

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

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Two churches join B&R 'family'

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two additional churches recently joined the *Baptist and Reflector* "family of subscribers."

Beech Grove Church in Dyersburg and Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport, are now sending the *Baptist and Reflector* weekly to their members.

"We are grateful to these churches and their leaders for recognizing the importance of sending the paper to their members," said Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

For information on subscription plans to the *Baptist and Reflector*, call (615) 371-2003. ■

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

Of tornadoes which struck state

Disaster Relief workers, others help victims

By Connie Davis & Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — About 48 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief workers have prepared and helped distribute 13,195 meals in Jackson and 11 volunteers have provided 2,050 meals in Clarksville to help tornado victims.

Tornadoes struck the Jackson area Jan. 17 and Clarksville Jan. 22 as well as other parts of the state.

Tim Bearden, state Disaster Relief di-

rector for Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries, reported Disaster Relief volunteers worked 12 days in Jackson and four days in Clarksville. They have been assisted by local Baptists, he added.

Long-term needs exist in both areas, Bearden reported, and in all of the 14

Tennessee counties struck. Volunteers are doing their best to help every victim, he said.

Ways to help

People wishing to volunteer or give items other than money to help victims in the Jackson area should call the Volunteer — See Disaster, page 3



SAWING UP a downed tree in the Jackson area is David Hoover of Parkview Church, Jackson.



VERLON MOORE, right, pastor, Hilldale Church, Clarksville, visits with church member Sandra Oaks, left, and an American Red Cross volunteer before Oaks accompanied Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief and ARC volunteers on the Emergency Response Vehicles to distribute meals to victims and workers.

RFG to study key TBC relationships

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Relationship Focus Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will continue the work assigned to it nearly two years ago.

Spokesperson Frank Hawkins, retired pastor of First Church, Kingsport, admitted many people were wondering about what would happen to the RFG following last year's annual TBC meeting.

Messengers voted to extend the group for another year. The RFG was appointed at the 1997 TBC annual meeting by then-TBC president Herbert Higdon to study relationships within the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Hawkins noted that when the group convened Jan. 28 at the Baptist Center there were two views — one to continue with the group; the other to disband.

"As we talked and fellowshiped around the table, there

re-emerged a sense of hope," Hawkins said.

"We decided we had to go on with our assignment and that there is a reason to go on," he said.

Hawkins noted the Relationship Focus Group is "a dynamic experiment" where Tennessee Baptists "who are different have come together and have grown to appreciate and like one another and feel that we can cooperate in the committee in spite of our differences.

"We want to continue that experiment in relationship building and to model it for all Tennessee Baptists," he added.

During their meeting the RFG identified key relationships essential to the mission of the Tennessee Baptist Convention that merit review, Hawkins said.

These include:

(1) Relationship of the local church to the TBC and Cooperative Program giving.

(2) Relationship of the TBC and its institutions, agency, and auxiliary and funding.

(3) Relationship of the TBC and Southern Baptist Convention and funding (present and future).

The next step, Hawkins said, will be for chairman Herbert Higdon of Jackson to assign RFG members to one of three subcommittees to examine each of the issues.

A retreat is planned for April 8-9 for the RFG to convene and for the subcommittees to relate their findings, Hawkins said.

"The RFG is a microcosm of the overall TBC family. If we can come together, then as Tennessee Baptists we can come together.

"We have a common ground — missions and evangelism. We can do those things in spite of theological and doctrinal distinctives and differences," he stressed.

Hawkins said the committee calls on Tennessee Baptists to pray for them and "join with us in the modeling of grace, hope, and cooperation in Kingdom business." *B&R*

Tennessee Baptists meet CP budget for first quarter

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists gave \$3,056,528 to the Cooperative Program in January, marking the second month in a row CP gifts from churches have exceeded \$3 million.

For the first quarter of the current fiscal year (Nov.-Jan.), Tennessee Baptist churches have given \$8,305,224 to the Cooperative Program. The amount is \$438,465 over budget needs for the first quarter, according to James Porch, executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Since 1925, Tennessee Baptists have used the Cooperative Program as the most effective means for supporting our mission and ministry calling throughout Tennessee and the world.

"To God be the glory," Porch said. ■

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about your newsjournal

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Tennessee volunteers to be commissioned

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee volunteers are making a difference in the world and the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and Tennessee Baptist Convention will recognize these volunteers during 1999 with three joint recognition and commissioning services.

The first Volunteer Recognition and Commissioning Service will be held Feb. 23 at Una Church, Nashville from 7-8:30 p.m. IMB President Jerry Rankin will speak and the services will include choir and orchestra and volunteer testimonies.

Mission displays will be featured from 6-7 p.m. and 8:30-9:30 p.m.

"We want to recognize all those who have served on any volunteer mission trip and commission those who plan on serving on a volunteer mission trip in 1999 or 2000," said Terry Sharp, TBC partnership missions specialist.

Other recognition and commissioning services will be held April 29 at First Church, Concord, Knoxville, and Sept. 21 at Union University, Jackson. Rankin will speak at the Sept. 21 service while Donald Kammerdiener, IMB executive vice president will speak at the April service.

"The services are a wonderful opportunity to see where we have been since the TBC partnership/volunteer missions program first started and to look into the millennium to see where we are going," Sharp said.

All partnership volunteers who served in Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Chile, Tennessee, Venezuela, Canada, Poland, Michigan, Costa Rica, and Brazil, will be recognized along with those who will serve in Portugal and other countries.

For more information on the services, call the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021. ■ — Marcia Knox

YEC will celebrate its 30th anniversary March 5-6

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist youth and leaders will observe the 30th anniversary of the state Youth Evangelism Conference March 5-6 at Vanderbilt University's Memorial Gym in Nashville.

Youth Reach '99 will focus on the theme "Beyond the Walls."

"This year's Youth Evangelism Conference is committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a generation of teenagers searching for truth and answers," said Kent Shingleton, youth evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I praise our Lord each time I am reminded of how God has blessed this conference and continue to pray for a Kingdom harvest on March 5-6," Shingleton noted.

In recognition of the 30th an-

niversary of what generally is recognized as the largest YEC in the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion, Shingleton said conference organizers envision 300 teenagers surrendering to the Gospel ministry on March 5-6 and 3,000 teenagers responding to the invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

In addition, Shingleton said, "we are asking God to bring 30,000 teenagers to Youth Reach '99 to experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ."

Evangelist Ken Freeman of San Antonio, Texas, will speak at all sessions on Friday and Saturday. Chris Rice will lead the weekend in praise and worship.

On Friday contemporary Christian artist Jennifer Knapp will sing and on Saturday the group, Audio Adrenaline, will perform.

Participants to the conference are asked to bring their True Love Waits commitment cards which will be

displayed. The Tennessee True Love Waits Cards will be included in a national display on Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Oct. 2, and in an international display in New Zealand in December.

True Love Waits is an international campaign begun by LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly Baptist Sunday School Board) to encourage teenagers to remain sexually

abstinent until marriage.

The schedule is as follows:

➤ **Friday, March 5** — (West and Middle Tennessee) Conference at Vanderbilt University, 4:30 p.m.; Personal Witnessing Conferences at various churches in Nashville, 8:30 p.m.; (East Tennessee and Nashville area), Personal Witnessing Conferences, 4:30 p.m.; Conference at Vanderbilt, 8:30 p.m.

➤ **Saturday, March 6** — (East Tennessee and Nashville area), Celebration Concert and Rally, 10 a.m., dismiss at noon; (West and Middle Tennessee), Celebration Concert and Rally, 2 p.m., dismiss at 4 p.m.

Youth Reach '99 registration is \$8. For general information on the YEC, call (615) 371-7933; for hotel information, call (615) 371-7917. ■



SHINGLETON



FREEMAN

Also consider other matters

IMB trustees appoint missionaries with Tennessee ties

For Baptist and Reflector

HOUSTON — Two couples with strong Tennessee ties were among 28 people appointed by the International Mission Board during a service Jan. 26 at First Church here.

The commissioning service was held during the IMB's regularly scheduled board meeting.

Charles L. and Julie C. Quarles were appointed to serve in Romania where he will teach at a seminary and she will be involved in outreach ministries.

Quarles served as pastor of two Tennessee churches — Hickory Ridge, Memphis and Rossville, Rossville.

He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, Oxford, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

Timothy and Lisa Wicker were appointed as missionaries in Russia.

He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. Both he and his wife consider Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, as being influential in their Christian growth.



THE QUARLES



THE WICKERS

During the IMB board meeting, trustees voted to more aggressively pursue African American involvement in missionary efforts, declined to change the board's current policy on divorced people serving overseas, and received a report showing that the rate of missionary retirements and resignations remain low.

The decision to pursue more African American involvement grew out of a realization that African American missions in-

volvement is not increasing as fast as Hispanic and Asian Southern Baptist involvement. There are 16 African American IMB missionaries.

Trustees approved a relationship with Shalom, a ministry that, among other things, mobilizes African American Southern Baptists to be on mission with God around the world.

The vote on the divorce issue was a response to a request made at the 1998 SBC annual meeting for the IMB to study its

current policy on appointing divorced people. That policy allows people who have been divorced to serve only as International Service Corps personnel for periods of two years or less.

Though discussion on the floor was rather limited, Oklahoma trustee Alan Day said the issue created "the potential for divisiveness like I've not seen on the board." He has been a trustee five years.

Trustees voted 46-12 to affirm the present policy. Later, those who opposed the reaffirmation asked that the issue be brought back to the floor so they could vote with the majority and make it unanimous.

A report on missionary attrition showed that in 1998 resignations and deaths amounted to 4 percent of the missionary force, the lowest number in four years.

Trustees also elected veteran IMB missionary and administrator Lloyd Atkinson as vice president for the office of mission personnel. ■ — This article also contains information from a Baptist Press article by Louis Moore.

Of tornadoes which struck state

Disaster Relief workers, others help victims



— Continued from page 1

teer/Donations Hotline at 1-800-687-0652. To help victims in the Clarksville area, people can call the Cumberland Association at (931) 358-9036 or Kim Allen, pastor, Little West Fork Church, Clarksville, (931) 647-3814.

After working with over 37 cleanup teams, the Madison-Chester Association office has turned relief operations over to local authorities, explained Bearden.

Specific needs in Jackson, according to TEMA, include needs at East Union Church, Jackson. The church is collecting cleaning supplies, baby supplies, hygiene supplies, toiletries, and groceries.

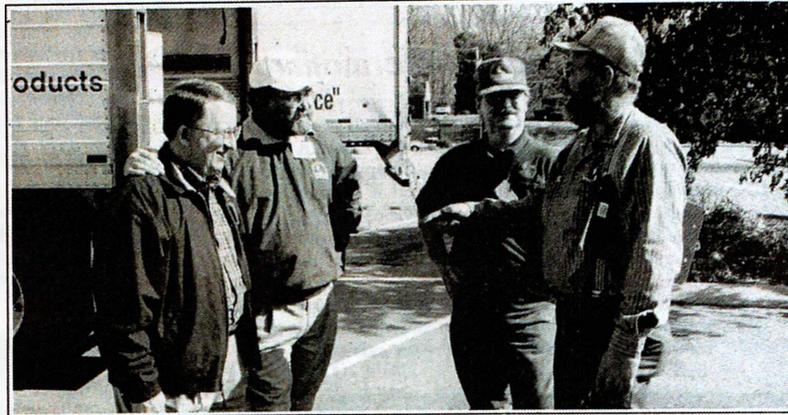
In Clarksville, Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association, and Kim Allen are working with an interdenominational group which will coordinate reconstruction efforts.

At this point 376 houses which were damaged by the tornado have been assessed, reported Allen. Of the first 81 houses assessed, 39 had no insurance, he described.

People wishing to give money to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief should send it to P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Efforts in Jackson area

The Jackson area of the state was the hardest hit. According to a meteo-



DISASTER RELIEF leaders in the Jackson area were, from left, Conroy Ryan, Madison-Chester and Crockett Associations; Gene Williams, TBC Executive Board Ministries; Mike Stricklin, Hopewell Church, Savannah; and John Paul Cole, First Church, Huntingdon.

logical scale for tornadoes of 1-5, the Jackson tornado was a four and the Clarksville tornado ranked three. Nine people were killed in the Jackson area; no one was killed in the Clarksville area.

To respond, three Jackson congregations provided space for relief efforts — Woodland Church, where the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief team was stationed with the Hardeman County feeding unit; and East Union and Meridian churches, both located in areas hard hit by the tornado. The final two churches served as distribution centers for relief items.

East Union Church, Jackson

East Union housed tornado victims and volunteers in its gym and fellowship hall for nearly a week. The church also served meals and was a distribution point for food and other items. Calvin Moore, pastor, speculated tons of food had passed through the church.

"People have really responded," said Moore. He noted the entire community became involved.

"It's the worse thing I've ever seen in my life."

In one subdivision near the church, about 52 of 92 homes were destroyed.

On Jan. 24, the Sunday following the storm, East Union had a large crowd for services and had to hold a combined Sunday School class in the sanctuary because so many classrooms were filled

with relief items, the pastor related.

Moore asked Tennessee Baptists to keep them in prayer.

"It's going to be a long building process. Lives will have to be rebuilt as well as homes," he observed.

Meridian Church, Jackson

Meridian Church also was a distribution point for food, clothing, and cleaning supplies, and served meals.

Approximately 30-40 homes near the church were damaged, said Pastor Scott Walker.

"I've seen more generosity and cooperation in this than I've ever seen," he commented.

Meridian also provided childcare during the week that Jackson schools were closed.

"Parents wanted a safe place for their kids while they cleaned up," he said.

The whole process was a learning experience for the congregation, Walker said.

"We've learned what we could do better. We did the best we could with what we had," he said.

Western District Association

Western District Association, based in Paris, responded to needs in the Jackson area.

Baptists there provided 100 cases of individual-sized bottles of water which were distributed by the Hardeman County Disaster Relief Feeding Unit and the American Red Cross.

Baptists in the association also provided about \$3,000 worth of items for babies. Members of New Bethel Church, Mansfield, led in this project. Members of New Harmony Church, Paris, gave clothing.

The relief items were delivered to Jackson by Bill Smith, director of missions, and his wife, Betty.

Finally, Western District Baptists are helping a family of the association who lost their home in the Jan. 22 storm.

Amazing offering

On Jan. 24, the Sunday following the storm in the Jackson area, Englewood Church, Jackson, experienced a miracle, according to Pastor Phil Jett.

He, in consultation with the chairman of deacons, chairman of the missions committee, and chairman of the

finance committee, agreed to ask members on that Sunday to consider allocating some of their offering for disaster relief.

Jett recalled telling members "the budget is very tight and we're not sure how we're going to manage this, but we're committed to this," he said, referring to the church leaders and their commitment to help the disaster victims.

Although members had no advance warning, and may have had to change their envelopes and their gifts, the response was overwhelming.

Englewood members not only met the budget of about \$29,000, they gave \$31,500 to it, \$3,000 to the church's building fund, and \$30,700 for tornado victims.

And more money for victims has come into the church since then, and will be given in the days to come, he predicted.

In addition, more than 200 members have helped storm victims in some way. One day, about 120 youth, who were out of school because of the storm, worked in the devastated area, he noted.

"The needs are overwhelming," reported Jett. Although the total amount given by Englewood members sounds large, that doesn't go very far when paying rent for families or buying furniture or cars, he added.

The church is adopting families to help, he said.

Baptist Student Center, Clarksville

The only Baptist entity damaged in all of the storms reportedly is the Baptist Student Center at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville. And it suffered only minor damage, said Jim Alexander, collegiate ministries specialist.

Located just across the street are the student centers of the Wesley Foundation, which was damaged, and Church of Christ, which was destroyed, he reported.

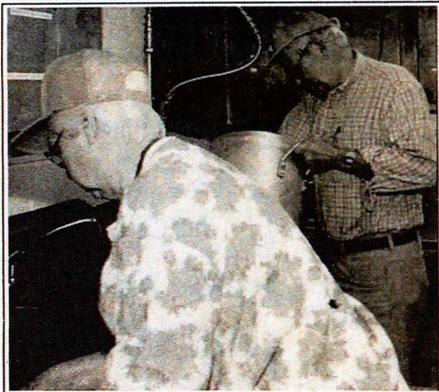
It's a miracle the center, which has many windows, escaped more serious damage, he said.

Alexander has offered use of the BSU facility to both of the neighboring student organizations which suffered damage. And the BSU will be of service to the school, which regularly uses the facility, because of the damage to the college's facilities, he noted.

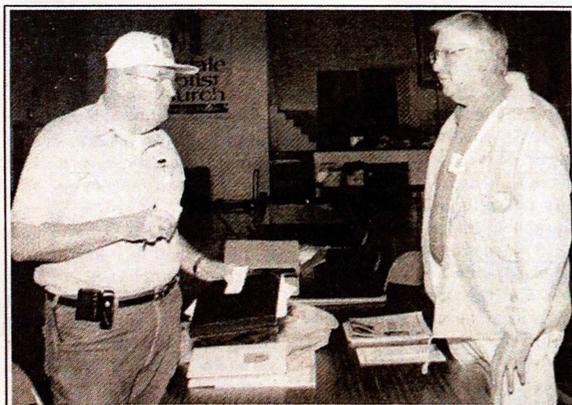
Relief in Clarksville

Hilldale Church, Clarksville, was very involved in helping tornado victims. For example, members made 1,500 sandwiches for victims before Disaster Relief workers from Concord Association began a feeding operation. The church also served as a center for relief items. About 225 members served as relief volunteers.

Verlon Moore, pastor, said he has observed among church members, other Baptists, and others in the Middle Tennessee area "an overwhelming willingness to reach out to help people." **B&R**



CLEANING POTS used to prepare a meal at Hilldale Church, Clarksville, are Disaster Relief workers Bennett and Mary Sue Anderson of Cherry Road Church, Memphis.



DISCUSSING THE NEEDS in Clarksville are Disaster Relief coordinator Larry Triplett, left, of First Church, Concord, and Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association.

Churches are advised

Prepare for Y2K beyond computer checks

By John L. Hoh Jr.
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Much has been written and discussed about the Y2K problem. And as the new millennium approaches, the debate intensifies. The prophecies for society in the dawn of the new millennium span from the near apocalyptic to a confidence there will be no grave consequences from this programming "shortcut."

Unable to process the next millennium, computers threaten to bring the international economy crashing down with them. The debate continues whether government is responding adequately. An estimated 15 percent of software applications prone to Y2K problems won't get fixed before the year 2000.

"Embedded systems" — the computer chips that control all kinds of machines, including elevators, ATMs, and traffic signals — are also subject to failure on Jan. 1, 2000. The good news is that probably only 5 percent of these embedded chips are date-sensitive and thus subject to Y2K failure, according to Giga Information Group in Cambridge, Mass. The bad news: an estimated 25 billion chips were at work on the planet on Jan. 1, 1999.

It is widely believed that many computers will have serious problems after midnight, Dec. 31, 1999, because most of them, if the software is not fixed, use two-digit dating systems that report the "00" of

Articles intended for information

Late last summer the *Baptist and Reflector* ran a series of articles on what is referred to as the Y2K problem. I received a letter from a reader telling me I should not scare our readers — that nothing would happen. I hope that person is right. Those articles (as well as the articles on this page) were intended simply as information.

I believe one of the responsibilities of this paper is to keep Tennessee Baptists informed on issues that could affect our churches and ministry.

As one of these articles points out, no one really knows what will happen when the clock rolls over to the year 2000. I believe in the old adage — "better safe than sorry." — Lonnie Wilkey

the year 2000 (Y2K) as 1900.

According to an April 20, 1998 article in *Forbes Magazine*, many things could go awry if thousands of software programs with millions, possibly billions, of lines of code are not rewritten so that "00" is recognized as 2000.

You've seen all the forecasts. For each story of gloom and doom, someone opines that the crisis is much ado about nothing.

So, which is it — grave impending crisis or minor nuisance? Or is it somewhere in between? One soon gathers that not even the experts agree on what may or may not happen.

The scope of the problem lies somewhere between societal crash and slight blip in activity. Since this problem has been recognized for some years now, attempts have been made to

stem the damage. Newer computers and programs are already Y2K compliant. And, since glitches will be anticipated in the first days and months of the new millennium, employees will be trained in customer service skills to resolve any problems that may arise.

It goes without saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Thus, for your personal peace of mind and for the security of your church, the following tips should help you as you prepare for and face any problems in the coming millennium.

Computers — All Apple Macintoshes are Y2K compliant; most Wintel PCs built after 1995 are supposed to be Y2K compliant. One way to make sure your computer is Y2K compliant is to set the date and time on the computer's calendar to 11:58 p.m., Dec.

31, 1999, and let it run into 2000. If it does, turn the computer off after five minutes and then turn it on again. See that it retains the "correct" date and time as set for your test. This ensures that your system is truly Y2K "rollover" compliant. Make sure you "back up" your data before you start this procedure, just in case your machine isn't Y2K compliant. When you buy new software, or a computer, insist on an in-store test for Y2K readiness.

Banks or Credit Unions — The largest U.S. banks are expected to have their systems ready. But many community banks and credit unions have dragged their feet on Y2K problems.

Insurance — If a large national company issues your insurance policies, your Y2K risks are minimal, but be wary of small regional insurers.

The Year 2000 glitch will bring some hassles and inconveniences. But it needn't be disastrous. Keep a careful paper record and test any equipment that might have a possibility of containing a Y2K flaw.

Contrary to what some may imply by their statements, the world will not end because of the Y2K problem. The hurdles that come up can be anticipated, planned for, and resolved with careful planning now. — Hoh is a freelance writer in Milwaukee. This article is adapted from a version that will appear in the June 1999 issue of *Church Administration*. ■



Suggestions for Y2K response

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The following is a list of suggestions for churches interested in becoming Y2K compliant and ministering to their communities should a crisis occur because of the transition to a new millennium.

The list is adapted from the article by John Gillmartin which will appear in the June 1999 issue of *Church Administration* magazine:

- Form or join community leadership coalitions.
- Organize or lead community awareness programs, often.
- Study the problem, communicate what you learn, as you learn it.
- Plan to conduct special services for the fall and winter of 1999.
- Experts say there will be economic disruptions; some say minor, some say major. Pray for the former; plan for the latter.
- Form a task force to inventory your church's Year 2000 exposures, separate the possible from the impossible, prioritize action items, and assign responsibilities.

➤ Organize and coordinate church-sponsored, community-wide food closets.

➤ Ask nearby hospitals if they are Y2K compliant.

➤ Inventory your community's senior citizen exposure.

➤ Develop an emergency plan for your church and members. Let people know where to go and what to do in the event of a crisis.

➤ Inventory essential church electronic equipment.

➤ Call financial institutions such as banks, credit unions, annuity, and mutual funds, to verify if they are Y2K compliant.

Call public service providers and ask them to inform you of their Y2K compliance.

Above all, use wisdom and common sense to offset fear, and blanket all that you do and all that you serve in prayer. Remember Paul's words in Philippians 2:4: "Each of you should look not only to your interests, but also to the interest of others" (NIV). ■

LifeWay magazine devotes June issue to Y2K matters

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "Halfway to Y2K, the Countdown Continues" will be the feature theme in the June issue of *Church Administration*, a monthly magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Editor George Clark said the issue is "especially slanted toward churches who may be running late in preparing for the turn of the year 2000."

The magazine will carry articles related to various aspects of Y2K.

Church Administration, a magazine for pastors, church staff, and others, may be obtained through LifeWay's dated church literature order form by calling 1-800-458-2772. Orders will be shipped in May. ■

YouthLink 2000 leaders pursue Y2K compliance

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Leaders preparing for the YouthLink 2000 events are monitoring closely work on the Year 2000 computer chip problems, according to co-chairpersons Dean Finley of the North American Mission Board and Richard Ross of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Scheduled Dec. 29, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000, in seven U.S. cities, the YouthLink conferences are expected to involve tens of thousands of Southern Baptist youth in worship, Bible study, ministry opportunities, and interactive exhibits.

At the national level, the YouthLink executive steering committee is working directly with national hotel chains, arena and stadium management offices, public utility companies, and city governments on their work toward Y2K compliance.

The YouthLink 2000 Internet

site (www.youthlink2000.org) provides full information about the event. Beginning in early February, visitors to the site will be able to read city-by-city progress toward full Y2K compliance, including information on meeting facilities, hotels, transportation systems, and public utilities.

"Because YouthLink 2000 ends at midnight on Dec. 31, the event will be over before any potential chip problem might arise,"

Ross said. "Since the potential for problems is anticipated during the hours immediately following the close of YouthLink 2000, the executive steering committee feels a strong responsibility to be aware of any potential problems."

Earlier this year, SBC pastors and youth ministers were

sent a letter encouraging them to meet with their youth parents late in 1999 to plan the trip home from YouthLink.

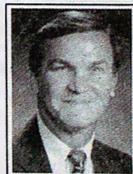
Ross said, "Based on their perception at that time of how serious the Y2K threat is, we want them to consider:

(1) Staying through the midnight service and returning to their hotel for a little sleep, and then driving home Saturday morning.

(2) Staying through the midnight service and returning home that night, thus avoiding any possible glitches in hotel equipment and services.

(3) Staying through the noon service on New Year's Eve and then returning home for a local service at midnight to harvest the decisions that have been brewing during the three days at YouthLink.

"We want churches to consider these options," Ross continued, "rather than have their teenagers miss the entire event." ■



ROSS

Never fear, Tennessee Baptists are there in crises

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

While in Jackson last week speaking to the Madison-Chester Association Pastors' Conference and surveying tornado damage, I picked up a disturbing rumor.

It seems as if some people in the area felt Baptists weren't doing anything to help following the tornadoes which swept through the area a week before.

Little did they know.

All the complainers saw were numerous American Red Cross vehicles delivering food. What most people do not realize is that the food delivered by the American Red Cross was prepared by Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers.

When a major disaster strikes, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief cannot just go barging in. They must work through the system and that includes the Red Cross, and government agencies such as TEMA or FEMA.

When well-meaning people try to bypass those groups, it just creates problems for everyone.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, under the capable leadership of Tim Bearden and his predecessors, has earned the respect and trust of the American Red Cross over the years. When a major disaster strikes Tennessee the ARC wants Tennessee Baptist volunteers. We have proven our capability and worthiness of that trust.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers work quietly behind the scenes, ministering and meeting needs.

In the aftermath of the Jackson tornadoes, Tennessee Baptists were quickly on the scene, preparing food. Later in the week, with little fanfare, hundreds of Tennessee Baptists came to Jackson to help victims clean up their residences. Other teams with chain saws came in and removed trees and brush for free. This was a chore some people were reportedly charging as much as \$1,000 per tree to do.

In addition, local Baptists in Madison-Chester Association and nearby came to the aid of their neighbors. Conroy Ryan and Carol Vaughan of the Madison-Chester Association worked tirelessly

transporting volunteers to areas of greatest need. East Union, Woodland, and Meridian churches opened their facilities for nearly two weeks to meet the needs of hurting communities.

At the Pastors' Conference last week several men related stories of how churches gave over and beyond their regular tithes and offerings to meet needs.

Similar stories could be related in Clarksville where tornadoes ravaged the city, leaving downtown in a shambles. Hilldale Church opened up its doors to assist the community as Tennessee Disaster Relief workers operated a feeding unit from that location.

Tennessee Baptist volunteers may not have been the most visible in all these instances, but they were there — as they always are when disaster strikes our state.

While there was idle talk about what Baptists were doing, those in leadership positions had no doubt what Tennessee Baptists did and are continuing to do.

What's more, God knows. In reality, that is all that really matters. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Newly married Hollywood actress: "And this is your house where we will live?" Husband: "Yes, do you like it?" Wife: "I love it. In fact, it looks familiar. Are you sure we haven't been married before?"

Take this truth

The Greeks taught history moves in cycles. The Hebrews said history moves toward a goal. Both were correct. Life moves in cycles as it moves toward the divine goal.

Memorize this Scripture

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done." — Ecclesiastes 1:9

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to determine where you are going and start moving with you toward your purpose and plan." ■

If you had life to live over, would it be different?

guest columnist

by Jim Crowden
pastor, Hillcrest Church
Nashville

As I think about friendships, I wonder if I had my life to live over, how differently would I live it.

Would I have invited

more friends over for a meal, even if it were only a hamburger? Would I have helped cut that elderly lady's yard?

Would I have cried more often with friends when appropriate? Would I have laughed more with my friends? Would I have said, "I'm sorry," more often?

I want to be more like the kind of friend found in this acrostic:

F — Fun loving, feeling of acceptance, faithful.

R — Risk being real and understood

I — Interested in the total welfare of others.

E — Empathetic, expect the best.

N — Natural relationships, non-exclusive.

D — Diplomatic, delightful to be with.

S — Support with prayer and help, sympathetic, stable.

H — Helpful, happy, and hopeful.

I — Interdependent by helping others.

P — Personable, patient, protective of reputations and confidences.

If I were given another opportunity at life and friendship, I would seize every minute of it! I would look at it and really see it and live it for Jesus. Read John 15:13. ■

Ministers, try not to neglect your families

A funny thing happened on the way to the pulpit

by Daryll Smiley

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

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

It had become customary for our family to spend Saturday, as often as possible, together with one another. And when something happened on a Saturday, it was a cause of concern for our children because that cut into their quality time. But as a minister, sometimes Satur-

day must be spent doing the Lord's work.

I had completed my pre-marital counseling of a young couple and they had asked to be married in the middle of a Saturday afternoon at the church. After lunch, my youngest daughter, then age 7, came into my room and asked why I was getting all dressed up. I told her that I was going to marry Sam and Sherry.

Her little eyes began to fill up with tears as she looked at me. "Daddy," she said, "you can't do that, you're already married."

I took time to explain to her that I was just performing the ceremony for another couple. She was satisfied with that explanation and went on to play. I conducted the wedding and then we resumed our day's activities. All's well that ends well.

A lesson here is that sometimes we as ministers take for granted that our families understand our obligations when sometimes they do not and feel they are being neglected. Take time to explain your actions and don't rush off ministering to others while leaving your own family unattended. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

February

- 3 — Pray for Lou Leventhal, a Canadian pastor and Pete White, a layman, as they return this week from a mission trip to India.
- 4 — Pray for pastorless churches in Michigan.
- 5 — Pray for Shalom Church in Los Guidos, Costa Rica, as they disciple people who have come to the church recently.
- 6 — Pray for the evangelistic outreach to be held during Carnival this month in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 7 — Praise God for the recent Cult Awareness Week at the Baptist Student Ministries of the University of Toronto-Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
- 8 — Pray for interpreters to work with Tennessee volunteers in the upcoming projects and the May simultaneous revivals and citywide crusade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 9 — Praise God that Glenna Heidt, prayer consultant for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, spoke recently at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



From overseers to ministers

Grubbs leads deacon transition at Gladeville

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

GLADEVILLE — When Bruce Grubbs became pastor of Gladeville Church, the church's deacons were basically "overseers."

"They held meetings to decide the 'big' things," recalled Grubbs, who served as interim pastor for four years before becoming pastor. He is bivocational.

Grubbs, associate to the executive director in the office of corporate affairs at LifeWay Christian Resources, however, had a different view of what deacons should do.

Grubbs began to preach on expectations of what both the pastors and deacons should do.

As a result the church went from six deacons focused on managing the institution and personnel to 24 deacon "ministers" with assignments for "x" number of families, he shared.

Scripture says deacons serve the needs of the people, Grubbs maintained.

The role of pastor also changed at Gladeville from a "chaplain" who visited the sick and elderly to one who preaches and proclaims the Word of God, a person who keeps the church's vision alive, and one who guides the general life of the church in regard to staff



PASTOR BRUCE GRUBBS, left, of Gladeville Church looks over deacon ministry responsibilities with Gladeville deacons Butch O'Neal, center, and Bill Davison. The three men led a workshop on how the deacon ministry at Gladeville works during the recent State Bivocational Evangelism Conference held at Gladeville.

and administration.

About three years ago the church, which has more than doubled in size and attendance over the past 10 years, made another transition in deacon ministry, Grubbs said. They went from the family ministry plan to ministry team.

Gladeville currently has six deacon ministry teams which include hospital visitation, grief ministry, homebound ministry, help ministry, new member ministry, and communications ministry. Some of those teams are further divid-

ed into sub-teams, Grubbs said. "The deacons are doing ministry that revolves around meeting the needs of the congregation. My role is to be an encourager and to help as needed," he said.

The stated objective of Gladeville's "Servant Team Ministry" is "to provide a ministry of care-giving to the people of our church and community through a servant team ministry led by the deacon fellowship involving as many of our members as possible."

Butch O'Neal, chairman of the deacons when the transition was made, said they found they could not provide for their families as they wanted to. In looking at the transition they found a "variety of gifts" within the deacon body, he said.

After learning of the deacon ministry concept they decided that would work for their congregation, he confirmed.

Grubbs noted the deacons are the sponsoring group as well as leaders and participants in the ministry teams. They do not "control" the teams, Grubbs stressed. "You don't have to be a deacon to be on the team, or even to serve as chairman," he said.

The important thing is, Grubbs continued, "Who has the gifts? Who has the interest?"

"People like to work together and out of their gifts," Grubbs observed. "That is Scriptural."

He noted the concept is "a body-producing fruit where the pastor is not the star. ... When you see the congregation become producers of fruit, you understand how the Kingdom of God is built," he said.

Bill Davison, current chairman of deacons at Gladeville, said the ministry teams do not pose a territorial question: The ministries do not take anything away from the pastor. In fact,

they have freed him up to do more for the church, he said.

O'Neal observed the teams provide "a real opportunity to be involved on the front line for God's work."

The three men acknowledged that coordination is the key and keeping communications open. "The teams work well but it requires communication. You cannot do it by yourself," O'Neal said.

Grubbs acknowledged many churches across the Southern Baptist Convention still have deacon bodies that see themselves as "overseers" and that making the transition does not come overnight.

"You have to think long-term," Grubbs said. "what we have here has been 11 years in the process," he said.

Grubbs said the question that must be asked is: Do the needy care who helps them?

"It is not a matter of who does what, but that the work is done," Grubbs said. ■

Grubbs, Davison, and O'Neal led a workshop on their ministry during the recent State Bivocational Evangelism Conference.



Wilson County Baptists renovate student center

For Baptist and Reflector

LEBANON — Students returning for the spring semester at Cumberland University were greeted with a freshly-renovated Baptist Student Center, located on the corner of West Spring and South Hatton here.

Students will be able to make limited use of the building for a few weeks before renovation is complete.

The house, which previously was known as the Franklin

house, was purchased in 1998 by Wilson County Association and was named the Kenneth M. Tramel Baptist Student Center.

Tramel has been the collegiate ministry specialist (formerly BSU director) at Cumberland since 1985. He also is pastor of Shop Springs Church, Lebanon.



TRAMEL

A committee comprised of Don Pharris, chairman, Lourae Henry, Cheryl Lewis, Tramel, Carl Price, Carol Pharris, Arlie Pass, Marty Dodge, and DOM Mike Pearson guided the work of contractors and volunteers.

Some work still needs to be done and several furnishings are yet to be purchased. Donations of work time and materials were generous, according to committee member Carl Price. Donations are still being accepted. ■

Traveling ministry teams now accepting requests

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Requests from churches and associations are now being accepted for the 1999 summer ministry teams — eXalt and Proclaim.

These coed teams consist of five college students who are available June 13-Aug. 12 for youth revivals, retreats, youth camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and other creative ministries. Each team includes members gifted in the areas of preaching, music/worship, drama, and recreation. Teams are coordinated by Bruce Edwards and Kent Shingleton of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board staff.

Ellen Chapman, multi-housing ministry co-

ordinator for Concord Association, hosted a team for one week last summer.

"The teams were such a blessing," she said. "Everyone just loved them," she added, noting the college students interacted well with the children. During their short time of ministry with us, five children were saved in an apartment complex and two others accepted Christ at a mobile home park, Chapman said.

Churches and associations hosting a team are asked to provide meals and housing during the time of ministry.

For information or to request a team, contact Edwards at (615) 371-2094 or Shingleton at (615) 371-2077.

Deadline for application is March 12. ■

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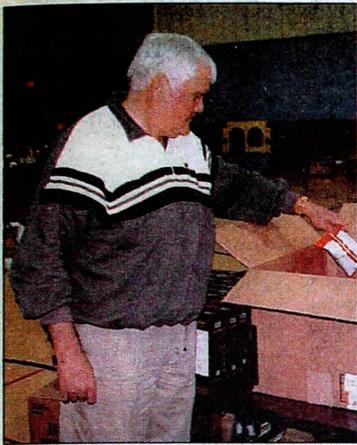
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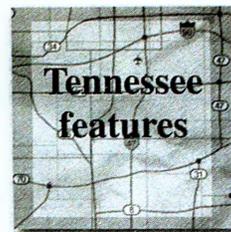
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CALVIN MOORE, pastor, East Union Church, Jackson, packs a box of food in the gym of the church for a tornado victim.



PREPARING meals for tornado victims and relief workers in Clarksville are Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief worker Max Campbell, right, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville; and members of Hilldale Church, Clarksville, from left, Evelyn Nation, Bertie Steinhorst, Kathryn Dority, Sara Stephens, Becky Brittain, and Jane Adams. Hilldale was the site of the Disaster Relief Feeding operation in Clarksville.



Helping tornado victims in Tennessee



SORTING clothes at Meridian Church, Jackson, a distribution center, are members Linda Murley, left, and Jo Ann Williams.



THIS SUBDIVISION in Jackson was demolished by the tornado which struck Jan. 18. Of the approximately 92 homes here, about 52 were leveled.



OPENING CANS of food for an upcoming meal are Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers Helen Hutchison of First Church, Middleton, and James Waldrip of Piney Grove Church, Bolivar.



WASHING containers used to carry food to tornado victims are Max and Barbara Grant of Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar.



DISASTER RELIEF worker Bennett Anderson, left, Cherry Road Church, Memphis, helps Evelyn Nation, center, and Jane Adams of Hilldale Church, Clarksville, load containers of food into American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles.



HELPING Carol Vaughan load relief items into her car are Madison-Chester Association pastors Ken Skelton, left, of Clover Creek Church and Mark McSwain of Maple Springs Church.

New Lawrenceburg minister uses football to reach youth

By Wally Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — As he walked through the streets of Delmas 75, Jack Duffer flipped a toy football to a youth. Instinctively, the boy caught it and threw it back.

In less time than it takes to relate, Duffer had a dozen youth and children tossing the

miniature Kansas City Chiefs pigskin around. He then invited them to a Bible study taught by him and other students from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

"They (Haitian youth) know what a soccer ball is and what a basketball is, but when they see a football, it really creates some interest," he said.

The mission trip to Haiti was Duffer's last seminary activity. He began Feb. 2 as associate pastor of youth and recreation at First Church, Lawrenceburg.

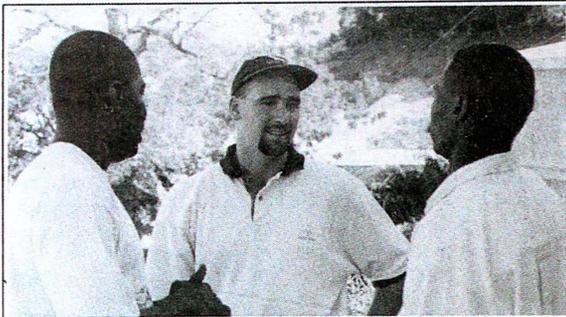
Usually, the Midwestern students are accompanied by an interpreter but Duffer learned the French Creole words for "may I pray for you?" and struck out on his own during the final days of his trip.

"If you had told me at the beginning of the week that I would be speaking Creole without an interpreter, I'd

have said, 'Oh, you're crazy. That's not going to happen.' But God has done amazing things," Duffer related.

The seminary students and their professor, Ron Rogers, worked with missionary Jim Ziler.

The team experienced spiritual warfare here. In one area, a voodoo temple was located close to the home where they were conducting Bible studies. The students prayed for God to be glorified and Satan bound in and around the temple. ■



JACK DUFFER invites two men to Bible study in Haiti. He is the new associate pastor of youth and recreation at First Church, Lawrenceburg.

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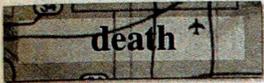
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■ **Cannie Leonard**, a long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor and former director of missions in Salem Association, died Jan. 23 in Smithville. He was a member of Elizabeth Chapel Church in Smithville. Leonard was a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He preached for 69 years. Leonard is survived by a daughter, Elois Graves, and two grandsons.



■ First Church, Murfreesboro, recently honored **Jerry**

Neely, minister of music, for 20 years of service. He was presented several gifts from the church along with a presentation by the Chancel Choir of "Trust in the Lord," an anthem they commissioned in his honor by composer Joseph Martin. Neely and his wife, Sue, are natives of Mississippi. They have two sons — Chris and Andy.

■ Two staff changes have occurred recently at Trenton Street Church, Harriman. **Ron Nordan** became pastor Jan. 3 while **Harry Fritts** has resigned as interim minister of music.

■ **Ronnie Coleman** has resigned as pastor of New Bethlehem Church, Dyer, effective Feb. 21 to enter full-time evangelism. He may be reached at (901) 988-5535.



PASTOR WADE CAMPBELL and his wife, Judy, began serving Jan. 17 at Lakewood Church, Beech Grove. Lakewood is a mission of First Church, Woodbury. The church's former pastor, Charles George, retired last October.

■ **Richard Ross**, national youth consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources, has resigned as minister of youth at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.

■ **John Adams**, retired Jan. 29 after 17 years of service at Union University. Adams served as vice president for church services and campus ministries since 1982 and directed Union's R.G. Lee Center since its inception three years ago. He has served as a pastor for 40 years, including churches in Dyersburg, Springfield, and



ADAMS

McKenzie. Adams has served on the TBC Executive Board and was president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1977. He currently serves on the SBC International Mission Board and is interim pastor of Halls Westside Church, Halls.

■ **Samuel Norrod** has been called as minister of music/education at First Church, Crossville, effective Feb. 21. They join First Church from Morehead City, N.C., where he served in the same role at Park View Church. He and his wife, Kathi, have two children, Benjamin and Brandon.

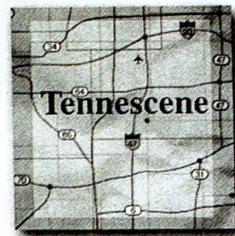
■ **Scott Cunningham** is the new bivocational minister of youth at Memorial Church, Crossville. He formerly served at First Church, Spring City. He and his wife, Darlene, have one child, Kali.

■ **Scott White** is the new pastor of Oaklawn Church, Crossville. He and his wife, Beth, formerly served at Isoline Church, Crossville.

■ A reception was held Jan. 10 by First Church, Baxter, in honor of **Ernest Blair**, who has retired as pastor, and his wife.

■ **Tom Tomberlin** has resigned as pastor of Friendship Church, Knoxville. He is available for supply and interim ministry. His home phone number is (423) 694-8385.

■ **Lamar Frizell** has been called as pastor of Fort San-



ders Church, Knoxville.

■ **Tim Latch** is the new associate pastor/youth director at Liberty Church, Somerville. His name was inadvertently listed as Randy Latch in the Jan. 27 issue.



■ **South Woods Church, Memphis**, will host a Y2K Forum on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. to inform the public on the minimal precautions one might take in regard to the Y2K phenomenon. The public is invited. For more information, call the church at (901) 758-1213.

■ **Longest Church, Memphis**, will hold revival Feb. 21-25 with evangelist Phil Glisson of Memphis.

■ **Pine Grove Church, Lexington**, will be in revival Feb. 7-10 with evangelist Harold Hunter.



■ "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. For more information, contact Jerry Chapman at (615) 371-7932, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932, or jchapman@tnbaptist.org.

Conference to help develop lay leaders

BRENTWOOD — 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, TBC Executive Board at (615) 371-7932 or 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932. ■

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Poll discovers more women turning to religion

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A survey of American women turned up surprising results for its sponsor and showed women turning more to religion and becoming more conservative, according to a Washington newspaper.

The survey commissioned by the Center for Gender Equality revealed American women's more conservative religious views influence a more conservative religious view on social issues. The women also believe, according to the report, their religious views should be part of public policy debates.

According to the Jan. 28 issue of *The Washington Times*, more women support a family dynamic in which the husband takes leadership and holds the primary ca-

reer. Also, according to the survey, nearly all women think men and women should be treated the same in employment, bank loans, promotion, and education.

"We find some of the findings in the report very disturbing," Faye Wattleton, director of the center, told the newspaper in a telephone conversation Jan. 27. She cited, as an example, that two in three women say the Christian Coalition's agenda will improve their lives as women.

"Women express more conservative views than we had expected," she told the paper.

Interestingly, she said 36 percent of American women agree with the recent action by the Southern Baptist Convention to amend its Baptist Faith and Message statement by adding a family article, which included that wives should "submit (themselves) graciously" to their husbands' leadership. The addition also calls for husbands to "love (their wives) as Christ loved the church."

Seventy-five percent of the

women said religion is important to them and half of the respondents said they were "born again," or evangelical. ■



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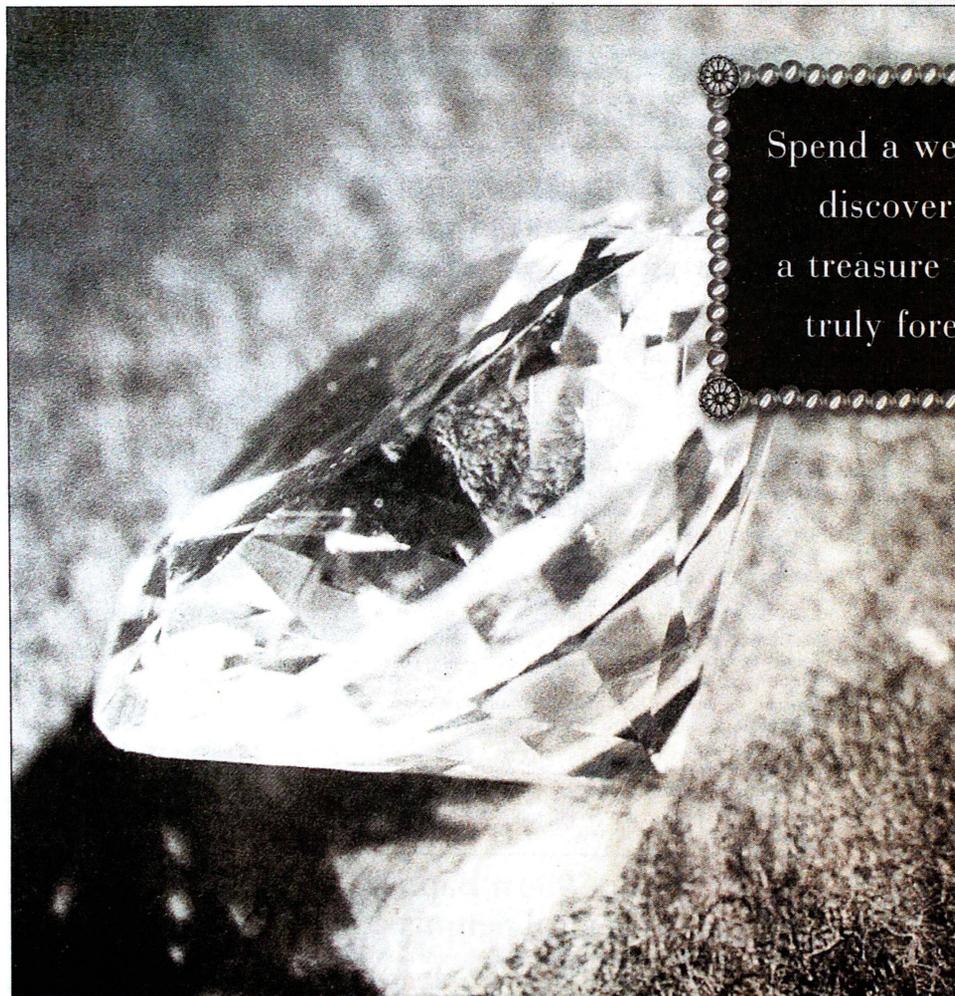
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Authority

By Martin Babb

Focal Passage — Mark 1:1-13

This week we begin a series of lessons on bold discipleship. Over the last 20 years we have seen examples of bold disciples of false leaders like Jim Jones in Guyana, David Koresh in Texas, and Marshall Applewhite with Heaven's Gate in California. Our first lesson is about Jesus' authority to call disciples and I have based my discussion on three particular points of his authority.

Conferred by God (vv. 1, 9-11). Mark thought it important enough to begin his Gospel by referring to Jesus as the "Christ" and as the "Son of God." Jesus has authority, not because of what he said or accomplished, but by who he was. In verses 9-11, it was reinforced by God himself when, at the baptism of Jesus, he let it be known that this was his "beloved Son." I do not recall God before, during, or after the time of Jesus, doing that for anyone else. We are not unique in our number of false teachers today — they had them in the time of John the Baptist also. Jesus was different from those teachers in many ways, but the most important was he was approved by God.

Confirmed by John the Baptist (vv. 2-8). This is another case of God doing the unexpected. He had Jesus born in a manger instead of a palace and he chose as the forerunner of Jesus, not a Pharisee or a high-ranking government official, but a man who wore animal clothing and ate bugs. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by preaching to large crowds and baptizing those who repented of their sin. In spite of his clothing and dietary habits, John made it clear in his preaching that he was not the Messiah and someone else would come with greater power. John only baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John was pointing people to someone else because he had no power to transform lives — Jesus did, and still does.

Confronted by Satan (vv. 12-13). Jesus' trek to the wilderness was definitely divinely inspired, where he spent 40 days being tempted by Satan. To learn the details of Jesus' temptations we must look to the other Gospels (Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13), where he was challenged to turn stones into bread, jump off of the top of the temple, and worship Satan, each temptation being not only a temptation to sin but a challenge to Jesus' authority. We will not face Jesus-like challenges from Satan because we are not Jesus, but we face temptation every day, no matter where we live or work. We cannot resist temptation alone, we must have Jesus' help. This confrontation and ultimate victory over temptation was the final confirmation of Jesus' authority.

As I said at the beginning, we have seen our share of false teachers. One of the many faults in their existence and a major difference between them and Jesus was one of authority. Jesus had it, they didn't. In Calvin Miller's magnificent narrative, "The Singer," Jesus is the singer and the Gospel is his song. It is a beautiful metaphor of the incarnation and how the singer lived and died singing his song of love and forgiveness. Although we as Christians have a song to sing, we need to be careful of whose song we are singing. David Koresh and Jesus at times sang an all too eerily similar song ... but for only one of them did God write the words. Many are called ... One was chosen. Many are killed ... One has risen. — Babb is associate pastor/education, Springfield Church, Springfield.

Live responsibly

By Edgar Pierce

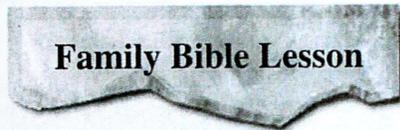
Focal Passage — Romans 13:1-14

If these Scriptures were written in a time of religious stability and no persecution for the believers they would not carry much validity. However, because they were written in a time when respect for the government was a responsibility not a joy they carry great weight.

Nero was the ruler and was noted for his persecution of the Christians. While it has never been proven it is almost certain that Nero was the one who set Rome on fire and blamed it on the Christians to divert attention away from his failures. Many lost their lives, including Peter and Paul some think, in the aftermath.

Respect government — vv. 1-7

I have heard of some people saying they think they will leave America because of all the corruption in our nation. One might ask, "how can we respect our government?" Verse 1 clearly teaches that government is ordained of God. "Ordained" means God established it. Paul said if we resist the civil powers then we resist God.



Family Bible Lesson

Why did God give us government? God gave it to protect the good and one way to punish the evil works of men. This excludes lynch mobs, vigilante groups, kangaroo courts and the like. God gave us government to do this work.

While we all realize that our government is far from perfect we still have Christian duties toward the state. First we are to be subject to or obey the laws. Paul says not just out of fear but with a good conscience. The meaning is a moral conscience.

It has been said there are two things that are certain,

death and taxes. Verse 6 says we should pay tribute, or taxes, to support the government that God ordained. We are to fear and honor in proper ways.

The only exception to this is when the earthly authority calls upon us to disobey God (see Acts 5:29).

Love others — vv. 8-10

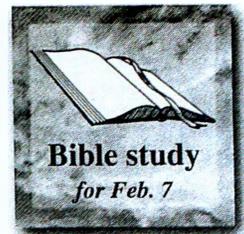
Someone said it is easier to love the people in a foreign land than it is to love our next door neighbor. Paul relates love to civil responsibility. We are obligated to love one another. The Ten Commandments that relate to others are given here but the call is for us to go beyond the mere law requirement to love and do good to others. The world sometimes lives by the saying, do unto others and then split. We could say the Christian version should be, do unto others and don't quit.

Live honorably — vv. 11-14

Does God call the church to live different than the world? Certainly, he does. I heard a preacher refer to the slumber of the saints as us being put to sleep in the "devil's rocking chair." Paul says we should wake up. It is told that Napoleon traced his fingers around the outline of China and said, "let's not wake the sleeping giant." Could we not say the true sleeping giant is the church.

Verse 13 is plain language that shows we need to wake the moral conscience of our nation from its stupor induced by the flesh. We need to show the way to a dark world by being light.

"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ" means we should be clothed with him. Ephesians 4:24 says, "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." This will make us who are dual citizens of both the kingdom of God and the kingdom on earth the best citizens in this world as we respect the government, love others, and live honorably. — Pierce is pastor, Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport.



Bible study
for Feb. 7

Ultimate confrontation

By Maurice Hays

Focal Passage — Mark 11:15-18a; 12:10-17

I heard years ago of a Southern Baptist leader who was being interviewed by news media. He was asked if he was one of those naive Baptists who believed they were the only ones going to heaven? His reply was, "I don't believe half our bunch is going." That may sound funny, but how true is it? Jesus said the temple was "a den of thieves." That would be a place where thieves run to hide. Are many people simply going to church to put on a front, to cover up their sins and hypocrisy. Jesus accused not only the people, but the religious leaders. Jesus knows the motives and attitude of our hearts. He knows the real truth.

Righting a wrong (ch. 11:15-18a). Jesus had cleared the temple during his first Passover visit, but it was only temporary. They had again returned to their old ways because it was profitable to them. In this cleaning of the temple Jesus denounces the desecration of the temple by the ones responsible. He dealt first with what was going on that should not. The money changers and dealers had set up in the court of the Gentiles. They were guilty of cheating and defrauding the people. It was a lucrative, dirty business. Je-

Explore the Bible Lesson

sus also dealt with what was not going on that should have. The temple was to be a house of prayer and a center of evangelism. They had taken the area where they should have been reaching people for God, and turned it into a place of profit. The temple had become everything it should not be, instead of everything it should have been. The same could be said of some churches today.

Looking beyond the present (ch. 12:10-12). "The Stone," is used several other times in the Scriptures as a well known symbol for the Messiah. Jesus not only said they had rejected God's Messiah, Jesus, but they had refused the stone. God's judgment would come on them for their rejection of him. Mark makes note that it was the religious leaders, and not the people who wanted to do away with Jesus. The people did not understand all about Jesus, but they believed him to be a good man with a mission from God. The people also loved John the Baptist who preceded Jesus and spoke of him.

Firm but fair (vv. 13-17). The Pharisees, who were the dominant

religious party, and the Herodians, who supported Herod as well as the Romans who gave them authority to rule, joined together to trap Jesus. They had decided to try and destroy Jesus, some time ago.

They were enemies, but together in a plot to do away with Jesus. It seemed with their question that Jesus could not answer without offending someone. Jesus took the discussion from a political one to a matter of principle. Jesus showed the coin with Caesar's image and indicated that it was minted by Caesar's authority and what was Caesar's should be rendered to Caesar.

On the other hand what is God's should be given to God. Jesus was saying we should be good citizens of our government, but more important, we should give ourselves to God for we are created in the image of God and we must live under God's authority as well. We do not have to agree with all who are in government, but we should respect the position and pray for all leaders. There is punishment for not submitting to government authority today and there is future punishment for not living under God's leadership. He gives us an abundant life now and forever as we submit to him. — Hays is Baptist Student Ministries specialist, Jackson State Community College, Jackson.



Earthquake strikes Colombia; IMB plans to mobilize response

Baptist Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Southern Baptist workers are evaluating ways to aid people injured and displaced by a powerful earthquake that killed as many as 2,000 people in Colombia Jan. 25.

The magnitude-6 earthquake flattened towns and neighborhoods across the country's western coffee-growing region.

The earthquake is believed to be the worst in Colombia's history. A 1994 temblor killed 800 people. Landslides following a 1985 volcanic eruption in western Colombia claimed an estimated 24,000 lives.

Several Baptist churches are located in the area. One is serving as a shelter for people whose homes were destroyed, said John Cheyne, the SBC International Mission Board's interim director of human needs ministries.

Southern Baptists will provide immediate help in the form of plastic sheeting to help shelter families from the elements, Cheyne said. The board released \$50,000 in emergency funds Jan. 27. ■

Alabama Baptists oppose governor's pro-lottery stance

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — As the threat of a state-sponsored lottery looms at the outset of Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman's administration, Baptists are gearing up for the fight with a petition. Baptist churches around the state began circulating a petition opposing "any gambling legislation, including lottery" during the first week of January.

"We want to be ready in case the governor calls a special session (for the lottery)," said John Long, second vice president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Long, director of missions for Baldwin Association, presented the idea and a copy of the petition to the state's 75 directors of missions during their annual December meeting. They responded positively and took copies of the petition to give to churches in their associations.

With more than 3,150 Alabama Baptist churches, "we could do anything if we could stand together," said John Upchurch, director of missions for Butler Association. ■

Missionary's death in India shows impact of Gospel

Baptist Press

MANOHARPUR, India — The Jan. 23 murder of an Aus-

Gift from 12-year-old Sunday School class

Madalyn Murray O'Hair's only Bible auctioned

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

It was Madalyn Murray O'Hair's only Bible — sent to her in 1968 by a Sunday School class of 12-year-olds from Winnetka Heights Church in Tulsa, Okla.

The small white children's Bible was among the possessions of the noted atheist — who mysteriously vanished in 1995 — sold at a Jan. 23 auction in Pflugerville, Texas, an Austin suburb.

Bidding for the Bible started at \$500 and ended at \$2,000.

The inscription of the Bible read: "Presented to Mrs. Madalyn (sic) Murray O'Hair by the 12-year-old girls class at Winnetka Heights Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla, Dec. 15, 1968," according to news reports.

Janet Elliott of Tulsa was one of those 12-year-olds in a class taught by Kit Oldfather, now deceased.

Elliott recounted Oldfather told the class of O'Hair's efforts to get prayer and Bible reading removed from public schools.

I can remember her talking about how, if she's successful, that would be the start of the decline of the United States," Elliott said of Oldfather's fears related to O'Hair.

The girls' class never got a response from O'Hair, said Elliott, who has been in Winnetka

Heights Church since she was 5 years old. "It was the only Bible we found," an Internal Revenue Service officer was quoted as saying after the IRS seized O'Hair's five-bedroom home and its contents in 1997 to pay more than \$250,000 O'Hair owed in back taxes and to various creditors.

It was the lone Bible among hundreds of books O'Hair owned on such subjects as sorcery, the evils of organized religion, weight loss, and a myriad other subjects.

The successful bidder for the Bible, Austin lawyer Jimmy Nassour, told reporters it eventually may be sold to a museum.

Michael R. Stick, who recently became pastor of Winnetka Heights Church, said sending a Bible to someone "may seem insignificant to some, but that is one of the greatest gifts we can give. The Scriptures contain the words of eternal life because they point us to Jesus (John 5:39, Galatians 3:24).

"Through the action of a godly teacher and a group of young girls, God showed Mrs. O'Hair the very thing she despised — his mercy, love, and grace," Stick said.

"It doesn't matter how insignificant our efforts may seem to others, God uses all that we do for his purpose. We can hope that Mrs. O'Hair read this little Bible, but we'll never know this side of eternity the full effect of their evangelistic effort." ■

tralian Baptist missionary and his two sons by Hindu extremists grieves Christians everywhere, but where God's spirit is moving in power, intense opposition must be expected, said Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Graham Staines, 58, and his sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, burned to death when the vehicle in which they were sleeping was doused with gasoline and set ablaze outside a small, makeshift church in the village of Manoharpur, about 620 miles southeast of New Delhi. Police later arrested 49 people in connection with the murder, including leaders of an extremist Hindu organization, Bajrang Dal.

The murders are the most vicious incident in a recent spate of attacks on Christians in India.

"We are grieved to hear of the martyrdom of this missionary colleague and his sons from Australia," Rankin said. "The wave of unprecedented persecution and violence against Christians in India and other places throughout the world is evidence of the growing impact the Gospel is making.

"Wherever the Holy Spirit moves in evangelism and church growth, the opposition is more intense. This spiritual warfare is a reality of mis-

sions. We are grateful for those who serve faithfully in spite of such incidents to bring light to a world in darkness," he said.

Hindu account for 82 percent of India's 988 million people while India's 23 million Christians are 2.3 percent. ■

Texan envisions cut in funding for some SBC entities

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Four SBC agencies — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission — could receive cuts in Texas Baptist funding, according to Russell H. Dilday Jr.

The ERLC and the three seminaries are those for which "some" Texas Baptists have the "strongest distaste" among agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dilday told the Baptist Standard. Dilday is president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary for nearly 16 years until being fired by trustees in 1994, is the first BGCT leader to be publicly quoted as envisioning funding cuts for SBC agencies. He told the Standard he did not intend to give the impression he was advocating such cuts, but was answering a reporter's question and was predicting what he believes is "in-

evitable" at the BGCT's annual meeting in November. ■

Ghanaians accept Christ at celebration

Baptist Press

NALERIGU, Ghana — The first baby born in the Baptist Medical Center here was named John the Baptist — a prophetic name, one synonymous with preparing the way for Jesus.

At the hospital's recent 40th anniversary celebration, the prophecy clearly has become a reality. More than 4,000 people attended an all-night celebration for a ministry that has helped start three dozen churches in the area.

More than 120 decisions for Christ were registered during that event. "I was surprised at the numbers that came forward," said Diane Lay, an International Mission Board nurse who has served at the hospital since 1961.

She shouldn't have been surprised though, knowing that all of the 36 or more Baptist churches in the area have been started because of the ministry of the hospital.

"Either someone from a village has been a patient and shown interest in becoming a Christian, or someone from the hospital has gone to the village to preach the Good News," she said. "The chiefs always tell me, 'I know you. You are at the hospital and you have helped my people.'" ■



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