-4	Somerville	T-99-57	construction	open	Ronald Gruenwald - (901) 867-7259
Rio de Janeiro	57	summer missions	6/7 - 8/2/99	2	Memphis	T-99-71	special services	open	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Rio de Janeiro	59	summer missions	6/7 - 8/2/99	2	Memphis	T-99-68	special services	open	Sam Wilson - (901) 458-0617
Rio de Janeiro	56	summer missions	6/21 - 8/2/99	2	Memphis	T-99-66	special services	open	Bobbye Clark - (901) 386-3141
Rio de Janeiro	BSM5	summer missions	6/21 - 8/2/99	2	Bolivar	T-99-55	special services	open	Carolyn O'Hara - (901) 658-7273
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000900	student ministries	1/3 - 1/12/2000	1	Dyersburg	T-99-46	special services	open	Joe T. Naylor - (901) 285-2727
Canada Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Prince Albert	98NORO27	library resources	open	open	Lebanon	T-99-33	construction	open	Jonas Taylor - (615) 449-4806
Surrey, BC	98CAP016	evangelism	5/21 - 5/24/99	2	Memphis	T-99-70	construction	open	Tim Cox - (901) 835-4654
Vanderhoof, BC	98ALP002	construction	July	open	Cordova	T-99-49	construction	open	Mike Mathis - (901) 381-1979
Pincher Creek, Alberta	98MID034	VBS/BYBC	7/1 - 7/10/99	open	Covington	T-99-59	VBS/BYBC	open	Donna Ralph - (901) 476-8761
Vanderhoof, BC	98ALP003	construction	July	open	Shelby Assoc.	T-99-60	VBS/BYBC	open	Don Aycock - (901) 274-3766
Vanderhoof, BC	98ALP004	construction	July	open	Shelby Assoc.	T-99-64	VBS/BYBC	open	Ronnie Wilburn - (901) 458-4469
Allan, Saskatchewan	98NOR030	evangelism	July	open	Rossville	T-99-52	construction	open	Bob Campbell - (901) 854-6290
Love, Saskatchewan	98NOR031	VBS/BYBC	7/3 - 7/10/99	4	Somerville	T-99-53	construction	open	Bob Campbell - (901) 854-6290
Albert	98MID032	VBS/BYBC	7/4 - 7/11/99	6-10	Ripley	T-99-45	ESL/education	open	Joe T. Naylor - (901) 285-2727
Prince Albert	98NOR034	evangelism	7/8 - 7/19/99	15	Dyersburg	T-99-47	evangelism	open	Joe T. Naylor - (901) 285-2727
Edmonton, Alberta	98MID033	VBS/BYBC	7/15 - 8/15/99	2	Cordova	T-99-65	evangelism	open	Effort Alexander - (901) 398-5000
Love, Saskatchewan	98NOR032	construction	7/17 - 7/24/99	4	Memphis	T-99-67	VBS/BYBC	open	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan	98NOR033	evangelism	7/27 - 8/7/99	10	Cleveland	MSC3	MSC	open	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Costa Rica Projects					Tennessee Projects				
South Zone	PM71998832A	dental	open	5	Cleveland	MSC2	MSC	open	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
South Zone	PM71998832	dental	open	5	Ducktown	MSC1	MSC	open	Al Patterson - (423) 496-7977
San Jose	PM71999803B	basketball	5/1 - 10/99	15	Cleveland	MSC4	MSC	open	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Heredia	PM71999804	youth ministries	7/9 - 18/99	90	Memphis	MSC6	MSC	open	Sam Wilson - (901) 458-0617
Michigan Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Marquette	UP-4	construction	open	1	Chatanooga	T-99-7	construction	3/7 - 3/12/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Oakland	O-1A	children's ministry	open	1-2	Knoxville	T-99-32	construction	3/20 - 9/30-99	Walter Taylor - (423) 693-9097
Kalamazoo	SC-2A	construction	open	open	Chatanooga	T-99-8	construction	3/21 - 3/26/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Adrian	L-1	construction	open	20	Benton	T-99-73	construction	5/30 - 8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 1-888-528-camp
Battle Creek	SC-3	construction	open	4-6	Benton	T-99-72	evangelism	5/30 - 8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 1-888-528-camp
East Jordan	N-1A	block party	open	open	Benton	T-99-74	evangelism	5/30 - 8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 1-888-528-camp
Vanderbilt	N-7	music	open	open	Fayette Assoc.	T-99-54	construction	June	Bob Campbell - (901) 854-6290
Roseville	M-1A	BYBC/block party	open	open	Jackson	T-99-58	construction	6/1 - 7/31/99	Carol Vaughan - (901) 668-5690
Bellaire/East Jordan	N-2A	youth ministry	open	1	Gatlinburg	T-99-34	resort	6/6 - 6/12/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Upsilant	H-1A	telephone survey	6/1 - 7/1/99	1	Elizabethton	T-99-19	VBS/BYBC	6/13 - 6/18/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Kalamazoo	SC-1A	VBS/BYBC	6/6 - 6/12/99	open	Cleveland	T-99-1	construction	6/13 - 6/19/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Southfield	SEM10	summer missions	6/10 - 8/12/99	20	Gatlinburg	T-99-35	resort	6/13 - 6/19/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Sault Ste Marie	UP-3	painting	7/18 - 7/25/99	5	Chatanooga	T-99-9	construction	6/13 - 6/19/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Grand Rapids	W-4	VBS/BYBC	7/18 - 7/24/99	10	Memphis	T-99-28	students	6/13 - 8/7/99	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Lansing	C-2	VBS/BYBC	7/19 - 7/23/99	1	Cleveland	T-99-2	construction	6/20 - 6/26/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Eaton Rapids	C-1	sports	7/26 - 7/30/99	15-30	Nashville	T-99-44	construction	6/20 - 6/26/99	Paul Morris - (615) 776-2266
Cadillac	N-3A	revival	10/3 - 10/9/99	4	Elizabethton	T-99-20	VBS/BYBC	6/20 - 6/26/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Gatlinburg	T-99-36	resort	6/20 - 6/26/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Chatanooga	T-99-10	construction	6/20 - 6/26/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Cleveland	T-99-3	construction	6/27 - 7/3/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Gatlinburg	T-99-37	resort	6/27 - 7/3/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Chatanooga	T-99-11	construction	6/27 - 7/3/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Elizabethton	T-99-21	VBS/BYBC	6/27 - 7/3/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Gatlinburg	T-99-38	resort	7/4 - 7/10/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Chatanooga	T-99-12	construction	7/4 - 7/10/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Elizabethton	T-99-22	VBS/BYBC	7/4 - 7/10/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Chatanooga	T-99-39	resort	7/11 - 7/17/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Cleveland	T-99-4	construction	7/11 - 7/17/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Elizabethton	T-99-23	VBS/BYBC	7/11 - 7/17/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Elizabethton	T-99-24	VBS/BYBC	7/18 - 7/24/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Cleveland	T-99-5	construction	7/18 - 7/24/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Chatanooga	T-99-14	camp	7/18 - 7/23/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Gatlinburg	T-99-40	resort	7/18 - 7/24/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Chatanooga	T-99-15	camp	7/25 - 7/31/99	Stan Braley - (423) 267-3794
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Gatlinburg	T-99-41	resort	7/25 - 7/31/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Cleveland	T-99-6	construction	7/25 - 7/31/99	Michelle McCluskey - (423) 476-5493
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Elizabethton	T-99-25	VBS/BYBC	7/25 - 7/31/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10	Elizabethton	T-99-15	camp	8/1 - 8/7/99	Becky Brumitt - (423) 547-2560
Portugal Projects					Tennessee Projects				
Portugal	EVN1999043	prayerwalking	open	four teams of 10	Memphis	T-99-31	special services	8/1/99	Tim Cox - (901) 458-0617
Lisbon	GEN1999042	MK camp	6/19 - 6/28/99	8	Gatlinburg	T-99-42	resort	8/1 - 8/7/99	Lori Fortner - (423) 436-0160
Portimao	EVN1998021	street ministry	8/1 - 8/14/99	10					

people

■ **First Church, Jacksboro**, ordained **Allen Wilson** as a deacon Oct. 25.

■ **Everett Hills Church, Maryville**, ordained **Kent Caughron, Mitch Law, David Wagner, and Marvin Wyatt** as deacons recently.

leaders

■ **Lynsol Richmond** of First Church, Waldron, Ark., has been called as pastor, Lenox Church, Lenox, effective Nov. 8.

■ **Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar**, called **Shannon Phillips** of First Church, Bethel Springs, as children/youth director, effective Nov. 1.

■ **Aldridge Church, Obion**, has called **Joe King** as pastor.

■ **Immanuel Church, Nashville**, has called **Phil Potratz** as minister of education, effective Jan. 1. He is minister of education, Crestwood Church, Crestwood, Ky., where he has served for six years. Potratz is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also served six years in Missouri.

■ **David W. Hull**, pastor, First Church, Knoxville, was honored Nov. 15 on his fifth anniversary of service there. Bill Coley, chairman of deacons, presented Hull and his family a gift certificate as a token of thanks from the members.

■ **First Church, Crossville**, has called **Faye Brandon** as interim music director.

■ **Green River Church, Waynesboro**, called **John Maxey** of Amory, Miss., as minister of youth and music, effective Nov. 8. Maxey is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss. He also served as a camp counselor and as summer youth director for two

Mississippi churches.

■ **Phillip and Kimberly Cain**, who were commissioned by the SBC International Mission Board as missionaries to Niger Republic, West Africa, this summer, have begun language school in Niger. Kimberly Cain is from Southeast Church, Murfreesboro, where her grandmother, Helen Campbell, is a member. The Cains can be reached at BP 42, Quallam, Niger Republic.

churches

■ **First Church, Bruce-ton**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary Dec. 13. Noel Edwards of Martin, who was pastor 1969-71 will speak during the morning worship service. Activities include a presentation of the church's history, recognition of former ministers, special music, and a luncheon.

■ **Prospect Church, Hol-low Rock**, held revival recently. As a result 10 people made professions of faith and one person made a commitment to serve in ministry. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of McKenzie, spoke.

■ **Sunswep Church, Union City**, is working to begin a Hispanic ministry. In a recent gathering five men made professions of faith.

■ **First Church, Hunter, Elizabethton**, will hold revival Nov. 29 - Dec. 2. Bill Stafford of Chattanooga will speak. For more information, contact the church at (423) 543-1381.

■ **Friendship Church, Rockwood**, raised \$2,200 at its first fall festival. The money will be used to help needy families in the community during the holidays.

■ **Hillhurst Church, Nashville**, will hold a concert by Square Parsons, recording artist, and the Squire Parsons



BEING BAPTIZED in a swimming pool of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Nov. 8. is Kelly Perry of Holston Church, Strawberry Plains. Because Perry is confined to a wheelchair, the church's baptistry wouldn't accommodate her so the school provided the use of the pool. She is assisted by, from left, Larry Young, pastor, Scott Rines, and Mark Harvey. About 100 people gathered for the baptism and evening service, which were held by the Olympic-sized pool. — Photo by Carson-Newman College

Trio Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

associations

■ During the recent annual meeting of **Holston Association** messengers accepted Calvary Memorial Church, Bluff City, under its watchcare program. The church is led by Avery Lynch, pastor. Also messengers voted to enter into dialogue with Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries concerning a closer relationship with the Baptist Student Union program at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. Other action included approval of a budget which is seven percent higher than last year's budget. One of the speakers was Randy Singer of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

■ The annual **Nashville Association** Christmas Toy Store will be held for the 47th year Dec. 7-11. Last year about 3,500 people received help from the store and about 50 people made spiritual decisions. Once again it will be held at Shelby Avenue Church, Nashville. For more information, contact the association at (615) 259-3034.

■ **Knox County Association** will hold an introductory session on Legacy Builders for men Dec. 5 at Sharon Church, Knoxville, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact the association at (423) 693-9097.

■ Senior adults are invited to a luncheon of **Riverside Association** Dec. 1 at the association's office at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the association at (931) 823-2612.

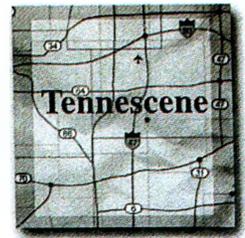
■ **Lawrence County Association** will hold a free seminar, "Preparing to Minister in

Times of Disaster," Dec. 5 at the Baptist Office from 8-11:30 a.m. It will try to help church members minister in times of disaster by being prepared themselves. Topics to be covered will be types of preparation for disaster and Y2K or millenium bug. Nathan Holloway of Rainy Day Consulting will lead the study. Register by Nov. 30 by calling (931) 852-4700 or contact Holloway at (931) 556-2040, or e-mail at nholloway@lorettotelnet.

■ **Bledsoe Association** will hold its annual Toy Store Dec. 4-5 at Academy Heights Church, Gallatin. Toys, gifts, and other household items should be delivered Nov. 29-30. Plans are to serve about 400 children. For more information, call the association at (615) 451-3241.

■ **McMinn-Meigs Association** joined a fight against the legalization of liquor by the drink in its area recently. The referendum was defeated once again and by a larger margin this time.

■ Messengers of **Giles County Association** held the annual meeting of the association Oct. 19-20. They dedicated the minutes to the late **Robert Earl Wilsford**, director of mis-



sions for 25 years from 1956-81.

■ Messengers attending the annual meeting of **Knox County Association** recently voted to accept six churches into its watchcare program. The churches are WestLake, Larry McCrary, pastor; New Mount Calvary, Reginald Butler, pastor; True Vine, Cecil Clark, pastor; Greater Bush Grove, Charles McAfee, pastor; New Start, Mike Weesner, pastor; New Victory, Gene Merritt, pastor. Messengers also honored the following staff for 10 years of service — **Richard Lewelling**, director, Montgomery Village Baptist Center; **Mary Ellen Cooper**, financial secretary; and **Millie Badgett**, receptionist and secretary. They also recognized **Janice Cunningham**, reservations secretary, for five years of service.

school

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold the monthly meeting of the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference Dec. 1 at 10:45 a.m. in the Harvey Lecture Hall. The West Tennessee Ministers of Music will perform. For more information, contact Joanna Moore at (901) 661-5162.

national event

■ Directors of the True Love Waits program of **Life-Way Christian Resources** in Nashville have endorsed the film, "Pamela's Prayer." For more information contact Dave Christiano Films at (870) 972-4733, e-mail at info@Christian-Films.com.



ELECTED to lead Holston Association during the next year were Chris Ward, left, pastor, Ninth Street Church, Erwin, moderator; and Jon Rogers, associate pastor, Cherry Grove Church, Jonesborough, assistant moderator. The men were elected at the recent annual meeting of the association.



PAUSING during a groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 8 are members of Chapel Hill Church, Milan. The congregation will build an addition which will include 10 classrooms, additional restrooms, and storage.



An Open Letter to Tennessee Baptists,

Carson-Newman was founded to be and remains to be your Baptist institution of higher education in East Tennessee.

As you have probably heard, a majority of voting messengers at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention chose to escrow the Cooperative Program gifts that Carson-Newman was to receive this year. Last spring our trustees voted to amend C-N's charter to provide a stable and secure future for the college and free the institution from denominational controversy. This action, which was made after much prayer and consideration by our dedicated leaders, ensures that Carson-Newman will remain a Baptist institution that seeks to provide excellent learning with a decidedly Christian perspective.

We are so grateful for the loyalty expressed from so many of our alumni and friends. Such demonstrations of love have given us encouragement in recent days. Your interest and partnership will be needed more than ever in the coming months and years. Please know that our sole motivation has been to preserve our Baptist heritage and Christian values for future generations of students who desire the kind of education that so many people have received here. Our ultimate concern has been and will be our students.

While we regret the recent action by the Convention, we are proud of our trustees' courageous leadership and their commitment that C-N will serve all Baptists. We have confidence that our Carson-Newman family will understand and appreciate the integrity demonstrated by our board when some \$2.2 million hung in the balance. While those funds have been withheld by the Convention's action, we nonetheless believe that God has ordained and will protect this institution.

We ask for your prayers and support for Carson-Newman. With God's provision and leadership, and with the stewardship of committed trustees, administrators, and professors, Carson-Newman will maintain the course it has followed for a century-and-a-half.

*If you have questions or comments, please write us at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN 37760, or email us at comment@cncadmnt.cn.edu.
May God bless and keep you.*

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cordell Maddox.

*Cordell Maddox,
President,
Carson-Newman College*

Handwritten signature of Jeanette D. Blazier.

*Jeanette Blazier
Chair,
Carson-Newman College's Board of Trustees*

For Tennessee Baptists to come to Rio

Product of partnerships missions offers invitation

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — When she was introduced to Tennessee Baptists recently during the TBC annual meeting here, Cristina Mel almost bounded to the stage. As she greeted the audience, she admitted she had been shopping that afternoon. She reached into a shopping bag, pulled out an orange sweater, pulled it on over her black blouse — and shouted, "Go, Vols!" She had captured Tennessee Baptists. (She didn't realize that fans of some other schools might want equal time.)

She would give a testimony for Partnership Missions.

She's often called "the Amy Grant of Brazil," but she is more than that. Cristina Mel is not disturbed about the comparison — she says she is flattered. But Mel has captured the hearts of listeners far beyond the borders of South America's largest country. In her homeland, she is queen of Christian music. And she is awed by that, in fact, she doesn't know how it happened.

Except, she says, God has blessed her with a unique kind of voice, a voice without training. But that sometimes sultry, always sensitive, strong voice "gets the job done." She's been

asked scores of times why she doesn't turn to secular music fulltime. "The answer to that question is easy," she says. "I have a message to tell, and I'm singing for the Lord. He always has been so good to me!"

There is contagious joy when Cristina smiles, and when she talks about that message — and when she sings. Listeners can easily perceive that she enjoys both. In fact, the message has great audience appeal when it is wrapped up in her songs.

During the recent annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Mel co-hosted the information booth for the convention's Partnership Missions ministry. And, during the closing session, she "set the stage" with a concert prior to the powerful evangelistic sermon of Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rio de Janeiro, and president of the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio. (Tennessee Baptists are in a three-year partnership with Carioca Baptists.)

As she explains her life in Christ — and the success she's having in Christian music, Cristina Mel admits life has not always been easy or good to her. She grew up in a home that always had "sadness and anger," where love was not



CRISTINA MEL delights messengers at the TBC annual meeting in Kingsport.

present. "Our parents were always fighting and my father beat my mother. Drinking was a big problem. My mother was into spiritism. My little brother and I had no chance for happiness that way," Mel adds. She says she was an angry child, and hated her family. She had no friends and was ashamed of her home life and kept it secret.

After her parents divorced she was bitter and contemplated suicide but "God didn't let me succeed."

A turning point in her life came when a young Christian friend invited her to practice

English when she was 16. Her mother had taken Cristina and her brother to a new area. "I didn't realize that something great was about to happen. When I went with my friend to her home, a group called Continental Singers and Orchestra was visiting Rio. They were practicing at the house. I visited with them.

"I felt peace and a family feeling. These people were smiling and happy. The group sang that evening at a Baptist school and a preacher from the United States gave a moment of invitation to accept Christ," Mel says, wiping a tear from her eye, "and that was the first time anyone had prayed for me!"

"I realized I must go forward, God pushed me forward. That preacher was speaking to me, only to me. I heard a new story, about the King of kings born in a manger long ago, who lived to be a man, and who died on the cross for me. He died for me! I knew I could pray to God! And I knew that somebody loves me. I have a friend, a father. He saved my life, my soul. That dear preacher said to me, 'You have no idea what God will do for you.' He was right."

She says with deep emotion, "So you see, I am a product of partnership missions. Because you came to Rio, I am a Christ-



ian and Christ saved my soul! Because you were there, I heard the Gospel story for the first time."

Remembering the night when she gave her life to Christ 18 years ago, Mel says if that had not happened, she knows she would have tried suicide again — and would not have failed. "Never give up on Jesus," she says. "The people that helped me so much then, did not know how Christ would use me, nor how many people I would help through my songs.

"Go to Brazil, Tennessee Baptists, just go. We never want to hear Jesus say, 'Why didn't you go to Rio and tell people about me?' You don't have to be a preacher or singer, just go. He will show you what to say and do."

Cristina Mel reached out to Tennessee Baptists, especially in one of her songs — "Don't let me stay just warm. Lord, keep the flame burning in my heart." That's good advice from a captivating singer with a story to tell, who sings about Christ in stadiums, schools, city squares and streets, and churches — a message of the ages for all ages. ■

Among Tennessee Baptists

Center to emphasize discipleship, laity training

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists' new Center for Discipleship and Laity Development will take training to a different level in 1999, according to Jerry Chapman.

The center is a new and different educational plan to help church staff and key lay leaders, explained Chapman, discipleship coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"In the past, Discipleship Training has been program centered," he noted.

The Center for Discipleship and Laity Development "broadens the spectrum of discipleship and colors outside the program lines," he said. "It is a new approach to discipleship."

The center offers two tracks — discipleship and laity development.

Through a series of discipleship conferences and seminars in 1999, the center will attempt to assist leaders to become more aware of discipleship ministries that can help grow and equip people while providing "cutting-edge" training.

He noted the issue is not whether to have discipleship in the church, but rather

how discipleship will be done.

"The church has a mandate to make disciples," Chapman said.

In the area of laity development, training will be offered to help laity "become the priests God wants them to be" and to develop their skills to become better leaders, Chapman said.

He cited Ephesians 4:12 which talks about "equipping the saints" for ministry. "We are trying to emphasize the layperson and his or her role in the local church," Chapman added.

Numerous training opportunities already are slated for 1999, he noted.

Though the center is provided through the TBC Executive Board's Christian Growth Development Group, other groups are involved in various training projects, Chapman said.

Events include:

► "Reached for Christ ... Now What?" — Jan. 19, 3-5 p.m.; Judson Church, Nashville; leader, Jerry Chapman

► "Discipleship 2000 Forum" — Jan. 26, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (at each location), Baptist Center, Brentwood; Jan. 28, Englewood Church, Jackson; Feb. 8, Tri-Cities Church, Johnson City; Feb. 9, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville; and Feb. 11, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga

► "Mobilizing God's Servants Now! An Experience for Deacons" — Feb. 19-20, Friday meal, 6 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., First Church, Concord,

Knoxville; Friday speaker: Jerry Tidwell; Saturday leaders: Larry Garner, John Temple

► "S.E.R.V.A.N.T Life: Developing Lay Leaders" — Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (at each location), Ridgeway Church, Memphis; March 13, Baptist Center, Brentwood; March 20, First Church, Morristown

► "Change Leaders in Ministry: Shaping the Mountain of Change" — March 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (at each location), First Church, Lexington; April 10, First Church, Goodlettsville; and May 22, Sevier County Association office building; leader, Lloyd Elder

► "Our Christian Hope: Bible Answers to Questions about the Future 1999 Adult Baptist Doctrine Study" — April 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (at each location), First Church, Jackson; April 6, Baptist Center, Brentwood; April 7, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; David Dockery, leader

► "De-Stress-O Expresso" — April 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Forest Hills Church, Nashville; Barbara McDougal, leader

► "Understanding Our Times: Change and the Generations" — April 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (each location), West Jackson Church, Jackson; May 1, First Church, Morristown; and June 26, East Ridge Church, Chattanooga

For more information on any of these events, including costs, call Chapman at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932. ■

Skidmore accepts TBC staff position

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Richard Skidmore, director of missions for Weakley County Association since 1982, will join the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, effective Dec. 1.

Skidmore, a native of Lincoln County, Ky., will serve as the church ministers financial support and single church staff leadership specialist in the Church Staff Leadership Group. He will be the primary liaison for the SBC Annuity Board.

He has been pastor of churches in Kentucky and Temple Church, Paris, from 1975-77. He is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist College, Pineville, Ky., and Bethel College, McKenzie.

Skidmore and his wife, Sheila, have two daughters—Tracy Hunter and Trisha Hathcock. ■



SKIDMORE



CHAPMAN

In Central America

IMB trustees approve \$1 million for relief work

By Louis Moore
For Baptist Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — International Mission Board trustees, meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nov. 16-18, approved spending \$1 million from the board's operating reserves for special hurricane relief efforts in Central America.

Trustees also adopted the largest budget in IMB history, tabled until January a convention-requested discussion on the board's policy on not appointing divorced people as missionaries, appointed 90 new missionaries — the largest such group ever — and heard a challenge from Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson to baptize 500,000 people overseas in 2000.

The IMB normally taps relief funds for responses to hurricane damage, but unprecedented disasters in Bangladesh, the Caribbean, and Central America have nearly depleted those resources. Relief funds for disasters are separate from world hunger funds, which are used for hunger-related relief only.

Months of flooding in

Bangladesh inundated three-quarters of the country, killed more than 1,500 people, left millions homeless and badly damaged the economy. Hurricane Georges killed 437 people in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in September. The October disaster in Central America killed at least 11,000 people, forced about 3 million from their homes and devastated agriculture and business in the region.

As of Nov. 12, the board's disaster relief fund was down to \$21,773.54 — woefully inadequate to the challenges ahead.

Trustees viewed an IMB-produced video focusing on the devastation in Honduras, which was particularly hard-hit by the disaster. On the video, IMB missionaries say the hurricane's damage has created unprecedented needs but also unprecedented opportunity to share the Gospel with the unsaved in the region.

The video was shown Nov. 17 at an appointment service for 90 new Southern Baptist missionaries — the largest

ever appointed in a single service. The service was held in conjunction with the Florida Baptist Convention.

Trustees tabled until their January meeting a motion to reaffirm the board policy of not appointing divorced people as career or associate missionaries. Those wanting the delay said they needed more time to pray and study the matter before engaging in formal debate.

The tabled recommendation said, "In response to the request from the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June 1998, that the IMB restudy its policy regarding the appointment of divorced persons, the Personnel Committee recommends that the board reaffirm its current policy of allowing divorced persons to serve only through its ISC

program." ISC provides short-term service opportunities usually ranging from four months to two years.

Trustees also approved the largest annual IMB budget ever. The 1999 budget of \$229,961,000 includes a \$19.2 million increase over 1998. IMB Vice President for Finance Carl Johnson said the increase is possible because Cooperative

Program funds, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and board investments are also rising. The budget includes salary increases for both missionaries and staff as well as future staff and missionary expansion. ■



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MINISTER: Music and youth minister, Crockett County, Tenn., church, 200 plus. Emphasis on children and youth activities, children, youth, and adult choirs. Mail resume FBC, 147 West Church Street, Alamo, TN 38001, Attn: Sandra Maddux.

PHOTOS: Cullendale First Baptist Church needs pictures of former pastors Joe Stiles, L.G. Mosley, Paul Aiken, and J.B. Maxwell. Any information may be sent to P.O. Box 2087, Camden, AR 71701.

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Job well done

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 6:15-16; 12:27-31, 38a, 40-41a, 43, 44-47

Nehemiah faced immense persecution from the surrounding leaders, and he had to deal with much discouragement in his own camp; nevertheless, the sixth chapter of Nehemiah tells of the completion of the wall around Jerusalem. It took the Israelites six months to finish the job. The wall represented protection from neighboring enemies, growing national confidence, an increase in national stability.

Above all else, the wall represented the rewards for being obedient to Yahweh. Verse 16 of chapter six points out the neighboring nations realized that it was God who had equipped the Jews to perform such a tremendous feat in only six months. This is a fantastic example of how (as *Experiencing God* puts it) a "God-sized" task brings glory to God. Everyone who was witness to this monumental endeavor must have realized that it could not have been completed without the supernatural assistance of the Lord.

It is in chapter 12 that we find the actual dedication of the wall. Nehemiah calls in the Levites from the surrounding cities to join in the celebration. In verse 27, the words that are translated gladness and thanksgiving are Hebrew words that strongly suggest communal worship and singing directed toward God in praise for what he has done. Nehemiah knew who the hero of this story was — the Lord.

Samuel Morse received many honors from his invention of the telegraph but felt undeserving: "I have made a valuable application of electricity not because I was superior to other men but solely because God, who meant it for mankind, must reveal it to someone and he was pleased to reveal it to me." Nehemiah understood that the praise and celebration was to be directed toward God.

In chapter 12:43, the Bible states that they celebrated with such enthusiasm that their praise could be heard "afar off." I am afraid that many people often abuse the word "reverence" in respect to worship. Is reverence to God only found in a solemn worship setting? The Israelites were so thankful to God for equipping them to rebuild the wall that their praise could be heard by neighboring cities. I'm not suggesting that all worship has to be so loud that your neighbors can hear it, but I am suggesting that it does not necessarily dissolve reverence for worship to be pronounced.

Finally, Nehemiah built upon the success of the completed wall. When you see God perform a great work it's not time to sit down and bask in the enjoyment of the completed task. Instead, this is the time to use that momentum to drive you to the next level. After the wall was completed, Nehemiah began strengthening the religious practices.

In verses 44-47 Nehemiah is seen appointing administrators and securing a means by which to gather the offerings of the people. The offerings were essential in order for the priests and Levites to perform their duties. After witnessing the hand of God at work in the construction of the wall around Jerusalem, the people had a joyous attitude when it came to the giving of their first fruits and offerings. Could it be that many churches today want to talk about what God did years ago and, tragically, haven't seen God at work in a long time? I think this account demonstrates that when people see God at work, it positively affects their attitude about giving. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.



DENNING

Renewal and worship

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 8:13-9:3

This week's lesson finds the people of God under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra in the restoration of the homeland. Nehemiah headed up the physical restoration of the wall around Jerusalem and the temple. Ezra was a scribe who was able to read the word of God and provide interpretation and understanding. God was busy, not only restoring the physical nature of a nation, but restoring the spiritual soul of the nation as well. Another important factor is that God was speaking through the prophets and his written word. It is important because he is still using this method today. We have his messengers, preachers, and teachers, who speak as the Spirit leads them, and, we have God's Word. As we look how the people responded, we can learn something that we could use in our own spiritual growth and restoration.

Family Bible Lesson

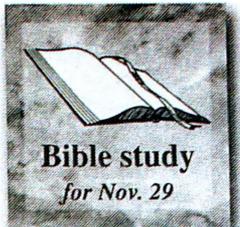
Reading the Law (vv. 1-12). It had been a long time since the people had heard the Word of God. The fact that most of all the educated had been taken into exile left a severe deficiency in the area of teaching and the ability to read. Ezra led the second group of people back to Jerusalem. The temple had been completed, but the wall was still in shambles. Nehemiah led the third group back and finished the restoration of the walls. Ezra was a scholar. He was fluent in reading and translation of the Hebrew text into Aramaic. The people had asked that he read God's Word and translate its meaning to them. When the people heard how far they were from where God wanted them to be they became heavy hearted. God speaking through the prophets admonished them not to weep, but instead, begin immediately to obey what God had revealed. They realized they were no where near where they

were supposed to be. The initial reaction was sorrow and grief. However, the people were encouraged not to weep, but to rejoice. As we fall under the conviction of the Holy Spirit through God's Word we too feel sorrowful and pain. We respond with tears and a spirit of defeat. The words of the prophets indicated a proper response. First, they were to express joy in finding understanding. Then, they should begin immediately to obey the Word of God. God will forgive our mistakes of the past, but he demands accountability for the future.

Observing the Feast of Booths (vv. 13-18). The people had discovered that there were several feast practices that had not been observed for a long time. One of which was the Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles. This festival had a dual purpose in the life of the people of God. It reminded them of how God delivered them from Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness. It also had current significance to them because they saw that God had again delivered them from the Babylonians.

Confessing sins (ch. 9:1-38). Reading God's Word always reveals areas that need to be changed. The people of Israel discovered things about themselves that convicted them. Their response was to humble themselves before God and ask for forgiveness. As we begin to study seriously the Word of God, we too will discover sins in our life. Our response should be one of repentance as we ask God to forgive us.

The Word of God then helps us to understand what it is that God expects and desires. It gives insight in the way we are to live and provides answers to life's difficult questions. It helps us understand things about ourselves and illuminates sins in our lives which we need to confess and seek God's forgiveness. We are then able to worship in truth and in spirit. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.



NIMMO

Foundations for a new beginning

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 32:1-4, 30-34; 34:6-7

There are occasions when our need to blame God for life's difficulties causes us to be bitter toward church and church people. Our anger toward God is translated into cries of "boring sermons," "poorly taught Sunday School lessons," "It's not like it used to be," and "No one reaches out to me." All the above may be true, but first we must determine how much we have contributed to it.

We must not give up on God because we experience a drought of spiritual zest. If we are faithful, there will come a time when salvation's joy will return. Songs will sound like we wrote them. Sermons will be like letters mailed to our spiritual address. Bible study will be autographed by God with our names in bold print. Monotony will give rise to spontaneity, joy will replace depression, and God will be alive in our lives. This does not mean the valley will never return; but when it does, we can anticipate another journey to the mountain.

Israel was mad at God. They took out their frustration on Moses, their absent leader. They used Aaron to make them another god. Their fickle faith was dependent on the encouragement of Moses. They constantly needed signs and miracles to assure them of God's presence. The absence

Explore the Bible Lesson

of their religious pacifiers caused them to rebel.

Ironically, Aaron took the gold required for the place of Yahweh worship and made a golden calf. Most likely, it was a young male bull, which symbolized vigor, strength, and reproductive potency in the ancient world. The action was a violation of the first two commandments and revealed the fragile commitment Israel had toward the God who had rescued them from Egypt.

God clearly forbade them to make a graven image or any kind of substitute for his presence. Here is a message for our day. It is easy to substitute the vehicles of our religion for God. We can make "graven images" out of our most important spiritual documents and procedures if they become bigger than God in our own minds.

Moses was distressed with Israel's activity. He verbally chastised them for their great sin. More than anyone else, Moses saw the far-reaching im-

plications of their iniquity. Therefore, he went up to God to intercede on behalf of his rebellious congregation. He sought to make atonement for their sin. In fact, he offered to give up his own special place with God if such an act could save his people. This kind of offer indicated the seriousness with which Moses took the golden calf episode.

God's response seemed to be a combination of judgment and grace. God would blot from his book those who had participated in spiritual treason. He would cut them off from his fellowship. Yet, on the other hand, he challenged Moses to lead the people onward. Although God sent a plague upon them, he wanted his project with Israel to progress. God's judgment would come according to God's timing, but in the meantime, the journey must go on.

In Exodus 34 God renewed the covenant with his people. The accent of these verses is upon the compassionate nature of God. The people did not deserve God's mercy, yet he defined himself as one who forgave sin. Lest the people grow careless, however, he made it clear that he would not tolerate iniquity, but would punish it for three or four generations. Whatever grace God expressed did not negate the fact that Israel was not to make any graven images. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.



METCALF



N.C. Baptists speak out against alcohol sales at Wake Forest

Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — While stopping short of severing its ties with Wake Forest University despite the school's sale of alcohol on campus, North Carolina Baptists voted during its annual meeting to affirm "all North Carolina colleges and universities that prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages on campus ..."

Last year the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina directed the denomination's Council on Christian Higher Education to study the convention's "fraternal relationship" with the school "in light of the university's continued sale of alcoholic beverage on campus" and to express displeasure with the university's decision.

Under the "fraternal relationship," Wake Forest does not receive any Cooperative Program funds from the state convention and elects its own trustees. The school gives more than \$453,000 in scholarships for N.C. Baptist students and partners with the state convention to pay the salary of the Baptist campus minister and the director of the Baptist Historical Collection housed in the university's library.

The study committee said it was their hope Wake Forest would "reconsider the wisdom of its decision to sell beverage

S.C. Baptists oppose gambling, move to strengthen families

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Baptists voiced their opposition to gambling, approved their largest budget increase in at least a decade, and elected local pastor Dick Lincoln of Shandon Church as president during their Nov. 10-11 meeting here.

The 1,449 messengers also extended their partnership with West Virginia Baptists and adopted a resolution to strengthen marriages.

Messengers called upon public officials to "renounce all forms of legalized gambling" and adopted a resolution urging churches and pastors "to join hands in taking a proactive role in preparing couples for marriage, strengthening all marriage relationships, and supporting parents in building strong families in our churches and communities."

The 1999 budget of \$27.75 million is an increase of \$2 million or 7.76 percent over last year. ■

Reasons for choosing a church vary by demographics, Barna study reveals

By Marv Knox
For Associated Baptist Press

VENTURA, Calif. — Age, education, and marital status make a difference in how Americans choose churches, religion researcher George Barna has discovered.

Barna's new study of how Americans decide where to go to church cross-referenced 22 church-selection factors according to several demographic components. They include:

► Age. Baby Busters care less about the quality of adult Sunday School and the quality of worship music.

Baby Boomers are less in-

terested in ministries to the disadvantaged, convenience of worship times, quality of music, comfort of the sanctuary, and ease of parking.

Builders, adults in their 50s and 60s, show the most concern about theology and doctrine, worship music, and the importance of attending church with good friends.

► Education. People who did not attend college are more interested than college graduates in quality of children's programs and the type and quality of worship music, quality of adult Sunday School, and convenience factors such as worship times, ease of parking,

and comfort of worship facilities.

College graduates also notably are less concerned about how much church members seem to care about each other and the quality of the pastor's sermons.

► Marriage. Single adults show greater care for factors such as the style of worship music, the amount of music used in worship, and ease of parking than their married counterparts.

Unmarried adults care less than married adults about theology and doctrine as well as how much people in the church care about each other. ■

alcohol on campus. Until such time we hope that N.C. Baptists and the university can continue to work together educating students and celebrating the good born out of our continuing relationship."

In other business, N.C. Baptists approved a fourth giving plan to the state's CP funding options, passed a constitutional amendment to allow smaller churches which give a large percentage of its budget to the state convention more representation at the annual meeting, approved a \$32.5 million budget, and re-elected Mac Brunson, a High Point pastor, as president. ■

grant to the seminary last month to be applied to the construction of the \$9 million second phase of the complex. The seminary now has \$6 million in pledges for this project.

The grant is contingent upon Southwestern raising the remaining funds by Oct. 1, 1999. ■

Virginia Baptists celebrate 175 years

Baptist Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Messengers to this year's Baptist General Association of Virginia marked 175 years of ministry in a quiet meeting that included the election of four officers without opposition and the adoption of a \$15 million budget for 1999.

The 1,772 messengers recalled the BGAV's organization in 1823, while celebrating its continued involvement in mission and ministry.

A layman — Gene Watson of Farmville — was elected president of the convention by acclamation. ■

Arkansas Baptists celebrate 150 years

Baptist Press

ARCADELPHIA, Ark. — Arkansas Baptists celebrated their 150th anniversary as a state convention, agreed to pray for President Bill Clinton, and adopted a detailed trustee selection process during their 1998 state convention annual meeting Nov. 3-4.

Messengers participated in a two-hour anniversary celebration which featured a dramatic and historical recap of the convention's highlights and storms, personalities and lead-

ers, hopes of the past, and dreams for the future.

The resolution about Clinton called on Arkansas Baptists to pray for the president as he "faces the challenge of rebuilding his character" in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal.

Following two years of ups and downs, messengers adopted a trustee selection process to guide the work of the state convention nominating committee.

The process calls for nominations to be secured from Arkansas Baptists at-large followed by a nominating committee meeting "with a subcommittee of no more than five persons from the board of each Arkansas Baptist State Convention entity" to "compile a list of potential nominees equal to two times the number of vacancies to be filled."

Greg Kirksey was re-elected for a second term as president although he was challenged by Barry King, a Heber Springs pastor. Kirksey was re-elected by a vote of 569 to 149. ■

Dakota Fellowship calls new leader

Baptist Press

PIEDMONT, S.D. — W.D. "Doc" Lindsey began serving Nov. 1 as executive director/missions director for the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Lindsey, 55, has been state missions/evangelism director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention since 1994. He is a career home missionary, having served not only in Minnesota-Wisconsin, but also in Michigan and California. He also has been a pastor in Illinois.

The Arkansas native and his wife, Holly, have two sons. ■

Missionary dies of heart attack

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Mary Ann Chandler, a Southern Baptist missionary to Malawi, died of a heart attack Nov. 9 here. She was 54.

A native of Alabama, Chandler was appointed as a missionary to Malawi in 1970 by the SBC International Mission Board. She was placed on medical disability this year. ■

SWBTS receives \$1 million challenge

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Ralph M. Smith Leadership Development Complex at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is getting a million-dollar boost from a foundation that has contributed to numerous building projects on campus.

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., issued a \$1 million challenge



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