

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

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this
week's
news

- Disaster Relief work continues in state. — Page 2
- Baptists in William Carey Association find renewal. — Page 3
- Jackson team plans return to Nicaragua. — Page 4

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

Says Memphis pastor

New level of prayer needed in America

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

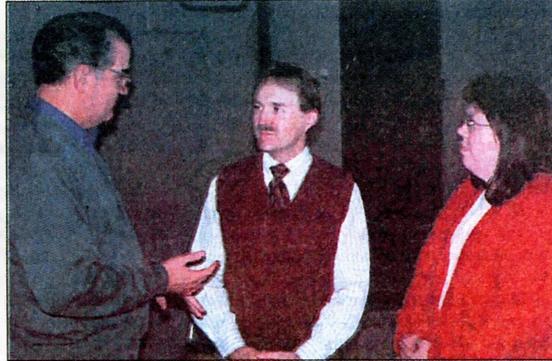
BRENTWOOD — God is calling state conventions and churches to a new level of prayer, said Memphis pastor Greg Frizzell.

"For far too long, prayer has been defined down to a brief quiet time with God," said Frizzell, pastor of Georgian Hills Church. He led a prayer conference Feb. 1-2 for all employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

"God has much more in mind for his children and his church," he observed.

"Every time that God's people turn to him in serious prayer, there is an incredible outpouring of the Holy Spirit," he told TBC employees. Then conversion numbers explode and they are real and lasting, he added.

Frizzell cited Great Awakenings of the past and noted they only happened when conditions were so bad that churches turned to God in serious, concerted prayer. "The only thing they knew to do was



MEMPHIS PASTOR Greg Frizzell, center, of Georgian Hills Church, visits with TBC Executive Board staffers Richard Skidmore, left, and Bernie Baker during a prayer conference he led Feb. 1-2 for all TBC Executive Board employees.

intense prayer."

America is in that condition today "whether we fully know it or not," Frizzell contended. "There's never been the kind of spiritual wickedness and evil against American Christians that we are beginning to see today," he said.

"A Great Awakening is absolutely the only hope for America."

Frizzell said there has not

been a huge nationwide outpouring of the Spirit of God in America since 1905.

The Memphis pastor cautioned that "just not any old prayer" will bring down the outpouring of God's spirit.

Prayer that brings down the power of God must be intense and the absolute priority of one's life, Frizzell said.

"I believe with all my heart that a Great Awakening is

coming," he continued.

It will take expectant faith among his believers. "Are we really expecting God to do more than we've ever seen him do?" Frizzell asked. "We need to."

Frizzell cited a disturbing trend in America in the last 50 years which show many churches have eliminated serious Wednesday night prayer sessions which are devoted only to prayer. However, there is a growing trend back to corporate prayer meetings, he added.

He is convinced that declines in baptisms in many denominations go back to the fact churches have drifted away from serious, intense prayer.

"We can't do everything else and just throw in a little prayer," Frizzell maintained. Churches that do go back to prayer are seeing powerful new signs of evangelism and missions, he said.

"The greatest thing we can do for evangelism is to raise our praying that God will send another Great Awakening."

Every great move of God has been marked by explosions of salvations, he continued.

— See New, page 4

Church provides 'first class' missionary house

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

GOODLETTSVILLE — Members of

Parkway Church here are understandably proud. After working for 10 months on the church's former parsonage, giving items to furnish it, and investing \$13,100 in it, the

missionary house was completed. And church members met their schedule. It was ready in time for the Deasy family, missionaries to Brazil.

The Deasy family moved in Jan. 19. They will serve in the United States until June.

Parkway members are proud to have the Deasys living here because Jeff Deasy was organist at the church when he was a student at Belmont University. While serving as organist, he dated and married Kathy Callahan Deasy, also a Belmont student. And the couple, who were members of the church from 1977-87, responded to the call to missions at Parkway.

When members of the church learned when the Deasys were going to return to the Nashville area, they realized their plans to open a missionary home could dovetail with the plans of the Deasys.

Then members of Parkway got to work. The house, which had served as a parsonage and then rental property, needed a lot of work. Led by Shirley Arnold, Woman's Missionary Union director at Parkway, about 100 members renovated the house.

Renovations included adding a new roof — See Church, page 3



WORKING A PUZZLE together in the new missionary house of Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, are, from left, Shirley Arnold, WMU director; Jackie, Kathy, Jeff, and Justin Deasy of Brazil; and Jimmy Moore, pastor.

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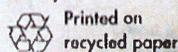
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Following January tornadoes

Madison-Chester churches continue ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Madison-Chester Association churches came through in a mighty way following tornadoes which struck their area last month, said Conroy Ryan, associate director of missions.

"Virtually every church in Madison-Chester Association contributed in Disaster Relief ministry in some way," he said.

Ryan also expressed appreciation for the numerous volunteers and churches from all across the state that supported the Disaster Relief ministry in the association in some way.

Many churches are still involved in post-tornado ministry. Some follow.

► **At First Church, Bemis**, members worked in all three Baptist churches in Jackson where ministry took place immediately following the tornadoes — Meridian, East Union, and Woodland.

In addition, Mason said, First Church, which was in an area heavily damaged, also distributed food and clothing from its facilities.

Mason said the church also has collected more than \$25,000 which will be distributed to tornado victims.

About 16 families in First Church had their homes damaged by the tornado, and three were destroyed, said Mason, whose own home received about \$6,000 worth of damage. In addition, the Western Auto store owned by church members Neal and Georgia Drumwright was destroyed, Mason said.

Mason said people are now just getting over the shock of the tornado. "We are providing pastoral counseling for the families," he said. In addition, the church has formed a Disaster Relief committee to help meet long-term recovery needs, the pastor added.

► **At Ararat Church in Jackson** members are providing financial assistance to tornado victims, said pastor J.V. Davis.

He noted the church has received names of victims and is making an effort to contact families to see if they are in need of funds.

Davis said the church has approved a sum of money for relief victims. As families are approved for assistance checks have been taken to them, the pastor said.

"We have been able to share our faith in the process," Davis noted.

► **Westover Church**, located between Jackson and Mercer near the airport, was in an area which received extensive damage, said pastor Stan Griffin. As of late last week the church still had food and supplies available, but the number of people needing them had waned, he said.

Church members are assisting in cleanup and rebuilding efforts where they can. In addition, the church has opened its doors to a counseling ministry for people who need counseling following the shock of the tornado.

Griffin said not only those who lost everything were affected. Even those who did not lose anything were affected by seeing the devastation and tears of their brothers and sisters, he said. "It takes a toll on you."

► **Mercer Church, Mercer**, also is still ministering to people in the area who

lost their homes, said pastor Jerry Davis.

A lot of people were displaced from their homes and are living with others temporarily, Davis said. "We are encouraging them to use our food ministry and the other products we have until they get established. We will maintain this ministry until they get back to where they need to be," the pastor said.

While the tornadoes wreaked devastation, some good is coming out of it, Davis said. "Our community has pulled together," he said, noting people are helping each other regardless of race or color.

"The community spirit has never been better. We will be a stronger community, church, and people on the other side of this," Davis predicted.

► **Numerous churches from across the state** continue to send teams such as those pictured below. ■ — **Editor's Note:** The *Baptist and Reflector* is well aware many people and churches worked hard in relief efforts in Jackson. These are stories that have been brought to our attention and are intended as just a sampling of ministry that has taken place. No church has intentionally been left out.

Truck operators needed in Clarksville

For Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief needs volunteers who have dump trucks with loaders in Clarksville where more than 585 houses were either destroyed or damaged by a Jan. 22 tornado, according to Kim Allen, pastor, Little West Fork Church, Clarksville, who is coordinating Disaster Relief efforts there.

Information will be available soon on reconstruction needs, said Allen.

"Many of these damaged Clarksville homes did not have insurance," Berden said.

Volunteers should call before they arrive, requested Allen. Allen may be contacted at (931) 551-3922 (home) or 647-3814 (church) or Baptists may contact the Cumberland Association office at (931) 358-9036. ■



DISASTER RELIEF workers from First Church, Jackson, pause during their work clearing trees. The volunteers include, from left, Jeff Keas, minister of youth/activities and team leader, Howard Newell, Debbie Newell, Larry Sanderson, Guy Duke, Joye Archer, Ed Archer, Jim Wyatt, and Curtis Shearon.



VOLUNTEERS who traveled to the Jackson area to do Disaster Relief work from Mt. Moriah Church, Obion, are, from left, Bill Taylor, pastor, and Bill Barnett, youth leader; and from Alta Loma Church, Madison, third from left and to the left, Lloyd Cripps, Walter Jones Jr., Cliff Sanspre, and Wayne Shoemaker.

In Fayetteville area

Association finds renewal in new emphases

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — Baptists in William Carey Association have adopted several emphases which have changed some people's lives during the past year.

Prayer

Once every three months, Baptists here gather for an unusual prayer service based on similar services attended by Don Pierson, director of missions, while a missionary to Belize.

During the service, people pray out loud and silently, in groups and alone, while touching the recipient of prayer or a representative.

The services allow participants to confess their sins out loud while ministers encourage them by laying hands on them. People are encouraged to report on blessings they have received.

Participants also move throughout the church building in which they are meeting to pray for the congregation which meets there.

Then, reported Pierson, "we come back together and we cry."

One result of these "Seasons of Prayer" has been the healing of Roger Cothren, pastor, Kelly's Creek Church, Kelly's Creek, reported Pierson. Cothren was seriously hurt in a tractor accident last year. Although health care workers predicted Cothren wouldn't recover fully, he did because of the prayers of fellow William Carey Association Baptists, said Pierson.

Another result has been a unity

among Baptists although they attend different churches in the association, said Pierson.

During periods between the prayer sessions, Baptists in the association pray for each other through prayer chains led by Eddie Harness, a member of Maranatha Church, Parks City, who is prayer coordinator of the association.

Through the prayer chain, Baptists learn of prayer needs within hours of the request, Pierson explained.

William Carey Baptists hold "prayer-walks," which involve people walking in an area and praying for that area as they walk.

Members of several churches gather at their facilities before activities begin on Sundays and Wednesdays to prayer-walk through the buildings. Prayer-walks also are held prior to special events, said Pierson.

When a student was shot in the high school here, Baptists prayerwalked through the school during the months following the incident. They also prayed with the teachers, administrators, and other workers present.

Finally, prayer is being practiced here to prepare for a crusade.

To do this, Baptists are praying for each individual in the association by praying for people listed in the telephone directory. Some are praying for the people listed on two pages of the directory each week, said Pierson.



PIERSON

Prayer and fasting

Because fasting is a natural partner of prayer, explained Pierson, several William Carey Baptists are combining the two. The result is focused prayer, he explained.

The association spent a week praying and fasting for its churches. Baptists visited each church and prayerwalked through them.

Individuals also have fasted. Emerson Wiles, former pastor, First Church, Fayetteville, fasted for 40 days. Wiles is now serving as pastor, Mililani Church, Oahu, Hawaii.

Most who have fasted have done so because of specific needs, said Pierson. A woman whose family was in crisis fasted for nine days. The family is back together, he reported.

And a group is fasting one day a week for eight weeks to pray for a missions effort to Belize.

Praise

In the meetings of the association and its churches, William Carey Association Baptists are verbally praising God "without fear," said Pierson.

He has encouraged such praise so others can learn about the joy of praise, he explained. Members of churches haven't disagreed over the new approach because it has not been aligned with a certain type of worship, he added.

Such praise transformed last year's annual meeting of the association, he described. The highlight was the testimony of Cothren about his healing.

Practice and proclamation

Finally, Baptists here have partici-



pated in missions — five missions efforts during the past year and a half. And missions teams are preparing to serve in New Orleans, La., and Belize.

Also, William Carey Baptists have developed a Disaster Relief team of 96 and a Carpenters for Christ team.

It is important for associations to lead missions work, said Pierson, because many small churches don't have the members or resources to lead it.

The association's missions work helps the people targeted, but also "disciples the Saints," described Pierson. Many leaders of the association have been developed through missions projects because of the bond formed in such ventures, he said.

DOM's leadership

Pierson explained his approach has been to teach the four Ps — Prayer, Praise, Practice, and Proclamation.

He must have identified a need. Many people are attending training on prayer. Churches which weren't very involved in associational, state, and national Southern Baptist work are more involved. And the association's budget has increased by 39 percent during the past year.

"There's a lot of excitement in our association now," said Pierson.

"People want to be involved in personal evangelism and missions and if you offer them the opportunity, they'll join in," he concluded. *B&R*

Church provides 'first ...

— Continued from page 1

and painting the exterior wood surfaces. The interior was painted and spruced up. Most of the work was done by church members, reported Arnold.

Members also accepted assignments of items needed to furnish the home offered on the church's bulletin boards. Church members gave nearly all of the 150 items requested. Arnold said she thought she would need to buy many of the furnishings.

Arnold also praised Parkway members who without exception agreed to provide "first class" furnishings. Most of the furnishings are top of the line and new, reported Arnold. One of the few items which was used was a computer, but the member who donated it had the computer checked out by a computer firm.

And members who offered items not needed were understanding when their offers were rejected, explained Arnold.

Finally, just before the Deasys arrived, Parkway members brought food, including home-cooked dishes, to stock the home's freezer and pantry.

Jimmy Moore, pastor, explained he wasn't surprised by the involvement of the members

in developing the missionary home. During his 21-year-tenure, members have consistently sacrificed for missions, he said.

Missions teams from the church travel overseas at least once a year to build church buildings. So members have construction skills which they used to renovate the house. Church missions teams also serve in the United States.

Parkway members also fund missions, said Moore. They underwrite about two-thirds of a member's expenses while on a missions trip. And members consistently surpass missions offering goals, he noted.

"They have a love for missions and they expect you to be a part of it," Moore said.

The Deasys, including Justin, 15, and Jackie, 12, appreciate their surroundings, which are spacious when compared to their small apartment in Brazil, they said, and so beautiful. For example, said Kathy, their apartment has uncovered cement floors.

Arnold is glad everyone is pleased. "I wanted to be sure the church would be proud of it, but more than that, that God would be proud," said Arnold, who has served as church WMU director for 10 years. *B&R*

Sets retirement along with wife

Sparkman serves associations 35 years

For Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — Ken Sparkman, director of missions, Gibson County Association, for the past 26 years, has announced his retirement.

His retirement period of May 31 – July 15 is flexible to provide a smooth transition for the next director of missions, he explained, one measure of his commitment to his work.

Sparkman also announced the retirement of Kathleen Sparkman, his wife, who has served the association as secretary/bookkeeper for 25 years.

He holds the longest consecutive service of a Tennessee director of missions at 35 years. Sparkman served previously in Beech River Association for nine years.

Sparkman said he is proud of the 11 ministers who served in Gibson County during his ministry and then went on to become director of missions. They include the following DOMs currently serving — Dennis Pulley, Robertson County; David Miller, Indian Creek; Ronnie Wilburn, Shelby; Bill Smith, Western District; and Wayne Perkins, Weakley.

DOMs who served during Sparkman's tenure but are deceased include John Pippin, Shiloh; and Deryl Watson, Hardeman. Finally, Sparkman helped ministers who have served as DOMs including Herschel Lindsey, Weakley; Edwin Alexander, Shiloh; Herbert Higdon, Madison-

Chester; and Bill George, Beulah.

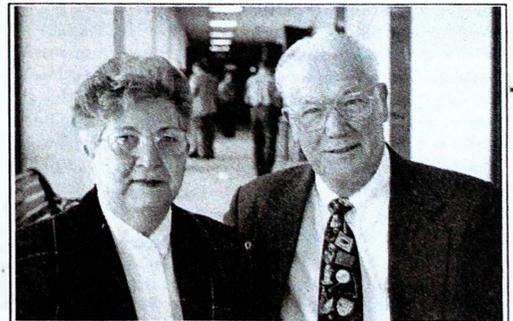
Over the years Sparkman said he has seen the status of DOMs rise, partly because of the visibility provided through convention organizations and opportunities such as training.

And the importance of associations has risen because of their efforts in the area of missions, he observed.

He is proud of several accomplishments in Gibson County, including the association's office building and the Charles Wingo Offering for associational missions projects. And he was glad to serve as TBC second vice president in 1976.

Another measure of his commitment is that he is delaying his retirement to lead a World Missions Conference March 21-28. And the association's 75th anniversary celebration April 22.

The couple will retire in Lexington. *B&R*



THE SPARKMANS

Memphis pastor 'practices what he preaches'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Memphis pastor Greg Frizzell has had a keen interest in prayer and spiritual awakening since being called to preach at the age of 16.

"I did not feel worthy to be a preacher," Frizzell recalled. "I sensed a need to spend a lot of time in prayer," he said.

"At the age of 16, God gave me a vision to be a person who spends a lot of time in prayer," he added.

In the years following that call, Frizzell has done just that.

Frizzell, pastor of Georgian Hills Church in Memphis for 15 years, is used extensively to lead prayer conferences and seminars. He also has written four books on revival and united prayer strategies.

In an interview with the *Baptist and Reflector* while in Brentwood to lead a prayer conference for TBC Executive Board employees, Frizzell re-

called he became burdened about the need for revival in America while in seminary.

As a night watchman during his seminary days, Frizzell said he would spend all night in prayer.

"There God began to give me a great burden for revival in America and church prayer ministry," he said.

At both Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his doctorate, Frizzell intensely studied prayer and spiritual awakening.

After seminary, Frizzell was called as pastor of Georgian Hills, a congregation "facing a wide variety of staggering impossibilities," he said.

"Yet, through a powerful prayer ministry, God saved that church and has greatly

blessed it," Frizzell affirmed.

In recent years he has led other churches to either begin or strengthen existing prayer ministries.

Since 1991 he has directed the Spiritual Awakening Council of Shelby Association in Memphis.

Frizzell does all his work with churches and state conventions regarding prayer because he is firmly convinced that a "powerful type of prayer is essential for an explosion of evangelism, missions, and personal holiness."

He sees his work with prayer as an extension of his pastoral ministry.

Frizzell does not just talk and preach prayer, he also practices it.

He and his wife, Sandy, prayerwalk each night for one to one and a half hours inside Georgian Hills Church praying for the church, lost people, and revival in America.

"My message is there is hope for any church to see a mighty blessing of God through prayer," he said. *B&R*



FRIZZELL

New level of prayer needed ...

— Continued from page 1

In past awakenings, baptisms have increased 500 to 1,000 percent, Frizzell said.

History has proven this to be true in other Great Awakenings over the centuries, he noted.

"That's exactly what God has done and wants to do again. God has not changed.

"If we return to prayer and

repentance, there is hope."

Frizzell, who has led numerous prayer conferences, said he is encouraged to see state conventions and associations interested in providing vision and practical resources for churches to improve or begin prayer ministries.

"God honors prayer because prayer honors God," Frizzell affirmed. *B&R*



Church provides seminar on faith

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — A recent article in *The Commercial Appeal* described Fred Wood as "a classic teaching a classic on the nature of God, doubt, and faith."

The 77-year-old Wood is currently leading a 10-week seminar on the Book of Job at Northview Church in the Frayser community of Memphis, where he is pastor.

Wood, who retired after a 31-year pastorate at Eudora Church, Memphis, has written 14 books over the years and has continued his ministry through his nonprofit organization, Fred M. Wood, Preach-Teach Ministries. He also writes a regular column for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Wood's seminar at Northview is based on his book about Job entitled *The Sunnier Side of Doubt*, which was published in 1984 by Broadman Press.

Wood noted the story of Job is not only about why bad things happen to good people, but how people should respond when bad things happen to them. ■ — This article is adapted from a story which appeared in *The Commercial Appeal*.



WOOD

Jackson team plans return trip to Nicaragua

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — First Church here sent a team to Nicaragua in December to build shelters for homeless families displaced by Hurricane Mitch.

The team flew to Managua in mid-December and traveled to the border town of Somotillo, just four miles from the border of Honduras.

The 10-member team was one of the first to arrive in the area.

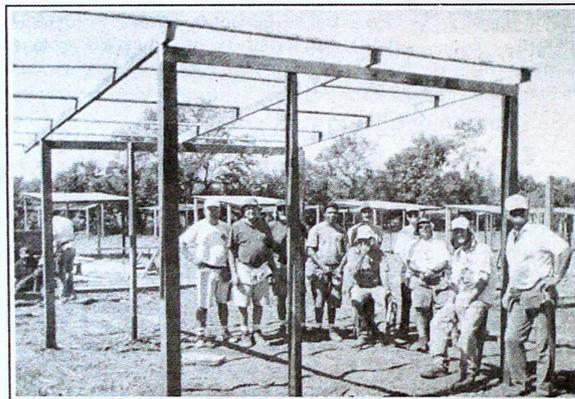
"There is no way so few people could do so much without a miracle from God," team member Lynn Edmonson told *The Jackson Sun*. Edmonson was one of the group's coordinators.

According to the mayor of Somotillo, there were about 600 families in his area. Some were living, with several families divided by sheets and blankets, in abandoned buildings and public places.

The shelters built by the volunteers had no windows or ventilation, but they did have a front and back door, Edmonson told the *Sun*.

The article noted it took about \$200 to build one shelter, according to Louie Hailey, also one of the group's coordinators.

Hailey told the paper that First Church, Jackson, raised more than \$18,000, which paid for the materials to build the shelters.



A TEAM SPONSORED by First Church, Jackson, worked on this shelter for a homeless family in Nicaragua in December. The church will send another mission team to Nicaragua beginning Feb. 19.

The team erected framework for 58 shelters and slab doors were made. Hailey noted the intent was to provide plastic sheeting for the sides, but the plastic has not yet been found in Nicaragua.

He noted many of the families moved into the shelters and are using what they can find to cover the sides.

While there the team held a worship time on Sunday in the

middle of the field where the new shelters were going up, according to Hailey. It proved to be the beginning of a new congregation, he said.

First Church will be sending another mission team to continue the project Feb. 19-27, according to Hailey.

"We can never understand why we have natural disasters but we know we have a loving God who cares about all of his

Belmont University Seeks Dean of Students

Qualifications: 1) At least a master's degree in a field related to student affairs work (earned doctorate preferred); 2) A minimum of five to 10 years leadership experience in higher education with increasingly responsible positions in student affairs; 3) Superior people skills; 4) Ability to manage a large budget; 5) Ability to creatively solve problems; 6) A commitment to and support for the university's religious purposes and values; and 7) Desire to function in an environment that emphasizes innovation, continuous improvement and teamwork. Belmont University is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Send letter of interest and resume/vita to: Jason B. Rogers • Vice President • Chair, Dean of Students Search Team • Belmont University • 1900 Belmont Boulevard • Nashville, TN 37212. Belmont University considers all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, military service or disability.

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global/national
news

SBC CP giving ahead for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for January were down 4 percent compared to a year ago, but the year-to-date receipts are still up more than 7 percent, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

CP receipts in January totaled \$16,269,698, compared to \$16,970,404 last January, a decrease of 4.13 percent.

For the first four months of the SBC fiscal year, CP gifts total \$56,233,784, compared to \$52,534,658 for the same time frame a year ago.

Total gifts thus far are \$4,656,210 more than required for the SBC Program Allocation Budget.

Designated gifts in January totaled \$20,514,687. Year-to-date designated gifts total \$29,073,547, compared to gifts of \$29,120,010 over the same period a year ago. ■

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PASTOR: The Wynnburg Baptist Church is receiving resumes for a full-time pastor position. Resumes can be sent to Pastoral Search Committee, Wynnburg Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Wynnburg, TN 38007.

PEWS: For sale — 43 12 ft. church pews, very clean, excellent condition, solid oak, backs and bottoms padded in a beautiful red fabric, holders on back for books, pencils, envelopes, and communion cups. \$300 each. Call (423) 992-8663.

MUSIC: First Baptist Church of Spring Hill is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. If interested, send resume to P.O. Box 366 Spring Hill, TN 37174 or call (615) 302-2027.

PEWS: Solid oak pews with cushioned seats, 32 years old, good condition, 31 pews 15 ft. long, 1 pew 10 ft. long, 2 pulpit pews 3 ft., 6 in., 2 choir pews 16 ft., 1 choir pew 20 ft., \$8,000. Call First Baptist Church, Troy, Tenn., (901) 536-4710.

BGCT's Bill Pinson sets retirement date

Baptist Press

DALLAS — William M. "Bill" Pinson Jr. has announced his plan to retire as executive director of the 2.7 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas Jan. 31, 2000.

Pinson has served Texas Baptists since 1983. He will be 65 at the time of his retirement. ■

Lesotho volunteers kidnapped, credit prayer for release

Baptist Press

MORLIJA, Lesotho — While millions of Americans watched the Super Bowl Jan. 31, a missionary couple in the southern African country of Lesotho were robbed at gunpoint and kidnapped by a gang of thieves.

Gene and Jean Phillips,

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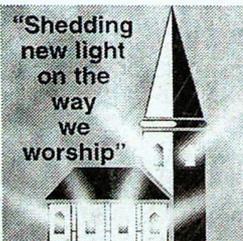


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emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries serving a volunteer team in Morija, were awakened at 2 a.m. by five armed men who had entered the bedroom where they were sleeping.

They demanded money and forced the couple to leave with them.

A neighbor heard an alarm in the house go off and called the police and set off a prayer chain which reached all the way back to the United States, including the couple's home congregation, First Church, Camden, S.C.

The couple noted the thieves threatened to kill them, but at about 3 a.m. (just as fellow Christians began praying), the gang decided to leave the couple on the road, alive and unhurt.

Jean Phillips asked believers to continue praying for them and for people of Lesotho. ■

Tennessee Acteens cited by WMU

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Acteens from 11 states, including Tennessee, have been tapped by Woman's Missionary Union to serve on the 1999 National Acteens Panel and as 1999 Top Teens.

The 26 teenagers were selected from nearly 100 Acteens nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by WMU for

girls in grades seven through 12. Selected to the six-member national panel from Tennessee was Heather Bates of First Church, Dresden.

Twenty Acteens were named 1999 National Acteens Top Teens. Chosen from Tennessee were Kristel O'Malley of Collierville, a member of German-town Church, Germantown.

Selection of panelists and top teens is based on accomplishments in MissionsQuest, the individual achievement plan for Acteens, involvement in Acteens and other church activities, and achievements in school, scholastically and socially. ■

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Response

By Martin Babb

Focal Passage — Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-14; 3:13-19

Harry Emerson Fosdick, the famed Baptist preacher, is known for these timely words: "No steam or gas ever drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows until it is focused, dedicated, and disciplined." Last week's lesson laid the foundation for this lesson where Jesus uses his authority to call his disciples. Today we learn what it means to be focused, dedicated, and disciplined in following Christ.

Get up (ch. 1:16-20). The first thing we must do when Jesus calls is to get up and go — obey instantly. In these verses, we see Jesus calling his first four disciples — Simon, Andrew, James, and John. These guys were fishermen, and Jesus challenged them to follow him and instead of telling fish stories around the campfire, they would begin telling man stories. Jesus was going to make them "fishers of men." Each one responded "straightway," (instantly, immediately). We need to do the same. Sometimes, when God calls, our responses are full of excuses for waiting until it better fits our time frame. God demands complete obedience from his children, and the first step is to get up.

Give up (ch. 2:13-14). This is the passage where Jesus calls Levi (Matthew) in the middle of his customary duties of collecting taxes. Levi was probably wealthy and there were very few Jewish love songs written to tax collectors. They were not very popular and were considered ceremonially unclean. People were always disturbed by the fact that Jesus spent time with them and treated them like actual humans. Levi gave up his wealth and prestige with government officials to follow Jesus. He could not turn back. He was totally committed. Are we? What have we given up to follow Christ? Have we given up our bad attitudes, our vocabulary, and even our money? We must give up our priorities and take up God's.

Grow up (ch 3:13-19). Jesus had eight more disciples to gather together and finds them in these verses, even one who would later deny him and one who would eventually betray him. How much more diverse a group could one image? But look how they worked together to do ministry — not every one a Baptist, but every one a believer. Fishermen, tax collectors, ordinary people — all working together for Christ. When we decide to follow Jesus we are changed, we begin to grow spiritually, and we realize there are millions of other people who have been called. Some of them are not like us. I say, thank God!, and let's move on to accomplish the work of Christ in this world. Unity in diversity has always been possible. Jesus proved it in the choosing of the Twelve.

I read an article in a newspaper several years ago about cattle ranchers in Japan experimenting with an electronic system for calling cows to the feed lot by equipping them with pocket pagers. The rancher dials the cows' number, and through months of training they learned to stop their grazing and head for the feed lot.

What do we do when God calls to us? Do we go immediately or do we just look up momentarily and then continue grazing?

God is calling us to be focused, dedicated, and disciplined. To paraphrase another word from Calvin Miller's book *The Singer*, the Singer is still singing his song. Have we grazed too far away to hear the music? — Babb is associate pastor/education, Springfield Church, Springfield.

Examine yourself

By Edgar Pierce

Focal Passage — I Corinthians 11:20-34

We will focus on the Lord's Supper in this lesson and I hope to give a fresh look at what, if we are not careful, becomes just something we do.

The only place in Scripture the Lord's Supper is called the "Lord's Supper" is in verse 20. It is also known in the Scripture as "the communion" (ch. 10:21), as "giving thanks" or Eucharist (Luke 22:17,19; I Corinthians 11:24). It is probably referred to as "breaking of bread" in Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7-11 and was part of the common meal known as the "Love Feast" in II Peter 2:13; Jude 12.

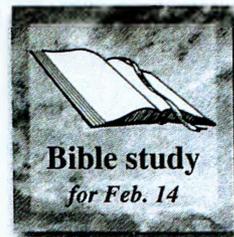
The occasion of the institution of this church ordinance, as we Baptist consider it, was at the Passover meal the night before Jesus died. This is the only Passover where he acted as the head of the company in all probability.

Family Bible Lesson

God instituted the Passover when the death angel passed over the houses that had the blood of a lamb on the doorpost of the house. The Passover has been celebrated for thousands of years. It is the only Jewish feast that predates the Law.

The Passover can give us a fresh insight into the significance of the Lord's Supper. When we understand the relationship between the two we will realize the need to "examine ourselves" as Paul exhorted.

Four cups of Passover: During the Passover celebration there are four cups that are poured and drank. The first cup is the cup of sanctification and corresponds to "I will bring you out." The second, the cup of praise, is taken from "I will rid you of your bondage."



It was the third cup that Jesus used during Passover to institute the Lord's Supper. This cup is the cup of redemption. Should we not examine

ourselves when we realize the high cost of our redemption? Interesting is the fact that this cup was drunk after the meal and after Judas departed. Our redemption is by the blood which the cup represents to us.

The fourth cup is the cup of acceptance. This last cup is a cup of anticipation and certainly the imminent coming of our Lord should cause us to examine ourselves.

The Bread of Passover: During Passover there are a series of four questions asked by a young child. One of these relates to the bread or matzah, which is unleavened bread. It is asked something like, "How different this night is from all other nights! On all other nights we eat bread or matzah. On this night why do we eat only matzah." The unleavened bread is the bread of affliction that did not have time to rise as they went into the desert before it was baked by the hot desert sun.

There are three pieces of matzah bread wrapped together for Passover. These are known to the Rabbis as a "unity." Some say it shows a unity of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. There are other explanations as well. It is obvious that the unity is a picture of the trinity, especially when we understand that the middle piece was taken out and broken during the Passover and part of this hidden to be resurrected later. It was this resurrected piece that Jesus used to institute the Lord's Supper. Remember the second person of the Godhead is Jesus who was broken and then resurrected.

The Passover gave the Jews a clear picture of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, down through the years. Passover was a time of thanksgiving, praise, worship, and reflection on the past as our Lord's Supper should be as well. — Pierce is pastor, Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport.

Ultimate comeback

By Maurice Hays

Focal Passage — Mark 13:2-8, 24-27, 32, 35-37

With the recent tornadoes in Jackson, people have been caused to think about many important things. One controversy that has arisen is that many say they were not warned of the coming storms. The siren alert system did not work, the radio and television stations did not give alerts, and that someone must be blamed for the lack of warning. Jesus himself gives us warning or notification of his return. When we stand before him we will be without excuse, that we did not know what was going to happen. **Questions about the temple's fall — vv. 2-4**

Mark 13:1-37 is the only long discourse of Jesus in all three of the synoptic Gospels. It is called, "the Olivet Discourse," because it was given on the Mount of Olives, just outside of Jerusalem. It is also called, "the Little Apocalypse."

As Jesus and his disciples came out of the temple, the disciples were taken by the magnificence of the buildings and the stones.

Jesus would shake them by declaring that the temple would be destroyed and not one stone would be left on another. The prediction was fulfilled, very literally in A.D. 70, when the Roman armies, under Ti-

Explore the Bible Lesson

tus, destroyed Jerusalem.

I believe we should understand that Jesus is not impressed with our great buildings, but is moved over the souls of men, women, boys, and girls. He is concerned with that which is eternal more than that which is temporal.

Prediction of future troubles — vv. 5-8

Jesus responded to the two questions asked by the disciples: when will this be and what are the signs that will precede it?

Jesus warned them by saying, "Take heed," (1) don't be deceived, (2) there will be false messiahs, (3) there will be political conflicts, (4) there will be natural disasters, (5) but don't be discouraged.

Jesus is speaking concerning "the day of the Lord" or the "end of time," and not the destruction of the temple.

The coming of the Son of Man — vv. 24-27

After the time of tribulation there will be a heavenly fallout. The natural powers of heaven will fail, but it will usher in the return of the "Son of Man." The important thing

is the gathering of the elect, the saved from the four winds to be with him. Jesus will return not as a humble servant but in his power and glory, not to be ruled but to rule over the world.

The time of his coming unknown — vv. 32, 35-37

History is coming to an end, but no one knows when.

The Day of the Lord, the second coming of Christ, is certain, but the time is unknown, except to the Father.

We are not to worry about the time, but to be prepared. We are to work while it is day for night comes when work on earth is over. Jesus says we are to witness, wait, and watch for his return will come when we expect it least.

As we look around it appears that his return may be very near. We are not to be discouraged by the happenings around us but to have faith and be busy, for the master.

A few days ago, after the tornadoes here in Jackson I had to fly to a meeting. We left the airport under very heavy cloudy conditions. When we went through the clouds the sun was shining brightly. God seemed to say to me, "The sun is always shining on God's side of the clouds." — Hays is Baptist Student Ministries specialist, Jackson State Community College, Jackson.

associations

■ **Youth of Western District Association** will hold a **Skate Night** Feb. 15. For more information, call the association at (901) 642-4641.

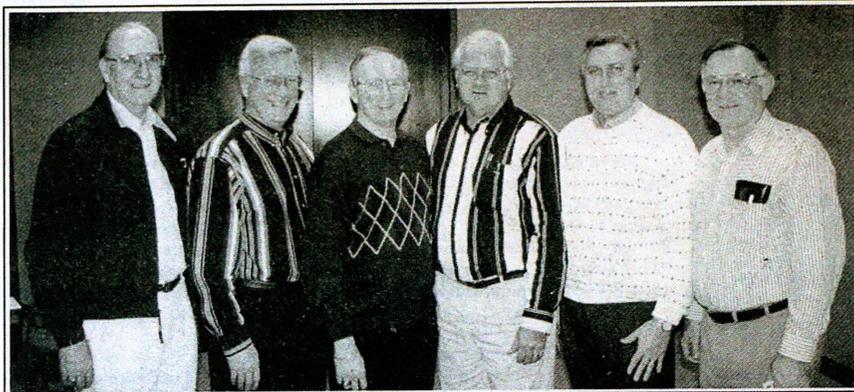
churches

■ **Calvary Church, Knoxville**, will host former missionary and author **Elisabeth Elliot** March 7-8. She and her husband, **Jim**, served in Ecuador, where he was killed. She and her daughter, **Valerie**, served the tribe whose members killed **Jim** after his death. **Elliot** will speak March 7 at 7 p.m. and March 8 at 9:30 a.m. - noon and 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (423) 523-9419.

■ **Essary Springs Church, Pocahontas**, held revival recently. As a result, four people made professions of faith and four joined the church. **Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld**, evangelist based in **McKenzie**, spoke.

■ The 1999 **Truett Dramatic Arts Festival** will be held March 13 at **Sylvia Church, Dickson**. Training will be held in the areas of drama, puppets, clowning, banner, and children's ministries. Also, performances by dramatic arts groups are still being sought. The festival will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 789-4532.

■ A **Life Action Ministries Revival Crusade** will be held at **Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory**. It will begin on Feb. 21 at 9:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. and continue on weeknights through March 7 at 7 p.m. The crusade will feature instructional preaching by **Steve Can-**



DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS elected officers during their Feb. 2-5 meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. With new president **Charles Pratt**, Haywood Association, right center, and vice president **Jim Freedman**, Nashville Association, left center, are liaisons to TBC Executive Board groups. Pictured are **Walter Taylor**, Knox County Association, left, Executive Leadership; **Ray Luck**, Loudon County Association, second from left, Christian Growth Development; **Roger Stacey**, Central Association, second from right, Missions Awareness/Involvement; and **James Williams**, Nolachucky Association, right, Church Staff Leadership. Not pictured are **John Bedford**, Shiloh Association, secretary-treasurer; and liaisons **Jerry Essary**, Beulah Association, Administrative Services; **Ronnie Wilburn**, Shelby Association, Evangelism/Missions Strategies; and **David Miller**, Communication Services.

field, family seminars, music, and children's program. The church requests large groups of visitors to call the church office at (615) 883-1856 to advise of approximate numbers who will be attending.

schools

■ The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program of **Belmont University**, Nashville, is the first to receive initial accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education for a period of longer than five years.

■ The women's and men's basketball teams of **Beimont University** will donate all of the gate proceeds from their Feb. 11 doubleheader to the Youth Motivation Group of the Sunnyside Community. The community, one of Nashville's largest community groups, is

comprised of the area from 12th Ave. to 8th Ave. and Kirkwood to Wedgewood. Belmont women play Morehead (Ky.) State and the men play Tust (Miss.) College. For more information, contact the athletics department at (615) 460-6420.

leaders

■ **Bill Daniel**, pastor, Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, has resigned, after serving six years.

■ **Sullivan Church, Kingsport**, has called **Martha Ann Hayes** as director of children's work.

■ **John Kurtz** of Nashville and the "great professor" will minister at **Corinth Church**, London, Ky., Feb. 12-14, and **Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute**, Feb. 15.

■ **Ron Nordan** was called as pastor, **Trenton Street Church**, **Harriman**, effective Jan. 3. **Nordan** has served as a pastor, music minister, and music/youth minister. He is a graduate of **Valdosta State College**, **Valdosta, Ga.**; and **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**, **Louisville, Ky.**

■ **First Church, Watertown**, has called **Kevin Boyd** of **Old Hickory** as minister of music and youth.

■ **Gregory W. Moser**, associate pastor and youth director, **Lyle Lane Church**, **Nashville**, was ordained recently by the church.

people

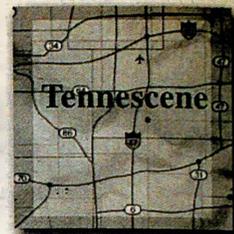
■ **Patsy Morales**, secretary, **First Church, Kingsport**, won a contest of the **Tennessee Baptist church secretaries**. **Morales** named a newsletter for them, association secretaries, and ministry assistants.



RECOGNIZED for about 43 years of service as church clerk, **First Church, Dandridge**, is **Janette Dockery Sperber**, center, by **Robert D. McCray**, right, pastor. **McCray** gives **Sperber** a plaque as her husband, **Albert Sperber**, watches. **Sperber** was honored Jan. 10 during the morning worship service and following with a luncheon.



BEING THANKED for 42 years of service as treasurer, **Grace Church, Nashville**, is **Jimmy Morrissey**, center, by **Andre Dugger**, left, pastor, while **Morrissey's wife, Joan**, watches. **Jimmy Morrissey** receives a copy of his first and last financial report to the church. **Joan** holds an engraved gold watch which the congregation also gave him. — Photo by **William Crook**



Her winning entry was **SLICE or Secretaries Living In Christ's Example**. Her award is a trip to the 1999 **Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference** April 12-14.

■ **Jane Jones**, former CEO/president of **Jane Jones Enterprises, Inc.**, and president of **Strategic Services for R and s t a d Staffing Services USA**, has agreed to serve as statewide chairperson of the "Continuing the Caring Tradition" campaign for **Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes** based in **Brentwood**.



JONES who is an entrepreneur, writer, and speaker, is a member of **Bethel Church, Greentree**. Her husband, **Ted**, and she teach a **Sunday School class** there. The campaign is the third phase of a \$7 million capital campaign approved in 1997.



PERFORMING for **The King's Academy of Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour**, are a select children's choir of **Central Christian Academy in Suwon, Korea**. The **Tennessee and Korean academies** hold a relationship as sister schools. The visiting students toured **East Tennessee**. **Bobby Griffin**, an alumnus of **Harrison Chilhowee and Bristol** businessman, served as their tour guide. The choir also performed at **First Church, Sevierville**; a public school; and civic organization.