

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

Volume 164 / Number 4

Statewide Edition

January 27, 1999

this week's news

- ▶ Union University audience hears Sen. Frist. — Page 2
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- ▶ NAMB targets Super Bowl fans. — Page 4

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## Tennessee Baptists exhorted to share Gospel

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptists were challenged and encouraged to "Mobilize the Saints" in order to share the Good News of Jesus Christ across Tennessee and the world.

Nearly 1,000 people attended the two-day State Evangelism Conference held Jan. 18-19 at Judson Church here.

The conference received a boost of inspiration from Pastor Jonanias Soares de Menezes of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who challenged those attending the opening session of the conference to help Rio's Carioa Baptist Convention with its massive evangelism thrust which begins May 23.

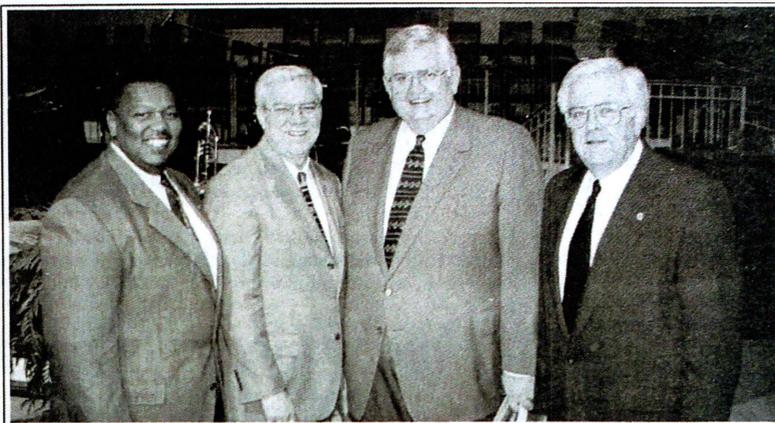
"Right now, we have 76,000 Rio Baptists from 350 churches praying for 500,000 people in our city who need Jesus Christ. Before the crusade in May, we will have visited every one of the homes represented by those half million people.

"Please, decide right now that you will be a part of this great effort to share the Gospel of Christ."

### Opening session

First speaker for the conference was D.L. Lowrie, former TBC executive director who now is pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. Lowrie also spoke twice on Tuesday with his messages interpreting the conference theme.

Choosing Christ's encounter with Zaccheus as told in Luke 19, Lowrie reminded his audience that, "We are better at going to evangelism conferences than we are at knocking on doors." He said that most of us stand at a distance from evangelism, reluctant, but Jesus broke the rules of his day. The onlookers thought that it was



**DURING THE** State Evangelism Conference held Jan. 18-19 at Judson Church, Nashville. Ken Weathersby presided over his last evangelism conference for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Weathersby leaves at the end of the month to accept a position at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. With Weathersby, on far left, are conference speakers D.L. Lowrie, pastor, First Church, Lubbock, Texas; Bob Pittman, pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis; and James Porch, TBC executive director.

unacceptable, not of God, to associate with the tax collector — whom they classified as a sinner.

They had taken him off their prospect list, Lowrie said, but in spite of that he had become rich. "When Jesus called him from the sycamore tree, ate in his home, and spent the day with him — it was a forever day in the life of Zaccheus," Lowrie said, "and Jesus told the scoffers that the Son of Man had come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Lowrie said the key word, lost, is the heart of evangelism. Zaccheus was lost, separated from God.

Zaccheus was lost because of his own

choice, the Texas pastor said. God did not lose him.

He said that in modern society no one seems to be responsible for anything. Blame is always put on someone else, or some other event. Death does not initiate perishing. Those who are lost without Christ are perishing now, he said. He added that if somebody is lost, the method of witness doesn't matter. The saints need to be mobilized to seek them and bring them to the Savior.

The Great Shepherd reaches out and nudges us to seek the lost, Lowrie said, and "he is still seeking through us."

— See Tennessee, page 3

## Baptists help tornado victims in Jackson

By Andrea Aldridge  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — David Williams and his wife, Regina, lost everything the family owned in a tornado that ripped through the Westover Road area on Jan. 18.

Despite all this, the couple continually gave volunteers a smile, followed by the simple words, "God bless y'all," as they accepted food and clothing Southern Baptists had donated to Madison-Chester Association.

The Williams' and other

storm victims in Madison County continually thanked Tennessee Baptists as volunteers from churches across the state poured into the community.

"Most of the people in the city have been so good," Mrs. Williams said. "It could have been so much worse, but God will have his way even in a whirlwind."

Carol Vaughn, director of community ministries at Madison-Chester Association, noted "everyone is devastated and overwhelmed."

Vaughn and Conroy Ryan, associate director of missions, coordinated teams to help with initial clean up of debris and to distribute clothing and food collected at the associational office.

— See Baptists, page 4

## Clarksville tornado prompts local, state response

By Marcia Knox & Connie Davis  
For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Concord Association Disaster Relief Feeding Unit volunteers and members of Hilldale Church here have provided 1,450 meals for tornado victims as of press time Monday, Jan. 25.

The meals are being delivered by American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles, according to Tim Bearden, TBC state Disaster Relief director.

In addition, Hilldale members served 1,500 meals before Disaster Relief workers — See Clarksville, page 2

## Disaster Relief volunteers serve

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — About 30 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have worked in food preparation at Woodlawn Church here since the operation began Jan. 20. As of noon on Jan. 25, more than 8,250 meals had been served. The volunteers are operating the Hardeman County Disaster Relief Feeding Unit.

No more help is needed except financial help. That can be sent to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

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# Clarksville tornado prompts local, state ...

— Continued from page 1  
arrived on Saturday and based their operation at Hilldale. Additionally, the church has served as a site for relief items for the American Red Cross, reported Verlon Moore, pastor.

The tornado struck early Friday morning, roaring through the downtown area of Clarksville. It destroyed 148 businesses and homes and damaged 562 businesses and homes.

Remarkably no one was killed by the storm here, but one death was reported in Big Sandy, Benton County. At one point TEMA reported over 24,000 homes and businesses without power.

A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Assessment Team was on-site Friday morning in

Clarksville, composed of Don Davis, member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, and Bob Stephenson, member of First Church, Hendersonville.

"They're not kidding when they say it looks like a bomb went off in downtown Clarksville," said Davis, adding the disaster affected more businesses than homes.

The Concord Association Feeding Unit began preparing meals Saturday, Jan. 23, at Hilldale Church. The association is based in Murfreesboro. Helping Bearden coordinate the effort has been Larry Triplett, a member of First Church, Concord.

Hilldale Church served sandwiches on Friday and Saturday until noon because members saw a need and because they had a supply of food

to access, explained Moore. Then companies started giving them food.

Some of the companies, like Wal-Mart in Clarksville, gave the church food because they lost electrical power and the church had not. Companies in the Middle Tennessee area gave food to help tornado victims. And other companies brought food because the church had been identified as a site for relief items.

About 75 families have visited the church's gym, which has been transformed into a food warehouse, described Moore, for help.

Several hundred members from Hilldale had served in the Disaster Relief efforts as of press time on Monday, reported Moore. Some even slept at the church on Monday night so

they could begin work early Monday morning.

At one point, Moore observed, state, association, and local Baptists entities were in cooperation when volunteers from out-of-town used the association's facilities to take showers.

The church will continue to help residents as long as they need it, said Moore.

Bearden praised Hilldale's members. "The church and its members are truly a lighthouse for the Kingdom of God," Bearden said.

Around 55-75 tornadoes reportedly roared through Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas all day last Friday. They were followed by severe thunderstorms which also resulted in flash flooding across the three states. *B&R*

## Union University program targets racial reconciliation

By Nedra Kanavel  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Addressing a Martin Luther King Day worship event at Union University, U.S. Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., urged his listeners to "live up to the promise of freedom" that King represented.

The Union event took place just 24 hours after a series of tornadoes shook West Tennessee on what Frist termed "a difficult day for many Tennesseans." As a result, the Monday evening program became not only a celebration of King, but also a community prayer service for the storm-torn city.

Frist described his day of activities surveying the area damage with Gov. Don Sundquist and other officials. He expressed appreciation for hundreds of volunteers who are helping local families and stressed that such aid was in the best spirit of Dr. King's legacy of service.

"We face devastation but out of that devastation can come hope and great purpose for tomorrow," Frist said.

Union President David S. Dockery told several hundred in attendance that "reconciliation is the theme of the vision of Martin Luther King Jr."

Stressing the need for Christians to reach across

racial barriers, Dockery insisted: "Three decades after King's death, we treasure his legacy and take up his challenge to seek the reconciliation of God's people."

The Union-sponsored program, entitled "Reconciled Together," grew out of Dockery's participation last year in a gathering at the Carter Center in Atlanta. At the invitation of former President Jimmy Carter, six white presidents of Christian colleges met with six presidents of historically black colleges to discuss ways that higher education could aid in the task of racial reconciliation.

One of the ideas discussed,

Dockery said, was the need for white Christians to take seriously the significance of the King holiday for the African American community.

"The black college presidents stressed to us that we should celebrate King's memory not by taking the day off but through some type of community service or worship event," Dockery noted.

"This community worship service was a culmination of that concern, and will be accompanied by the efforts of many Union faculty, staff, and students who are serving as disaster volunteers or who are contributing much needed supplies for the relief effort." ■

## Tennessee RA Congress set for April 1-3

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 1999 Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress will be held April 1-3, at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

This 45th Annual RA Congress is open to boys and girls, young men and young women, and their leaders who are participants in MissionKids, EZRAs, and RAs including Lads, Crusaders, and Challengers.

Sponsored by the TBC Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Congress is the statewide convention and competition for all RA chapters in Tennessee Baptist churches.

This year's special guest is "The Amazing Nathan Dorrell," a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student who juggles, rides unicycles, and walks on stilts for the Lord.

Dorrell will appear during the Friday night worship session and the Saturday morning worship session.

During Congress, RAs attend mission conferences, mission events, and worship services. RA chapters, leaders, and indi-

vidual members are able to compete for awards in various competitions.

A special Congress Missions Offering is raised through the 5K Walk/Run and MissionsCarnival. The Missions Offering is given to a Tennessee Baptist ministry project.

RA Congress also recognizes RA chapters, leaders, and participants for exceptional work each year.

A five-year Tennessee RA Congress New Information Packet on events and competitions is available for RA leaders who would like to bring their RA chapters to Congress. In addition to the five-year Congress packet, there is a yearly revised Congress Supplement which contains current Congress registration forms and information.

To receive Congress and RA program information contact:

Bob Davison or Carol Davidson by calling (615) 371-2025 or 1-800-558-2090; or write to Baptist Men's Ministries, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

## Baptist and Reflector e-mail address changes

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Baptist and Reflector has a new e-mail address.

The old CompuServe account is no longer in effect. Any e-mail sent to that address in the past few weeks should be resent to the new address. The account was inadvertently closed a few weeks early.

General e-mail or e-mail intended specifically for Editor Lonnie Wilkey can be sent to lwilkey@tnbaptist.org.

Mail also can be sent directly to B&R staff members:

Connie Davis — cdavis@tnbaptist.org  
Susie Edwards — sedwards@tnbaptist.org  
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Betty Williams — bwilliams@tnbaptist.org  
Readers may also send e-mail to any Executive Board staff member by using his or her first initial and last name with @tnbaptist.org.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Web site can be accessed at www.tnbaptist.org. ■

# Tennessee Baptists exhorted to share ...

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Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala., who like Lowrie is a familiar figure to Tennessee Baptist pastors, chose II Timothy 4 for the foundation of his Monday afternoon message, "Preach the Word." (He also spoke Monday night.)

Hill emphasized the need for salvation to be preached just as Paul admonished Timothy — taking every opportunity and even when the moment does not appear to be opportune. Too many things distract pastors and other witnesses from taking those opportunities, Hill said.

"We might be discouraged from trying because we may be fooled by sight or observation, but we must remember that only God is responsible for the results," Hill said.

"Don't let the Devil intimidate you," he said. "Remember that even though good things aren't happening to suit you, God tells us to persevere, because something good will happen if we keep on trying."

He said that the preacher of the Gospel is like a man sowing seed. "That preacher has to sow all the seed he has," Hill said. "Let the God of the harvest bring up those who will come. Just scatter the Gospel seed and God will bring it up."

After all, he told the audience, "if we don't preach the Word, then the seed won't fall and nobody will be saved."

Benny Jackson, evangelist from Memphis and outgoing president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, used Exodus 32 for his message. He said that people often wonder why God chose the children of Israel. "I don't know that answer," he said, "but God chooses whom he will and equips them."

When his people rebelled

while Moses was on Mount Sinai, Moses was angered and began to deal with them according to God's direction. He said we need to remember that "one man plus God is a majority."

Chattanooga evangelist Bill Stafford also spoke Monday afternoon. He reminded participants they were "here to hear from God personally, and to change."

## NAMB president

Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, spoke on Monday evening.

He told the group that he had chosen to depart from the mobilization theme to address "Leading from the Point." He said that godly leadership is needed in our nation today.

"We have been sold a bill of goods," he said. "We are being told that if a person has power and authority, charisma, and other such traits — that character doesn't matter. But that is not so. Jesus spoke his truths from everyday life, about the foundational way of living. Using Joshua as an example, he pointed out that Joshua was chosen by God to follow Moses' as leader of the Hebrews and then gave him specific instructions in the first chapter of Joshua (Bible).

Joshua obeyed God and led the people as a strong, God-fearing leader. God knew what kind of stuff Joshua was made of. Reccord illustrated his point with a modern parable. He told of a man building a boat — and many people admired his work. They watched him with keen interest and observed every step of the construction that was above the water line. They did see what it was like below the water line. The man realized no one cared about that part of the construction — so he didn't put in proper rudders, good ballast, and safety measures. The boat was finished and christened. When it slid into the water for the first time, it wasn't long before a storm came and waves washed over the deck. The boat began to veer from side to side and there was no ballast to correct the shifting and no rudder to guide the boat in the storm. It sank, and the man was never heard of again.

"It's what is below the water line that



**GENE WILLIAMS**, left, visits with **Joe Ratliff**, pastor of Brentwood Church, Houston, Texas. Williams, youth/adult missions awareness specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, gave a layman's testimony during the final session of the State Evangelism Conference on Jan. 19. Ratliff delivered the closing message of the two-day meeting which drew nearly 1,000 participants.

makes the difference," Reccord said. He said that leadership is granted, not grasped. People are looking for leadership that they can hold on to.

"Each of us needs to be an original and not a carbon copy. God calls us by name," he said. "Just as God called Abraham, Moses, Noah, Samuel, David, Jesus, Zaccheus, Paul — he calls you and me. He says, 'This is your job. It's right for you, and you are right for it. You don't need to be anyone but you.' God will never forsake us.

"God calls us to individuality, to inter-dependency, to intensity, and to intimacy (with him)."

## Tuesday speakers

Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, reminded those attending the conference that "the mission field has come to America and many people are wide open to the Gospel."

To reach unchurched, non-Christians, people must be willing to cross geographical, cultural, and religious barriers to share Jesus Christ, Sanchez challenged.

TBC Executive Director James Porch observed that "God does not intend for any of us to stay who we are, but by the grace of God we can be who he wants us to be."

He pointed out there are a

multitude of people in Tennessee that need to know God's grace.

"That is the message our state is crying out for today. It invigorates, it satisfies, it saves."

Memphis pastor Bob Pittman noted the dismal statistic that last year, 10,000 Southern Baptist churches did not report a single baptism.

"Most of our churches today are dying or are already dead," observed Pittman, pastor of Kirby Woods Church.

Contrary to what some may believe, Pittman said, churches are not killed by Satan, demons, deacons, church staff, or even pastors.

"There never has been a church to die but Jesus put it to death," Pittman said.

He noted Jesus puts churches to death when they try to get by on past reputation, substitute meaningless activity for spiritual vitality, and become too accustomed to darkness.

Jesus does not have to blow a church down or burn it to put it to death, Pittman said. "He withdraws the Holy Spirit."

Allan Lockerman, pastor of First Church, Cleveland, asked, "Are we getting the message of the cross across?"

He shared two truths with conference participants.

"The credibility of the message will be measured by the



credibility of the messenger," he said. "You will win more people to Christ by your credibility than your capability," he suggested.

Lockerman also noted the credibility of the messenger will be determined by how seriously he takes the message himself.

"If you're going to sell Christ to the world, it would help if you really believe in what you're selling," he said.

## Closing session

Houston pastor Joe Ratliff of Brentwood Church ended the conference Tuesday night.

In the afternoon he reminded ministers and guests that saints are mobilized when "we let us decrease so God can increase."

During the evening session Ratliff told of a period of depression he endured and suggested ministers, like the prophet Jeremiah, should be more honest and deal with such crises.

If ministers dealt with their depression they might lower the divorce rate among ministers and help the many troubled preachers' kids, he said.

Ministers can defeat depression by avoiding frustrations, rejection, learning how to observe the seasons of life, and loving people and God, he suggested.

Ministers and other people should avoid the trap of focusing on the approval of others. Christians also should understand that people may be placed in their lives for a short period. They shouldn't try to hold on to relationships beyond what God has planned, he said, because of a need for approval.

Finally, ministers should love people, rather than preaching, their role, or the power of their role. *B&R* — Allen is retired editor, *Baptist and Reflector*. Lonnie Wilkey and Connie Davis contributed to this story.



**RECCORD**



**OFFICERS OF the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists include Don Womack, left, of Memphis, president, and Henry Linginfeller of Alcoa, vice president. Steve and Christie Bradford of Memphis were elected music coordinators for the organization. The evangelists met prior to the State Evangelism Conference held at Judson Church, Nashville.**

## Layman shares lessons learned from two struggles

By **Connie Davis**  
*Baptist and Reflector*

Gene Williams, a layman who joined the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries staff last year, shared the spiritual lessons he learned from two struggles in his life.

During his 29-year-career with the Kingsport Fire Department, Williams said he suffered a deep disappointment when he wasn't promoted although he had worked very hard for it and had excelled in his work.

During his adjustment to the disappoint-

ment, Williams said he remembered he had recently recommitted himself to God. That commitment helped him re-focus his life — from his job to God, he explained. And things changed at his job. He was named a chaplain for the fire department. That work was more fulfilling than the position he had wanted.

Williams also shared a struggle in his relationship with his wife. He explained God led him to understand his fault in that relationship and to mend it, he said.

"Guys, there's untold blessings from loving your wife unconditionally like Christ loved the church," said Williams. *B&R*

# Baptists come to aid of tornado victims in ...



— Continued from page 1

A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit began providing meals on Jan. 20 (see separate story on page 1). "We're trying to meet the immediate needs and help out where we are needed," Ryan said.

"They're just like a bunch of angels. That's the only way to describe it," said Gary Holbert, a resident of the severely damaged Charles Latham area after the Red Cross truck arrived with a meal prepared by the Baptist volunteers.

Ryan noted dozens of churches from across the state have volunteered including 16 teams from outside the area. "The first thing we're doing is to help clear areas, sort clothes, and cook and deliver food to the victims and workers," he said.

Local churches also have been involved in the effort. Mark and Paige Ferguson said Mercer Church worked with the local fire department and community to help clear debris, sort through donated food, and coordinate volunteer teams.

With Madison County schools closed for the week, 70 youth and adults from West Jackson Church delivered food and drinks to the disaster areas.

West Jackson Church also opened its doors as a free daycare for school-age children, said Connie Stricklin, State Disaster Relief temporary emergency childcare coordinator. She noted it was available not only for tornado victims, but also for volunteers who come to help.

"It's gotten busier every day," said Teresa Kee, a volunteer at East Union Church which served as a city-wide shelter for those who lost their homes.

"We've just been amazed at people who have brought stuff," she added. East Union served 400 hot meals and more than 1,000 sack lunches to storm victims and volunteers. The church also received eight Sunday School rooms full of clothing for storm victims.



**VOLUNTEERS** Marie Adams and Doris Simpson work at the feeding unit.



**A WOMAN** whose house was damaged walks back to her home carrying items given to her by Baptists.

"We got here Wednesday and they fed us and gave us clothes," said Sherry Arthur, a resident of Beech Bluff, who also lost her home. "They just really lifted our spirits. We're thankful we're here. We can replace everything else."

Care packages distributed by East Union consisted of non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, toiletries, and bottled water.

Amanda Mayo, a volunteer, said the packages were given to victims as they came to the church and also were delivered to storm victims across the county.

"It's wonderful to see the community pulling together like this," one volunteer said. "It restores your faith."

Ryan said he was pleased with the response from churches and people including many youth who volunteered their time. "It's been a wonderful thing to see and has been greatly appreciated," Ryan said.

Vaughan concurred. She said she had been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, especially from Baptists.



**DELIVERING** clothes and other items to victims from this truck and trailer are volunteers from the association.

"When the outside teams leave, we will still be here ministering to these people," said Vaughan, referring to Madison-Chester Association.

Ryan reported that no tornado touched down in Madison County on Friday, Jan. 22, when a new line of storms hit Tennessee. The area did receive an extensive amount of rain and flooding was a problem on Friday, he noted.

— Aldridge is a student at Union University. *B&R* Editor Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, and Marcia Knox of the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group contributed to this story.



**VOLUNTEERS SORT** items given for tornado victims at East Union Church, Jackson.

## Disaster Relief training slated

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief will hold three Saturday training events across the state, according to Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief director.

Dates, times, and locations are: Feb. 6, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Concord Association office, Murfreesboro; April 17, Shiloh Association (times and location to be announced); and May 6, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., First Church, Concord, Knoxville.

At each location, these seminars will be taught: Introduction to Disaster Relief, Cleanup/Mudout, Child Care, and Feeding Unit Operation. Also, at First Church, Concord, Water Purification Unit Operation will be taught.

Reservations are needed at First Church, Concord. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served for \$3. Call Larry Triplett at (423) 966-9002 to make reservations.

For additional information, call the State Disaster Relief office at 1-800-558-2090. ■

### THE 43RD ANNUAL STUDENT MISSIONS CONFERENCE



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# Partnership can help combat rising postage costs

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In the Jan. 20 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* we ran a story about how the Postal Service has raised its rates for nonprofit publications such as Baptist state newspapers. The increases also affect the cost of mailing weekly church newsletters.

It's hard to comprehend why nonprofit organizations are taking such a hit. The cost of first-class mailing rose 3.1 percent while nonprofit rates were expected to increase anywhere from 8 to 12 percent. The increase comes on the heels of a year when the Postal Service reportedly made hundreds of millions of dollars in profits.

What does this mean to readers of the *Baptist and Reflector*?

Eventually, we will have to increase our subscription rates. The *B&R* has not had an across-the-board rate increase for about eight years. Individual rates have gone up, but rates for our different church plans have remained constant.

We want to keep costs level throughout this year. We will study the situation and announce a rate increase for next year as soon as we can to give churches ample notice. We are committed to keeping the rate increase as low as possible. Even with an

increase, subscribers will only be paying pennies per week for their state paper. We will still be a bargain.

Concerning the Postal Service increase, editor Bob Terry of Alabama has suggested that state Baptist papers and churches partner together through the use of local church editions. The *Baptist and Reflector* does this through our Church Page Plan.

The church places its newsletter in the *Baptist and Reflector* which is then mailed to members who receive their local and state and national news in one publication. Churches can produce their pages "camera-ready" or they can be prepared by our staff.

We have a flexible approach to meet the needs of churches. We have churches that do weekly newsletters, while others publish them twice a month or monthly.

Terry observed most nonprofit postage is a per-piece charge. He noted that by partnering together churches and the paper can pay that per-piece charge one time. The cost savings in such an arrangement can be significant, Terry said.

The *Baptist and Reflector's* Church Page Plan is meeting the needs of several churches in Tennessee. We are glad to add churches to this plan.

Forest Hills Church, Nashville, recently became our latest to join the Church Page Plan. Pastor Jerry Winfield wrote this in his first column in their new format:

"This is actually a return to having our church newsletter printed as part of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Hopefully, this will be a change for the better for several reasons: (1) We will have more space and flexibility; (2) We won't have to mess with the Postal Service; (3) It is more cost and labor effective; (4) We won't have to mess with the Postal Service; (5) You will be a better informed church member about local, state, and international missions ...; (6) We won't have to mess with the Postal Service; and (7) Reduced wear and maintenance on office equipment and personnel."

We will be happy to talk with any congregation about the Church Page Plan. Whether it's a church that once used the plan and stopped, a church that has always done its own newsletter, or a church that has never had a newsletter but wants to begin one, we are available to help meet your needs.

Call us at (615) 371-2003. We want to be your partner! *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



## Start with a smile

Lawyer to client, an actress suing for divorce: "That wraps up our court preparation. Do you think you can follow the suggestions I made?" Actress: "Yes sir, but I have one question. Who is playing the part of the judge?"

## Take this truth

To many people life is a game, nothing more, nothing less. Longfellow said it best: "Life is not an empty dream, but is real, earnest, and the grave is not the goal."

## Memorize this Scripture

"What is your life ... a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." — James 4:14

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to live every day of my life — meaningfully."  
 ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

# Sweeping changes lie ahead for communications

making Christ known  
 by Eleanor Yarborough  
 TBC staff



Though the future of communications is only dimly imaginable, we know sweeping changes lie ahead. With access to nearly unlimited communication and endless information now at our fingertips, one thing is certain, the Information Age has arrived.

There have been three prime movers in this evolution of communications: the telephone, the television, and, now, the Internet. Statistics confirm that people around the world (Christians included) are using the Internet to stay in touch, shop, research subject matter and issues of concern, and to expand their world of

knowledge and relationships. Immediate information is, more than ever, the name of the game.

Further statistics on the Internet indicate the online population will quadruple by 2005. Almost 40 million Americans are planning to go online in 1999, joining the 72.6 million American adults who already have Internet access, according to the third quarter results of the 1998 Worldwide Internet/Online Tracking Service by Intelliquest.

The report found that senior adults are one of the fastest growing demographic groups going online (13 million over the age of 50 already have Internet access).

Fifty-one percent of those planning to obtain Internet access are over the age of 35. Almost half of all users have a high school education or less, and, for the first time, females (52 percent) outnumber male users (48 percent). Once a

haven for the upper middle class and the well educated, most users now earn less than \$50,000. Increasingly, Internet users in the United States more closely resemble mainstream America.

Most of us only have a vague inkling of how the communications revolution might impact our lives in the future. Many in the high-tech arena believe the church and individual Christians, as well as Christian organizations, are already being affected.

Who would have dreamed that pastors would regularly research for sermon material on the Internet or use e-mail to communicate with their members; that parents would access the Internet to gather child-rearing and other information; that we could e-mail missionary friends in foreign lands; that Sunday School teachers would get lesson helps from the Internet; that our state convention would be

able to provide interactive communications online 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

Though many possess conviction and plausible explanations about what lies ahead, the Internet is no doubt dramatically impacting us today. We are convinced it will continue to transmit vital information and will remain a valuable tool for ministry.

The Communication Services Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has the constant challenge of developing and expanding the TBC Web site to meet the ever-changing communication needs of our users. We invite you to visit the TBC Web site ([www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)) to discover the many ministry opportunities and services available for Tennessee Baptists. You will be glad you did. — Yarborough is leader of the Communication Services group of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

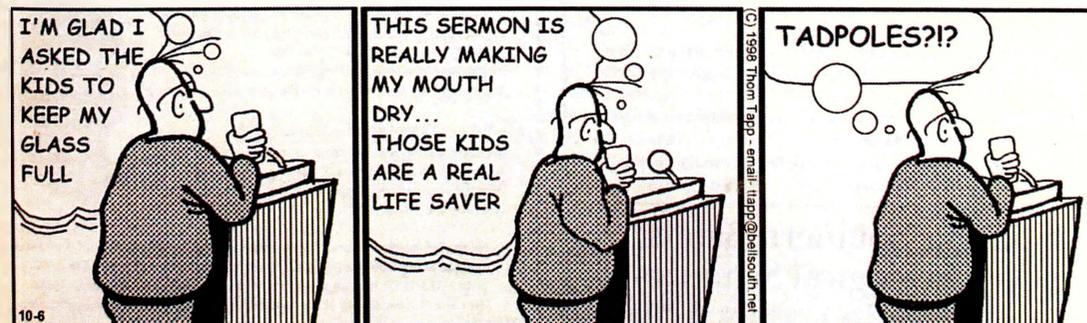
## Partnership Prayer Requests

January-February

- 27 — Pray for the IMB commissioning service to be held March 23 in Lansing, Mich., and for Mark Donnell, coordinator of the service.
- 28 — Pray for a 15-member medical team from First Church, Nashville, which will serve April 9-18 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 29 — Pray for employees of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 30 — Pray for Christians to mobilize in prayer for spiritual awakening in Canada.
- 31 — Pray for Terry Sharp, Kim Huff, Heather Wilson, and Marcia Knox, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions staff.
- Feb. 1 — Pray for the 150 teams needed May 23 - June 1 for the simultaneous revivals and citywide crusade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to call out those able to go to Rio.
- Feb. 2 — Pray for the first Tennessee Volunteers Recognition and Commissioning Service to be held Feb. 23 at Una Church, Nashville. Ask God to bless IMB President Jerry Rankin as he speaks.

## Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



## NAMB targets Super Bowl with Gospel

Baptist Press

MIAMI — The North American Mission Board and about 1,000 Southern Baptists are taking the message of Jesus Christ to the Super Bowl.

The NAMB, the Florida Baptist Convention, and two local associations are partnering under the banner "Southern Baptists of South Florida" to serve as one of the official sponsors of the 1999 South Florida Super Bowl XXXIII Host Committee.

"It is an extraordinary partnership between NAMB, the local associations, and the state convention," said Tim Knopps, NAMB staffer. "Through it Southern Baptists will meet people they will not be able to meet anywhere else. It is a great opportunity to serve others and to share Christ." ■

## CLASSIFIED

**DOM:** Riverside Baptist Association is taking resumes for a director of missions. Send resumes to Rev. Charles E. Gibbs Jr., 124 Oak St., Byrdstown, TN 38549.

**WORSHIP/MUSIC:** Seeking full-time Associate Pastor of Worship/Music gifted in leading contemporary praise/worship style services in seeker sensitive environment. Significant experience/education expected. Send resume to Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W. Byers Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42303 or fax - (502) 685-5134.

**STUDENTS/OUTREACH:** Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks your referral for a Minister to Students and Church Outreach. Located in north suburban St. Louis County, we average in excess of 650 in two morning services, over 500 in Sunday School. Fee Fee is a strong traditional Southern Baptist church. Responsibilities include directing ministry programs for youth and college age students. Will also administer the church-wide outreach program. Strong Christian character and experience a must. Send referrals to Minister to Students and Church Outreach, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

**WORSHIP/YOUTH:** Worship leader/Youth Minister for Baptist church in Mt. Juliet, P/T. Blended musical style and an experienced heart for youth. Call/fax (615) 754-5570; www.tvsys.com.

## After viewing 'Jesus' video

# 73 million people follow Christ

By Erich Bridges  
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — So you think "Titanic" was big? Ha! Let's talk about a movie that redefines "big." It didn't win an Oscar or appear on any critics' "top 10" lists. It's 20 years old. It features no major stars. It's not even the best movie about Jesus Christ from an artistic viewpoint.

What then, makes the film called "Jesus" so remarkable? For starters, consider these numbers:

► At least 1.5 billion people in more than 220 countries have seen "Jesus" in theaters, on television, via video, or — still the most common method — watching 16-mm reels projected onto portable screens, sheets, or walls.

► More than 73 million people have publicly declared their decision to follow Christ after seeing the film.

► "Jesus" has been dubbed into more than 450 languages, making it the most widely translated production in film history. Hundreds more translations are in the works.

► More than 800 missions agencies now partner with the Jesus Film Project, an arm of Campus Crusade for Christ, to evangelize the lost, disciple new believers, and start churches using "Jesus." Southern Baptist International Board missionaries remain the largest single group of users behind the project's own workers.

► Nearly 2,000 film teams have devoted themselves ex-

clusively to screening "Jesus" for people around the world — often in the face of violent opposition.

What is the power of the film? Part of it lies in a simple fact: When people see "Jesus," they see Jesus and understand his words, often for the first time. "Jesus speaks our language," cried one elderly woman in Mozambique. ■



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Dr. Thom Rainer Dean  
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## Tennessee Baptist Summer Camps '99 where memories are made ... and lives are changed!



### Youth ImpactX2 Camps

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

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

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

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

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

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

### TRAC '99 (Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camps)

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

### Music Camps '99

- Youth Music Camp- Camp Carson- July 12-17  
Youth Music Camp is for students entering grades 7-12. Youth Choirs from across the state come for music training and fellowship.
- Children's Music Camp- Camp Linden- August 2-6  
Children's Music Camp is for boys and girls entering grades 4-6. Join with children's choirs from across the state as they come together for music training and fellowship.  
For complete information and registration packets, contact Angie Hughes or Julian Suggs at the TBC State office.

### All Nations Camp-Camp Linden- July 5-9

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



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

## Offering hope

By Martin Babb

**Focal Passage — Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-28; I Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20**

I gave a warning several weeks ago that this was not an easy series of lessons, not because of the subject matter, but because of our God-given mandate to be a healing influence in a hurting world, no matter who is hurting. An old peanut butter commercial encouraged "choosey mothers" to choose a particular brand. In ministry, we cannot be choosey. This lesson is not only about the biblical view of homosexuality but the Christian's response to homosexuals.

**Sharing the truth —**

**Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:24-25**

Leviticus 18 deals with several forms of sexual misbehavior common in ancient times, making it very clear that homosexuality is unacceptable in God's eyes. In other passages such as Genesis 19, Leviticus 20:13, and Judges 19:22-24, homosexuality is condemned by God. In the Romans passage, Paul is referring to people who have totally ignored God and his laws. Moral impurity comes when we give in to the lies of our own desires, and refuse to accept the truth of God.

**Shattering the myth —**

**Romans 1:26-28**

One of the myths of homosexuality is that persons are involved in it because, for them, it is natural. It is the old idea of "whatever feels good, do it." Just because it feels good or natural to the individual, does not make it natural in God's eyes. In fact, the passage in Romans says it is quite the opposite — "they did change the natural use into that which is against nature." The natural order comes from Genesis, "... male and female created he them." No myth can be found here, just truth. No matter what society or culture may believe about this issue, God's view is clear.

**Showing the way —**

**I Corinthians 6:9-11**

Another myth concerning homosexuality is that there is no way out. In his commentary, Herschel Hobbs quotes from Richard Howe's book, *Homosexuality in America: Exposing the Myths*, in which the author calls it one of the most destructive myths around, because "it can lead to the abandonment of all hope for deliverance." In the Romans passage Paul shows the way out — "washed, sanctified, and justified, by the spirit of our God." The same God that condemns the sin offers love and forgiveness for the sinner. Unfortunately, we seldom show the way of love and forgiveness because we never get past the condemnation stage.

**Shaping the future — vv. 18-20**

This passage offers continuing hope for staying the course of sexual purity — flee sexual misbehavior, recognize our body as the temple of God, and remember we are bought with a price. Because change is difficult for homosexuals, the Christian community must be there when they need us to offer love, encouragement, and hope. It is a perfect opportunity to apply works to our faith.

If we are going to be a healing influence in these areas we have covered the last few weeks, we must ask ourselves some questions: Are our hands calloused from lifting up a brother or from tearing him down? Are our arms weary from wrapping them around a hurting friend or from holding onto ourselves? Are our eyes tired from looking at people as Jesus would or from adjusting to the blinders?

Like Jesus, we must have open hands ... and open arms. — Babb is associate pastor/education, Springfield Church, Springfield.

## Declare allegiance

By Edgar Pierce

**Focal Passage — Acts 17:22-32**

Isn't it refreshing when we see a couple celebrating their golden anniversary? This shows allegiance to the marriage. Each time we stand and hear the national anthem play, as I look at the flag, I am reminded that I would have died for what that flag stands for when I was in the military. When we rise and say the pledge of allegiance we are pledging our loyalty to the nation. We need to have this allegiance to America.

But are we ready and willing to die for the cause of Christ? Can we sing the Ray Boltz song with passion, "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb?" As great as our allegiance should be to our mates, children, and nation it should be greater to our Lord.

### Family Bible Lesson

The background of the focal text is important. Paul is on his second missionary journey and is coming from Berea where he preached to the Greeks and many believed. He left Berea when the Jews of Thessalonica came and stirred up the people against him. He showed his allegiance to the Lord by going to Athens and not quitting. Athens was the center of Greek art, architecture, literature, and politics during the golden age of Greek history. Athens had a Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the virgin Athena, the goddess of wisdom and the arts, and the Erechtheion, a unique double sanctuary dedicated to Athena and Neptune.

Paul sees the city not as a cultural giant but a home to an idolatrous, misguided people. Paul preaches Jesus to them and they take him to Areopagus, the meeting place for discussion of the council. Paul preaches Jesus and his resurrection to them. They were not troubled with the

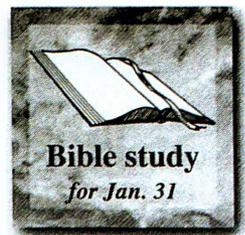
preaching of Jesus until the resurrection came into it. This points out the difference between the world's opinion of who Jesus is and who we know him to be. He is the risen Lord to whom we owe allegiance.

**Commendation.** Paul learns of an altar built to the unknown god. These Greeks, who prided themselves in their superior intelligence and culture, were too superstitious. The NIV says, "very religious." Paul says he can identify this unknown god they worship. Today Paul's speech is affixed on a tablet at the entrance to the Areopagus in Greece. The Greeks debated about the gods and missed the one true God.

**Clarification.** Paul seeks to counter the ideas of these Greek thinkers by declaring that God is too great to dwell in temples made with hands. God does not need anything that man can give him but in fact gave life and breath to men. The Stoics taught that the highest good was internal and a right relationship with nature. Paul tells them that we move and have our being within God the creator and not nature.

**Correction.** Paul says that God cannot be made with our hands out of silver, gold, or stone, nor any device of man. If God created us than he must be superior to anything we can make. All men are creations of God. To be a spiritual child of God we must be born again. Paul preaches Jesus and repentance to them and tells them there will be a day of judgment to come. Jesus will be the judge. John 5:22 says, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." We also know that every knee shall bow. Allegiance to the Lamb is coming.

**Confrontation.** Some mocked at the resurrection but some believed, even a judge of the court, Dionysius the Areopagite. Men are still asked to decide if they will declare allegiance to God and his Son. Have you accepted Christ? "I" declare allegiance to the Lamb. — Pierce is pastor, Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport.



## What's in it for me? — manipulation

By Maurice Hays

**Focal Passage — Mark 10:32b-40, 42-45**

A babysitter was keeping a small child in an adjacent room, while his parents had company. A wasp came flying into the room and the babysitter tried to keep the little boy from catching it. The noise of the fretting little boy was heard by the mother in the other room. She called out to the babysitter to let the child have whatever it was that he wanted. In a moment there was a cry of pain from the little boy who caught the wasp. The mother asked, "What is wrong with him now?" The babysitter said, "He got what he wanted." We too need to make sure that what we ask for is a part of Jesus' plan for us. If not, we may wish we had not gotten it after all.

**The road ahead — vv. 32b-34**

Jesus and his disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem. For the disciples it is a journey of nonunderstanding and fear. For Jesus it is a journey that leads to Calvary. Jesus had begun his Father's business in Jerusalem and he was on his way to complete that business. This is the third announcement of his passion, his trial, and his death. It would be the fourth time he promised that he would rise again. This announcement, as the second would be, was

### Explore the Bible Lesson

followed by misunderstanding, and teaching. The specific prediction is contained in verses 33-34, the misunderstanding is in verses 35-41, and the teaching on discipleship is in verses 42-45.

**Selfish request — vv. 35-40**

James and John made a misguided request of Jesus. It was a request motivated by earthly wisdom and desire and not heavenly wisdom. They did not understand the nature of the kingdom of God. To sit on the "right hand" and the "left hand" were Jewish terms for being next to the king in honor. If Jesus had granted their earthly request they would occupy the crosses on either side of Jesus on Golgotha. Calvary was the place Jesus was exalted, lifted up, and glorified by the Father on earth. "The cup" and "baptism" cited by Jesus were used in the Old Testament to refer to suffering and death.

Jesus, asking if they could drink this cup and be baptized as he would be, seems as if he expected a no answer. He accepted their yes answer. As a result, James would die a martyr's death and John

would endure a long living martyrdom.

**Standard of greatness — vv. 42-45**

Like many people today, the disciples were making the mistake of

looking at the wrong examples. They thought that the power, glory, and authority of the Roman rulers was the status to work for. The disciples were mad when they learned what James and John had been trying to do. Jesus stopped the talk by contrasting worldly standards with heavenly standards. Jesus pointed them to the heavenly way of greatness. He who would be great has to be the servant of all. Then he who would be the greatest of all must be slave of all.

Jesus gave us his interpretation of the purpose of life. He came to die for us and to be a ransom to free us from our sins. The word ransom is used only here and in Matthew 20:28 in the New Testament. Other New Testament words that relate to ransom are redeem and redemption. Verse 45 is one of the most significant theological passages in the Gospel. The verse supports the doctrine of Christ's substitutionary atonement in that he died in our place — "Oh What A Savior." — Hays is Baptist Student Ministries specialist, Jackson State Community College, Jackson.

## deaths

■ **Chuck Gafford**, son of Gene Gafford of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Memphis, died suddenly last week of a heart attack. He was 38.

■ **H. Clifford Graham**, 76, emeritus missionary to Guyana and Jamaica, died Jan. 17 in Jena, La. He and his wife, Helen Ashford Graham, served in Guyana from 1969-74 and in Jamaica from 1974-79. Then he served from 1979-89 at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. Prior to his missionary service, he served on the staff of churches in Milan, Memphis, and several other states.

## people

■ Lynn Garden Church, Kingsport, ordained **Paul Bowman** as a deacon recently.

■ **Bryan and Karen Holley** and their sons Joshua and Jonathan of Johnson City are serving in Bucharest, Romania. Bryan will be business manager for the Baptist missionaries there. The Holleys were members of Mountain View Church, Johnson City.

■ **Lauren Tucker**, a member of Lucy Church, Millington, recently served in Guatemala, and will serve in Kansas City during March. Other members doing missions work are **David, Laurie, and Marissa Bledsoe**, who will serve in Brazil, and **April Donovan**, who will serve in Israel in March.

## leaders

■ **Samuel D. Dean**, pastor, First Church, Clinton, retired Jan. 3.

■ **Randy Latch** has been called as associate pastor/youth director, Liberty Church, Somerville.

■ First Church, Morristown, has called **Tim Thompson** as minister to children and preschoolers.

■ **Leslie Tisdale**, director of Christian Education, and **Jane Stehle**, pastor's secretary, Raleigh Church, Memphis, were honored recently on their 10th anniversary of service there.

■ **John Gardner**, minister of education/administration, Clearview Church, Franklin, recently celebrated his 15th anniversary of service there.

■ Carson-Newman College,

Jefferson City, will host a concert of compositions by the author, **James Pethel**, distinguished composer-in-residence, on his retirement. Pethel will perform music written during his 37 years of service at the school. The concert will be held at First Church, Jefferson City, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. It will be a fundraising event for music scholarships sponsored by Alpha Gamma. Pethel has been the recipient of the American Society of Authors, Composers, and Publishers Standard Award for 12 years. The program will feature all of the choirs and music faculty of the school's Music Department.

■ Greenwood Church, Johnson City, has called **Harold McNabb** as pastor.

■ **Doug Hardin** has resigned as pastor of Green Pine Church, Johnson City.

■ **Rick Hughes** has been called as minister of youth, Woodlawn Church, Bristol.

■ Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville, has called **Bob Cardinal** as executive pastor/administration. He was vice president, manufacturer, Alltrista Zinc Products Co.

■ **John Wood** has been called as pastor, First Church, Erwin.

■ **Paul Broyles**, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church, Limestone, recently celebrated his 42nd anniversary of service there.

■ Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, honored **Fred Steelman**, pastor, and his wife Jan. 17 on the 25th anniversary of their service there.

■ **Jerry DeZearn**, director of missions, Jefferson County Association, recently celebrated his 10th anniversary of service there.

■ **Mike Hannaford**, minister of music, First Church, Dyer, resigned Jan. 3.

■ **Dale Sheridan**, pastor, Immanuel Church, Trenton, resigned Dec. 31.

■ **Jason Pyron** has been called as minister of youth, West Jackson Church, Jackson, and was ordained by the church Jan. 10.

■ First Church, Union City, will ordain **Joseph Echols**, minister of students/recreation, Jan. 31.

■ **Ken Sparkman**, director of missions, Gibson County Association, will observe his 26th anniversary of service there Feb. 1.

■ **Mary Charlotte Ball**, organist, First Church, Jefferson City, has retired after 37 years of service.

■ **David George**, pastor,



**BURNING** a note to represent its debt-free status are leaders of Calvary Church, Morristown, on Jan. 17. The debt was paid off seven years early. The leaders are, from left, Lawrence Bales; J.C. Wild; Sidney W. Nichols, pastor; Robert Ridley; Bob Clowers; and Jim Wall.

Immanuel Church, Nashville, recently celebrated his 23rd anniversary of service there.

■ **Lloyd Johnson**, pastor, Dickerson Road Church, Nashville, recently celebrated his 24th anniversary of service there.

■ **Tommy Johnson**, minister of music, Una Church, Nashville, recently observed his 25th year of service there.

■ **Dane Anthony**, collegiate ministry specialist, Belmont University, Nashville, has been named associate dean of students Jan. 5.

■ **Wayland Fillers**, pastor, Calvary Church, Greeneville, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of service there.

## associations

■ Twelve members of churches in **Haywood Association** served in the Philippines Jan. 13-26.

■ **Haywood Association** will hold a Marriage Enrichment Weekend Feb. 5-6. Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham will speak. For more information, call (901) 254-8781 or 772-4984.

■ **Loudon County Association** will hold a True Love Waits Youth Rally Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Loudon High School Auditorium, Loudon. High school assemblies will be held prior to the rally in Greenback, Lenoir City, and Loudon. Gary Wright of Trussville, Ala., and Barry Mitchell of Seymour, a Christian magician, will lead the meeting. For more information, contact the association at (423) 986-2292.

■ **Nashville Association** will hold a True Love Waits Rally for youth and young adults Feb. 5 at Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, at 7 p.m. The program will feature Riverside Praise Band; Amy Morris, musician; and Pat Hood of First Church, Smyrna.

For more information, contact\* the association office at (615) 259-3034.

■ **Jefferson County Association** will hold a True Love Waits Rally Feb. 6 at Pleasant Grove Piney Church, New Market, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the association office (423) 475-1453.

## churches

■ **First Church, Greeneville**, recently dedicated its new family life center and education building which cost about \$3 million.

■ **First Church, Grand Junction**, gave more than \$5,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in memory of Deryl G. Watson, director of missions, Hardeman County Association. The church exceeded its goal for the offering.

■ **First Church, Pulaski**, will hold a marriage enrichment retreat Feb. 26-27 at Joe Wheeler State Resort. For more information, contact the church at (931) 363-3584.

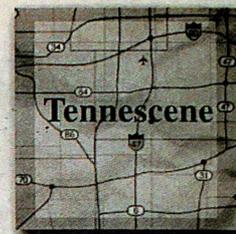
■ **Calvary Church, Rutherford**, dedicated its baptistry and fellowship hall Jan. 17. Don Cooper spoke.

■ **First Church, Union City**, dedicated its Family Life Center Jan. 10.

■ **Betty Wiseman** of Belmont University, Nashville, and Jeff and Amy McGinnis, students, will speak at **Hillcrest Church, Nashville**, Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m. They will report on their participation in a sports missions effort in Central America last summer.

■ **First Church, Englewood**, will hold revival Feb. 28 - March 3. J. O. McCleod of St. Augustine, Fla., will speak.

■ **Hillview Church, Franklin**, will host Carroll Roberson, a musician who will



present a concert Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 591-0444.

## state events

■ **"An Experience for Deacons: Mobilizing God's Servants Now!"** conference will be held Feb. 19-20 at First Church, Concord, Knoxville. The Friday session begins at 6 p.m. with registration and meal, followed by the program from 7-9 p.m. Guest speaker is Jerry Tidwell, pastor of West Jackson Church, Jackson. On Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon Larry Garner and John Temple will lead a conference on developing deacon ministry teams. The conference is sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries. For more information, contact Jerry Chapman at (615) 371-7932, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932, or jchapman@tnbaptist.org.

■ A conference to assist churches in developing lay leaders will be held Feb. 27 at Ridgeway Church, Memphis; March 13 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood; and March 20 at First Church, Morristown. The conference, **SERVANT Life: Developing Lay Leaders**, includes a seven-step process. The sessions are from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the conference is sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries. For more information, contact Jerry Chapman, (615) 371-7932, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932, or jchapman@tnbaptist.org.

## schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, will host Richard Trist and Noel Tredinick of All Souls Church, London, England, for the annual Henderson Lecture Series Jan. 26-28. They will present a series entitled "Being Certain in an Age of Anxiety," at First Church, Jefferson City. The schedule is Jan. 26 - 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Jan. 27 - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Jan. 28 - 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, contact the school at (423) 475-9061.