

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

- ▶ Couple volunteers for Rio '99 despite obstacles. — Page 3
- ▶ Former TBC pastor evangelizes gang members in Honduras. — Page 3
- ▶ Read partnership/volunteers missions news. — Pages 5-8

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

## At annual WMU Get-Together

# About 1,775 women consider missions

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

GATLINBURG — The annual Tennessee Missions Get-Together drew about 1,775 women here last weekend. The attendance was the second largest in 23 years.

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, a part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, directed the event, which was held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center.

WMU members elected Candy Phillips, a member of First Church, Nashville, Tennessee WMU president. Phillips is currently WMU director, Nashville Association, and has been assistant director of WMU for the church.

Phillips thanked the crowd for the honor, describing the impact of her 19-year association with WMU organizations. She said she was active in

many organizations, but "I never had found a way to invest my gifts until I found Woman's Missionary Union."

Outgoing president Carol Richardson, a member of First Church, Memphis, served as president for three years.

### Theme

Messages and music considered scriptural references to God as a potter who molds people as a potter molds clay.

To illustrate the metaphor, potter David Howard of First Church, Gatlinburg, showed the ancient craft during sessions.

Commenting on the theme, state WMU director Carrol Kelly said, "God is still changing lives like a potter through Woman's Missionary Union as he has in all of its past."

### Messages from missions workers

Frank Lewis, pastor, First Church, Nashville, spoke in general sessions in addition to



**CURRENT** state WMU president Carol Richardson, left, of Memphis introduces newly-elected president Candy Phillips of Nashville during a Saturday session.

numerous women who described the impact of missions work in the United States and overseas.

Missionary Pat Stooksbury of Knoxville who serves in Bolivia thanked the crowd for

their prayers during her 25 years of service. She also reminded the women of the importance of their prayers.

"Sometimes I can physically feel you praying. I really can. — See About, page 2

## Following simultaneous groundbreakings

# Improved TBC camp facilities one step closer to reality

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists are a step closer to new conference centers at their Baptist camps.

Groundbreaking was held simultaneously Feb. 27 for the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center at Camp Carson in Newport and the Linden Baptist Conference Center at

Camp Linden in Linden.

TBC Executive Director James Porch, who participated in the ceremony at Camp Carson, noted, "We are very excited to see our vision of many years coming to fruition. The conference centers will provide an entire new dimension of response to the needs of many Tennessee Baptist churches," Porch said.

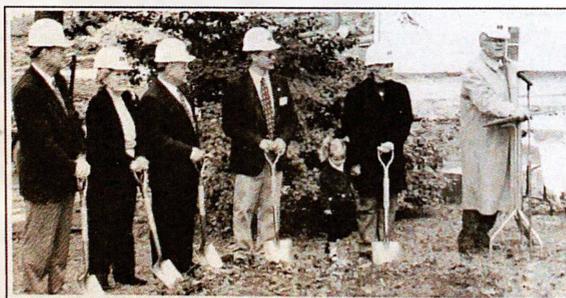
Facilities at Carson and Linden were established by the TBC in 1948. The new facilities will enable both camps to accommodate more senior adult groups, marriage enrichment events, deacons-wives retreats, and more.

The Carson Springs facility will include a 36-room unit attached to a dining/conference facility. The Linden center will feature a 40-room hotel unit

attached to a conference facility.

The cost of the facilities will be paid from income on operations and from a \$5 million "Building to Magnify" campaign which is seeking donations from individuals across the state.

The campaign is headed by Sherman and Jane Hardaway of Germantown Church, Germantown. ■



**TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** James Porch speaks at the microphone prior to the groundbreaking service held at Camp Carson. Participating in the event were, from left, Jerry DeZeam, director of missions, Jefferson County Association; Jewell Jennings, a member and former chairman of the TBC Central Administrative Committee; Keith McKinney, manager, Camp Carson; Bobby Turner, a member of First Church, Dandridge, who was representing Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, and her granddaughter, Emily Marie Lowe.



**PARTICIPATING IN THE** groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Linden were, from left, Sherman Hardaway and TBC Executive Board members Jane Hardaway, Germantown Church, Germantown; Catherine Via, Crossroads Church, Bells; Malcolm Norton, First Church, Trezevant; Otis Hinton, Temple Church, Paris; Hinton Climer, First Church, Bells; and Joseph Rosas, Union Avenue Church, Memphis, and chairman of the TBC Executive Board. The Hardaways chair the campaign to raise funds for the project.

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## At annual WMU Get-Together

# About 1,775 women consider missions

— Continued from page 1

And sometimes I can physically feel that nobody's praying."

Missionary Carol Ewing of Tanzania, introduced Stella. She was an illiterate widow with four children who was breaking rocks at a quarry for a living in Tanzania.

Through a literacy program and other help, Stella now works at a hospital and knows about God, reported Ewing, who is on furlough in Nashville.

Mattie Mullins of Johnson City, spoke on violence, a WMU focus. She described the violent death of her daughter, Judy, at the hands of Judy's husband. Mullins reminded the women in attendance that violence strikes many people, even the people in their communities and churches.

WMU president Carol Richardson encouraged her listeners to look toward the opportunities of the new century and continue to work with compassion and a sense of God's presence.

Creely Wilson of Brentwood, state director of Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of WMU, described two women who improved their job skills and learned about God through the program. One was a recent immigrant from Europe and the other a poor native of the U.S.

Carol Henson, recently retired missionary to Chile who is living in Ooltewah, told how a summer missionary program there empowered young women. Many entered professions which seemed beyond them and became evangelistic women or missionaries, said Henson, who served 36 years in Chile.

One of six National Acteens Panelists, Heather Bates, said being involved in Acteens has led her to become disciplined, accomplished, missions-minded, involved, proud, and close

to her Lord. Bates is a member of First Church, Dresden.

Beth Clayton of Crossroads Church, Brentwood, told of serving in Bosnia. Tennessee WMU will send a team of 15 to Sarajevo, Bosnia, July 12-25 to help the country recover from its recent war.

### Frank Lewis

Lewis spoke on a scriptural reference to God as a potter in Jeremiah 18:1-11. And he told of his work as a church planter in Las Vegas, Nev.

Lewis told the women, "God can do whatever he wants to do with his clay," referring to humans.

He questioned the theology which purports that because God is in control "everything always is going to be perfect."

People, even Christians, he said, make mistakes and sin.

But just like the potter in the biblical story, God starts over with that person after sin, he explained.

Lewis described some experiences in Las Vegas when he let God break, remold, and reshape him, he said.

Because of his pride and relationship with God, he was ready to leave a 16-member congregation after 14 months there. He even felt he had misunderstood God's call to become a preacher, he recalled.

Then God spoke to him through his mother-in-law, which he didn't completely appreciate, he admitted. Lewis and his wife, Lori, stayed. God blessed them and the congregation, which grew quickly to hundreds of members.

Lewis juxtaposed guidance from the world vs. guidance from God — build self confidence through busyness vs. be still and get to know God, avoid negativity vs. embrace suffering, invest in appearance vs. invest in others, develop gifts vs. use gifts.

He called the women to be

"counter-cultural," because "this culture is going to hell.

"God is preparing you for what God is preparing for you."

People are "not shaped by our circumstances; we are shaped by our willingness to trust God in our circumstances."

He suggested people should ask God for the resources to endure a burden rather than ask God to remove it.

Finally, Lewis said God has a direction and design for each

person. To find that, people must, like the potter's clay, be centered on the wheel, or in God's will, and people must be willing to be taken off the wheel and used by God.

### Business

In addition to Phillips, Bobby Turner of Jefferson City, was elected recording secretary; and Ramona Mercer of Jackson, Elaine Pearson of Lebanon, and Dottie Sampsel of Knoxville were elected vice presidents. *B&R*



**DRESSED** in the garb of women of Iran are Ann Davenport, center, First Church, McMinnville, and Carolyn Outland, right, Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, for a conference they led. They visit with Mary Dowdy of First Church, McMinnville.



**DECORATING** pottery are, from left, Cindi Figgins and Evette Ownby, First Church, Newburn, and Holly Bourland, Mullins Station Church, Memphis. In the background is Christy Ikner, Crossroads Church, Brentwood, coordinator of the activity.



**WILLIAM MAXWELL** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention presents pictures of the planned Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center at Camp Carson, Newport, and Linden Baptist Conference Center at Camp Linden, Linden, to Carol Richardson, center, and Carroll Kelly. The presentation recognized the initial involvement of Tennessee WMU in developing the TBC camps.



**THANKING** Carol Richardson for her service as president are Jewell Jennings, center, First Church, Lebanon, and Mattie Mullins, First Church, Erwin. Richardson's daughter, Ellen, left, looks on.

## Away from their community

# Couple commits to first missions effort

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — Bill and Debbie Helton are looking forward to serving in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May 23 — June 1 to support Rio '99 — simultaneous revivals and crusade — despite several obstacles to their participation.

### Time

The Heltons serve Mountain View Church here for which Bill is bivocational pastor. Bill works at a Knoxville boat manufacturer. And Debbie works as a janitor for a public school. So they had to arrange time off from their employers.

Bill took the only week of vacation he gets which can be scheduled by the employee.

Debbie's schedule worked out with more ease. Because Rio '99 falls toward the end of the school year, she could arrange to be away for the 10-day effort.

### Money

Another big obstacle for the Heltons was the cost of the trip. Their children, Allen and Kim, are both college students.

The Heltons have faced financial challenges before. In fact, Debbie has become the financial manager of the family, often meticulously researching and planning family trips to make their dollars stretch.

So when the couple signed up for Rio '99 without a financial plan, it was unusual.

"It was really stepping out on faith," explained Bill.

They committed to Rio '99 before their son, Allen, a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, knew how much financial aid he would receive. And they agreed to go before they knew the needs of Kim, who attends Wal-

ters State Community College, Morristown, while living at home.

God has really responded to their financial needs, the couple reported. Bill received a scholarship of about \$650 from the International Mission Board for pastors participating in their first overseas missions effort. In fact, he received it the very day he applied for it.

Allen received more financial aid than he had hoped. And the Mountain View congregation surprised the Heltons by giving them funds for their expenses.

### Facing firsts

When they travel to Rio, the Heltons will experience several firsts. They will travel by airplane for the first time. They will leave the United States for the first time. And they will leave their children for the first time.

Dwelling on these and other things could convince Debbie to stay at home, she admitted.

But the couple have been involved in other firsts, they explained, which prepared them for Rio '99.

Mountain View Church hosted the first team from Rio to visit Tennessee as part of the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. The team visited the state in 1997 to tour it and attend meetings.

The small congregation was chosen as host because the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteers Missions Office wanted the team to experience different congregations. It also was chosen because Kim Huff of the office knows Mountain View. She considers it her home church.

That year the Heltons also attended their first TBC Annual Meeting after encourage-



**BILL AND DEBBIE Helton**, who live in Sevierville, will travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this summer to serve as missions volunteers.

ment from their congregation. They learned more about Rio at the meeting. And this past year they returned and learned about Rio '99.

The couple recalled they heard the request for volunteers separately. Debbie was standing at the back of the meeting room to relieve back pain.

The couple admitted they were emotionally drawn to the request and both said they had a thought, though separately, that they should try to go. But immediately they both thought it wouldn't be possible for them to go.

After the session, the Heltons saw the Brazilians and Huff encouraged them to visit with them. As they visited, Debbie experienced a warm Christian spirit between them and the Brazilians.

About two months later, the couple signed up for Rio '99.

### Confirmations

Bill explained he has always had a desire to be involved in missions work away from

home. He's heard reports in World Missions Conferences and from a couple at Mountain View who has served in Costa Rica. The couple also have been encouraged by Huff, they added.

And the Heltons feel prepared for the challenges. They have been involved in local missions work since they began their ministry 16 years ago.

For instance, members of Mountain View Church recently helped a family pay medical bills for an ill family member. And although the church only has 225 resident members, they gave \$3,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions last year.

In fact, the couple feels home missions must be just as rewarding as international missions. But they're still looking forward to Rio '99 because they're sure God wants them to participate, said Bill.

"God has to be in it for it all to be working out this way," confirmed Debbie. **B&R**



## Dramatic arts festivals set at three locations

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Three dramatic arts festivals are slated across Tennessee in March and April.

Dates and locations are:

March 19-20 — Ridgeway Church, Memphis

April 16-17 — Forest Hills Church, Nashville

April 23-24 — Tennessee Avenue Church, Bristol

More than 100 conferences focusing on various aspects of the dramatic arts will be offered at each festival, according to Ev Robertson, worship and drama specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The festivals feature a large number of high quality faculty. Robertson said. He noted the puppetry faculty in West Tennessee "is one of the best we have ever assembled."

Faculty members include: (West) Jeff Smith, Richmond, Va., a nationally and internationally renowned dramatist; Matt Tullos, Nashville; Ferrell Marr, Vidalia, La.; David Pannabecker, Elkhart, Ind., (also at Middle and East festivals); Amy Vaughn, Inglewood, Colo.; and Ernie and Jean Liebig, Bullard, Texas; (Middle) Kelly Wick, Nashville; Tom & Seus, Atlanta; ReCreations, Maryville; Buddy Lamb, Columbus, Ga.; (East) Tom Tombs, Maryville; Greg Cagle, Pikeville, Ky.; and Face to Face Ministries, Birmingham, Ala.

Also offered will be a pre-festival event for leaders and a pre-festival mini-camp for youth, Robertson said.

There will be opportunities to gather for creative worship and performance opportunities for participants.

"These festivals promise to be the best ever planned and implemented in Tennessee," Robertson said.

For more information about costs and how to register, call Robertson at the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group at (615) 371-7909. ■



**ROBERTSON**

## Tennessean evangelizes gang members in Honduras

For Baptist and Reflector

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — In 1984 Armando Meza, an alcoholic, turned on the television and heard a program which changed his life.

He saw a broadcast of the 700 Club and heard a testimony from a former alcoholic who at the time was a pastor in Costa Rica.

At the end of that program, Meza prayed, "Lord, if you could change that man, I want to be like him. Lord, help me. I want to be like him, I want to be a pastor."

At the same time, the Lord was dealing with a young bivocational pastor in McKenzie about becoming a missionary.

Tim Patterson, then pastor of New Hope (now Eastwood) Church, had accepted Christ as an 8-year-old boy and surrendered to full-time Christian service in college. During a week of prayer for international missions, Patterson began to sense God leading him and his wife, Dorcas, to become missionaries. They were



**FORMER TENNESSEE PASTOR Tim Patterson**, left, talks with Pastor Armando Meza about evangelizing youth gang members in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

appointed to serve in Honduras by the International Mission Board in 1991.

The Pattersons worked in human needs ministries in Honduras. Many times the projects led to the planting of churches, among them Cerro Grande Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa. One of the persons who joined the church was Armando

Meza. Five years ago, he became the congregation's pastor.

Meza was burdened for the youth of the Cerro Grande neighborhood of the city. Even before he was pastor, he tried to evangelize the youth of the area who had formed gangs, but nothing was successful.

A few years later, Meza became involved with some gang members through a soccer team. He gradually earned their confidence and as time went by accepted Christ. But they didn't integrate well into the church.

Patterson observed what was happening and shared some thoughts with Meza about the concept of "house churches with home-grown leadership. We discussed the idea of evangelizing a natural grouping of people and to allow that to become their church."

Meza took that concept and there are now 30 such groups with 1,100 youth in 15 neighborhoods in the city.

God used a former alcoholic and a missionary to make a difference in Tegucigalpa. ■ — Wally Poor & Rebecca Johnson

# We're against smoking, but what about alcohol?

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

It's good to see a tough stand being taken in our country today on smoking. While everyone has the right to make his or her own choice regarding the use of tobacco, the "rights" of those who choose not to smoke also should be considered. I am glad that restaurants have no smoking sections and that smoking in public places is being addressed.

Many smokers admit they are addicted to the nicotine found in tobacco, but what's the harm? It only affects them. Wrong. My mother was a heavy smoker and she is not with us today because of her habit. Smoking is listed on her death certificate as a factor in her death. The two grandchildren she loved more than anything are growing up without her. So, smoking does affect more than just the smoker.

While the emphasis on the addictive power of smoking is needed, it would be even better to see a similar stand taken

## Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday

March 21

"Through strong drink...they stumble in judgment" —

Isaiah 28:7

against the consumption of alcohol.

While smoking in public often is looked on with disdain, consuming alcohol is "the in thing to do" among many people. Commercials glamorize drinking and are geared toward a younger audience.

Addiction to alcohol definitely affects more than the individual who consumes the beer, wine coolers, and other alcoholic beverages. Just ask families whose lives have been torn apart by a drunken spouse or mother or father; ask families whose lives have been ripped apart because a drunk driver got into their automobile and drove home, only to cause an accident tak-

ing innocent lives.

Wayman Jones of the Tennessee Drug and Awareness Council (formerly the United Tennessee League) informs me that an estimated 12,000-15,000 people between the ages of 16-24 die each year because of drinking and driving.

Statistics provided by TDAC indicate there are at least 11 million alcoholics in the U.S. today and that 70 percent of them began drinking as teenagers. The number increases by rates estimated from 200,000 to 300,000 annually, according to TDAC.

TDAC also notes there are more direct Bible references concerning drinking than there are regarding adultery, stealing, lying, cheating, swearing, hypocrisy, or even blasphemy.

Sunday, March 21, is Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday on the SBC calendar. Use this emphasis to create a renewed awareness among church members about the evils of alcohol and drug abuse.

Lives depend on it. *B&R*



editorial/  
opinion

just for  
today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



### Start with a smile

Minister to young man at door: "Can you start the fire, get the breakfast by 7 a.m., polish the silver, wash the dishes, and take out the garbage every morning?" Man: "Say, preacher, I came to see you about getting married, but if it's going to be that much work, let's forget it."

### Take this truth

We can communicate an idea around the world in 70 seconds, but it sometimes takes years for an idea to get through one-fourth inch of human skull.

### Memorize this Scripture

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." — Proverbs 18:13

### Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to weigh carefully every decision I make in life, whether acting or speaking." ■

— Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

## Stress on families traced to 'tyranny of time'

### families matter

by Paul Barkley,  
counselor,  
educator, pastor



The hectic lives of most people today cries out for help in the struggle with schedules. Much of the stress of the family can be traced to the tyranny of time, more specifically, lost and wasted time. Paul reminds us to make the most of the moment —

time is short.

I have six exhortations to enable you and your family to eliminate the stress that comes in this area.

(1) Early to rise. Consider getting up 15 minutes earlier so that you will have time to wake-up, clear your head, think of your schedule for the day, and prepare for the children to get up. This will help you gain the extra momentum to start the day more positively and in control.

(2) Exercise at least 30 minutes each day. This does not have to be high impact aerobics. It can be walking or other more gentle

forms of exercise that can get the blood moving through the body.

(3) Eliminate scheduling conflicts. This is done mainly through planning so that the time and effort can be maximized. Luke 14:18-23 tells us to count the cost. When we plan the work or day we find that we don't waste our time with unproductive effort.

(4) Enlist the help of others. No one can do everything. The secret is in delegating the responsibility, especially to children. This both helps parents manage their time and it also helps the child to learn to

take responsibility.

(5) Eliminate tension and stress by learning strategies to help reduce them. Deep-breathing requires a small amount of time and can be effectively practiced almost any place. Focused attention will help to eliminate the distractions that cause our tensions to rise.

(6) Enter your Holy place. "When we walk with the Lord in the Light of his word ... what a glory he sheds on our way as we learn to trust and obey." Spending time with him makes the rest of our time more peaceful and purposeful. ■

## Intense, united prayer needed for spiritual awakening

### Awaken Tennessee!

by Greg Frizzell,  
Memphis pastor



Beyond question, our nation has arrived at a point of extreme spiritual emergency. It seems that all family, moral, and spiritual foundations are being dismantled before our very eyes. Yet, if we look at great spiritual awakenings of the past, we can find tremendous hope for a move of God today!

We must remember that things were extremely bad right before past great awakenings. And yet, when Christians turned to desperate prayer and repentance, God powerfully shook the land. It is awesome that, during the last three years of the 18th century, nearly 10 percent of the entire American population was gloriously saved. Also, in 1904, the country of

Wales saw 10 percent of their entire population saved in less than six months. God has sent such awakenings again and again throughout history. For our own country, just imagine coast to coast baptisms, suddenly exploding five to 10 times the norm. Further imagine a total reversal of crime, immorality, and evil social trends. God has not changed and he is able to do it again.

But such awesome awakenings come only one way — intense, united prayer. Thank God

for the growing prayer movement that is well under way in our nation. Many churches and associations are increasing their praying and there is powerful reason for new hope. However, to match levels of past awakenings, we must yet embrace prayer to a much greater degree.

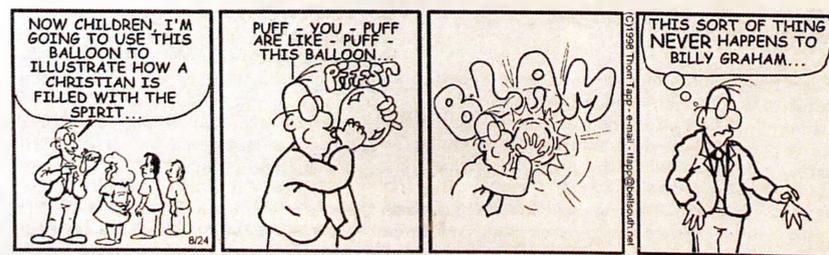
In a series of articles, we will biblically and historically examine the exact prayer patterns God requires to send the next great awakening and the specific, practical ways individuals

and churches can surge forward in prayer and repentance.

Do not be discouraged or disheartened. Now is the time to join hands and pray as never in our history. Jesus Christ is still Lord and he can still shake our land. ■ — Frizzell is pastor of Georgian Heights Church, Memphis, and director of the Spiritual Awakening Council of Shelby Association. Frizzell will write a series of articles for the *Baptist and Reflector* in the coming weeks concerning the need for prayer and revival in America.

### Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City





# The Macedonian Call

## Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

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

### From your missionary

#### Now is the time

For months you have heard and prayed about the Simultaneous Revivals and Crusade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Now is the time to respond.

You have heard of the God-sized goal to share the Good News with 500,000 people. Now is the time to respond.

You have heard the challenge of our brothers and sisters in Rio de Janeiro to come help them share Christ. Now is the time to respond.

If you have heard God say, "I want you to help in Rio de Janeiro," now is the time to respond.

You are needed in Rio de Janeiro! Now is the time to respond!



SHARP

### For volunteers

## Second recognition, commissioning service set

By Marcia Knox  
For The Macedonian Call

The second of three Volunteer Recognition and Commissioning Services will be held Thursday, April 29 at First Church of Concord, Knoxville, from 7-8:30 p.m. Don Kammerdiener, IMB executive vice president, will be the guest speaker.

Tennessee Volunteers are still making a difference at home and around the world whether through Disaster Relief, World Changers, or Partnership Missions volunteers. The IMB, NAMB, and the TBC will recognize these volunteers in two remaining joint recognition and commissioning services.

Kammerdiener will recognize those volunteers who have served anywhere and those to be commissioned to serve as volunteers in 1999 and 2000. All mission volunteers will be honored.

These special services for the East Tennessee region will include choir, orchestra, and volunteer testimonies. IMB, NAMB, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions and Cooperative Program Mission

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

"Volunteer Missions continues to be used by God in a tremendous way," said Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Mission specialist. "Both our International and National Mission Boards see Volunteer Missions as an important and strategic way to effectively reach people for Christ."

The first recognition and commissioning service was held Tuesday, Feb. 23 at Una Church in Nashville. Volunteers who served in 44 countries and 14 states were recognized. Acteens from Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, distributed the recognition certificates.

Jerry Rankin, president of the IMB, was the guest speaker. Leading the worship music was Ron Alley, minister of music at First Church, Smyrna, along with the Una Church Adult Choir, the Sanctuary Choir and Praise Band from

First Church, Smyrna. Alley also wrote a special song for the service, entitled "Let It Be Me."

Larry Gilmore, president of the TBC and pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin, led the Prayer for the Nations. Sharp recognized the mission volunteers, and James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer, commissioned the volunteers who are serving in 1999 and 2000.

"These services could be one of the most exciting and life changing events to happen in 1999," Sharp added. "Perhaps each church will consider bringing a bus or van to encourage attendance to this historic meeting."

The third and final recognition and commissioning services will be held Tuesday, Sept. 21 at Union University, Jackson. Rankin will speak at the services. Sharp will recognize the mission volunteers, and Porch will commission the volunteers.

For more information, call the TBC Partnership/Volunteers Missions office today at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021. ■



KAMMERDIENER

## Hermitage Hills pastor says 'Come to Rio'

By Dean Haun  
For The Macedonian Call

I want to challenge all our pastors and mission volunteers to go to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the May Simultaneous Revivals and Citywide Crusade. Truly there is a "Macedonian Call" coming from that great city of over 10 million people.

I had the privilege of being with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 25 - March 2, where I preached on Friday and Saturday night at an Evangelistic Rally at the First Church of Penha.

The purpose of the trip was to encourage and challenge the pastors and church leaders of the Carioca Convention in Rio de Janeiro to participate in the May Simultaneous Revivals to be led by Tennessee volunteer teams. Following the revivals we will join together for the Citywide Crusade in the 200,000 seat Maracana soccer stadium in Rio de Janeiro at the end of the revival week, May 23 - June 1.

Rather than me encouraging the Baptists in Rio de Janeiro, I found them encouraging me. I was incredibly impressed by the eagerness and zeal of our Brazilian brothers and sisters. They told me to go back to Tennessee and encourage as many

volunteers to come as possible.

They already have signed up well over 200 churches to participate in the Crusade. Their goal is to have 300 churches signed up by the end of March. Each church in Rio de Janeiro wants a team from Tennessee to come preach revival services. At present, we only have about 80 teams signed up to go to Brazil.

Their goals are also incredible. They are asking God to mobilize 10,000 Baptists for revival, help them make 500,000 visits, and lead 300,000 people to Christ. They are hoping for 50,000 baptisms between May

1999 - May 2000. They need people to pray daily for 500,000 lost people, and to pray for the 1,500 missionaries and missionary volunteers coming from other states within Brazil and other countries. God is moving in an incredible way in this great city.

At the Rally on Friday

and Saturday night at the First Church of Penha, I spoke to around 700 people each night. IMB missionary Eddy Hallock served as my interpreter. On Saturday an all day conference was held to prepare interpreters, other workers, and churches for the upcoming Crusade.

On Sunday, I spoke at the First Church in Rio de Janeiro where Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos is pastor, who preached at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November 1998. We had revival Sunday morning with nearly 75 decisions.

Sunday evening I spoke at First Church of Freguesia where May crusade coordinator pastor Jonanias Soares de Menezes serves. The altar was full of people expressing faith in Christ and renewing their commitment to Christ.

If you go to Rio de Janeiro, you will be a part of a true movement of God. You will see zeal and hunger for Christ that will change your life. Be a part of headlines in Heaven.

Call the TBC Partnership/Volunteers Missions office today to go at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021. ■



#### Special service

The first Recognition and Commissioning Service was a great blessing. We have had numerous phone calls and notes saying what a challenging and affirming time this was for volunteers.

I want to thank those who made the evening possible — Fred Lodge and Nashville's Una Church, Ron Alley, Jim Freedman, Dean Haun, Bill Wilson, Amanda Day, Nashville's Haywood Hills Church, Acteens, Larry Gilmore, the choirs of both First Church, Smyrna, and Una Church, James Porch, and Jerry Rankin.

Volunteers if you missed this one you will want to attend the next service to be held on April 29 at First Church of Concord, Knoxville.

In Christ,

*Larry*



PREACHING before a packed house at First Church, Penha, Brazil, is Nashville pastor Dean Haun as missionary Eddy Hallock, far left, interprets. The crowd consisted of about 700 church leaders of congregations participating in the May Simultaneous Revivals.

## Nashville Reach '99

For The Macedonian Call

As part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's 125th Anniversary celebration, the TBC Evangelism Priority Team is partnering with the Nashville Association for Nashville Reach, a series of saturation evangelism events, Nov. 13-14 prior to the TBC Annual Meeting.

Nashville Reach seeks to be used by God as a concerted effort Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13-14, to attract and win people to faith in Jesus Christ, to nurture them in the Christian faith, and involve them in a participating church.

### November 13-14 Schedule

- Friday Night — Training/Orientation in churches
- Saturday — Block Parties, Saturday Search, One-Day Revival, Street Evangelism, Kindness Blitz, Canning Hunger, Prayerwalks, and other events planned by individual churches
- Sunday — One-Day Revivals
- Sunday Evening — Citywide Youth Concert Event

Churches may choose from these events:

**Block Parties** are special evangelistic events that introduce entire inner city neighborhoods, suburban subdivisions, and multi-family housing communities to Jesus Christ. These parties are planned to meet specific needs, but most include food, music, an informal program, and tract distribution.

**Saturday Search** is a day of focused going and seeking, preceded by one or two weeks of praying and hearing. This time focuses on prayer for the laborers and for the lost. It includes breakfast, lunch, and all day visitations on Saturday, Nov. 13. The visitation focus is on the unchurched, but it also includes inactive church members. Door-to-door survey calls, follow-up calls, prospect calls, and personal witnessing visits could be made.

**Street Evangelism** is any evangelistic event held in a high-traffic area. Usually it is in an open-air area where people feel comfortable joining a crowd. Street evangelism events involve puppets, magicians, creative arts teams, clowns, balloon artists, musical groups, sketch artists, or any activities that draw people.

**Prayerwalking** is simply walking and praying. It is praying on-site with insight. Prayerwalking is intentional. The prayerwalker allows the Holy Spirit to direct his eyes and his prayers to specific needs. Prayerwalk teams have no more than three or four persons per team.

**One-Day Revivals** will be held in many churches on Sunday, Nov. 14. Revival preachers will be pastors who have come early for the TBC Annual Meeting and are volunteering their services. The Nashville Reach Team will assign the revival preachers to the churches. Churches may also enlist a preacher on their own.

**Kindness Blitz** is a group of Christians performing acts of kindness without cost for persons. Examples are free car wash, returning empty garbage cans from the street to the house, car drying at self-serve car washes, leaf raking, lawn care, Coke giveaway, free coffee, Popsicle giveaway, windshield washing, balloon giveaway, free community dinner, free Polaroid pictures at horse carriage stands, or anything else teams can devise! The act of kindness statement is: "We have performed this act of kindness as a practical demonstration of God's love for you!"

**Canning Hunger** is the enlistment of individuals to develop a food collection route. People who have food will share if it is convenient for them. This project can be combined with Prayerwalking and Jesus Video Distribution!

For more information, contact Terry Sharp, Nashville Reach State Volunteer coordinator, at 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7927, or e-mail at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

## Churches, associations, IMB provide funds

# Cooperative missions at work in Rio de Janeiro

By Marcia Knox  
For The Macedonian Call

The cooperative missions spirit is still alive. This is evident as churches, associations, the IMB, and others are providing financially so that volunteers can serve in the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May Simultaneous Revivals. **Pleasant Grove Church, Maryville**

Pleasant Grove Church in Maryville is giving its pastor, Greg Long, a love offering to go serve in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, the church is allowing the pastor to go without taking his vacation days.

According to Long, while attending the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last year, a speaker asked for volunteers. He stood along with his wife Susan.

"We never told the church members that we were going to Brazil," Long said.

"However, we did tell some other friends."

At the January business meeting, Pleasant Grove yokefellow, Larry Caldwell, who is also a Promise Keeper, made two motions for the church's Promise Keepers group. The first motion was that the pastor not use his vacation time to Rio de Janeiro. The second motion was that the church be given an opportunity to take a love offering to help offset the expense of the pastors' mission trip.

The first motion passed; the second motion was referred to the church's Stewardship Committee. One senior adult member told the pastor that she was glad that the church was going to have the opportunity to minister through the pastor on his mission trip.

At the February business meeting, the church's Stewardship Committee made the recommendation that a love offering be taken for the pastor's mission trip. The church is currently taking a missions love offering

for the pastor during the month of March.

### Durhamville Church, Ripley

Durhamville Church, Ripley, recently surprised its interim pastor with a mission trip to Brazil as a Christmas gift. The Durhamville Church is a small church, located in Lauderdale County, where the average Sunday School attendance is around 10.

J.B. Haynes has served as the church's interim pastor for 21 months where he has been instrumental in bringing mission speakers to the church. He and his wife, Martha, have traveled on mission trips to Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, Michigan, and Wyoming.

Even though the church's membership is small, Durhamville Church has always supported missions through Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, and Golden State Missions Offerings. In addition, the church has an active WMU, which partici-

pates in WMU Associational projects.

Now, with their pastor's trip to Brazil for the Evangelistic Crusades in May, the Durhamville Church will continue to reach around the world.

### Several associations

Several associations are assisting their pastors by providing scholarships. Maury Association is providing \$500 per pastor, and Robertson Association is providing \$200 per pastor.

IMB scholarships are available for active SBC senior pastors, associational directors of missions, student ministers, and secondary students, who have never participated in an international missions project of any kind. The IMB funding will cover one-third of the project cost up to \$800.

The Partnership/Volunteers Missions office has scholarship forms. To obtain one, call Heather Wilson at (615) 371-2061 or 1-800-558-2090. ■

# Volunteer work may lead to missions career

For The Macedonian Call

Does short term volunteer missionary service lead to missionary service?

"Yes, it can," said Bill Cashion, director of the International Mission Board's Volunteer in Mission Department. "The figures from last year's 885 IMB missionary appointments estimate that 60 percent of career appointees had previous international service with the majority listing short term volunteer missionary service."

"God called me on a volunteer mission trip, and God used me on a volunteer mission trip. In fact, the IMB is now asking the question of any volunteer missionary service on their missionary application forms.

"When next year's figures are totaled, I suspect that more than 60 percent will have checked some kind of short term missions service."

Even Cashion's testimony has the overriding theme of volunteer missions.

In 1978 when I traveled overseas for the first time as pastor of Carolina Pines Church in Raleigh, N.C., I joined 71 volunteers on a three-week trip to Brazil. We did street preaching and evangelistic meetings in local churches in Niteroi-San Goncalo.

While witnessing on the streets of Niteroi, God called me to be a missionary.

When I returned to Raleigh, I shared this good news with my wife Kathy.

"I guess the Lord will have to kill me and give you a new wife, because he sure has not called me," she said.

Later, in 1979 while attending mission night at the Southern Baptist Convention at the Texas' Houston Astrodome, Billy Graham gave the invitation. It was at that time God called

Kathy. The counselor who met us was on furlough from Brazil.

We made contact with the IMB, and learned that Kathy needed at least two years in college. In 1980 she enrolled in North Greenville College, a Baptist college located near Washington Church in Greer, S.C., where I was serving as pastor. When Kathy graduated with honors, she received the Spanish award since Portuguese courses were not offered.

Later in 1980, I was diagnosed as suffering from chronic ulcers in the colon. When we officially applied in 1982 to become missionaries, the IMB physician determined that this condition was too risky for living in places where proper medical care might not be available.

Since it had been two years for me to experience a symptom, I felt a terrible mistake had been made. Kathy and I decided to attend missions week at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C., to bug the IMB medical staff. Being told that you will never be appointed to serve as a missionary led to dejection and then bitterness.

After a period of soul searching and forgiveness, Kathy and I told Jesus that we were his servants to use as he pleased. The church where I pastored became a church burdened for the world. Church volunteer mission teams went to Chile, Ecuador, and other places. The IMB asked me to lead large groups of people on trips to South America and even to lead orientation sessions for state partnerships.

In 1984 a group called Baseball

Chapel contacted me. The Atlanta Braves were moving their AA team to Greenville, S.C., and they were looking for a chaplain and a church to sponsor ministry to the team. On my first visit to the Greenville Braves, the first two players that I met were Latin Americans.

Kathy and I returned to missions week at Ridgecrest in 1984. When I met with the new director of the IMB medical department, he reopened my file and consulted with a specialist. Two weeks later a letter arrived from the IMB, and we were to proceed with the appointment process.

In 1985 when we arrived in Costa Rica for language study on the way to Venezuela, we worked in the refugee camps on the Costa Rica/Nicaragua border. The camps were for people who fled the fighting between the Contra rebels and the Sandinista government forces. Since the national sport of Nicaragua was baseball, we began a baseball league for refugees. When the refugees arrived at the camp hungry and destitute, God began to use us to feed the hungry and to develop projects.

We ended up in Venezuela in 1987 where the national sport is baseball. Human need ministry and sports evangelism with baseball chapel programs, evangelistic baseball clinics, and Bible studies led to planting churches.

In 1996 the Lord called us to Richmond, Virginia, to the IMB where I became the consultant for Human Needs.

In 1998 I was asked to be the director of the IMB Volunteers in Mission Department. A look back over my life reveals spiritual marker after spiritual marker where God has been at work to lead me to this point. ■



CASHION

## First Church, Nashville, group serves Costa Ricans

By Ethelene Palmer  
For *The Macedonian Call*

A team of 10 volunteers from First Church, Nashville, did construction work Feb. 1-15 in Costa Rica. This was the second trip for five members of the team who worked last year in Costa Rica at Shalom Church in Los Guidos.

The First Church team worked on three different construction projects in February, which included a mission site in Concepcion, Templo Bautista Church in Cartago, and Manuel Jimenez Community Center in Cartago.

Besides myself, other members of the team were Russ and Diane Mabrey, Ron and Daisy Hamlin, Bob and Mary Frances Turner, Marlin and Carolyn Seaward, and Cliff Abel.

In Concepcion, this is a new mission point in an extremely poor neighborhood. The mission site is the front yard of two new Christians home. The home is a small shack where seven people live. The home has no backyard, but it has a front yard where a dirt area became the church site.

The family volunteered their front

yard as space for the mission. Our first project was to construct a tin roof over the dirt "floor." The home was located at the bottom of a hill where many children played. By the end of the second day we had learned the names of most of the children, and they eagerly greeted us as we came to work.

We finished our work at Concepcion on the second day, and the next day a local church held Bible School at the site with 90 children in attendance.

Our second place to work was Templo Bautista Church in Cartago, which is about 15-years-old and primarily constructed by volunteer groups in an upper middle class neighborhood. Carlos Juzman serves as pastor at the church.

The men on our team removed and replaced sidewalks around the church and patched potholes in the street. The ladies repaired holes and cracks in the stucco walls, sanded, painted seven classrooms and murals on two rooms in the nursery.

At the Manuel Jimenez Community Center, Juzman worked out an arrangement with the community. If a concrete floor was poured, then the center could

be used for Bible studies and other Christian events. This was very significant since the community has about 2,500 homes with around 12,000 residents and no churches are allowed in the community.

Several Spanish/English New Testaments were given to center staff. The team's work will help Juzman as he provides Christian services to that community.

We also discovered that much work had been done at Shalom Church in Los Guidos. We were glad to learn the attendance had doubled because of the added



**PATCHING** potholes in front of Templo Bautista in Cartago, Costa Rica, is Russ Mabrey, a member of First Church, Nashville, and a resident who is helping Mabrey.

space. In fact, the church is considering beginning a new church in another location.

God allowed us to enable and encourage others who face many obstacles. These small congregations in Costa Rica pray for help. If we are "lucky" God allows us to go, help, and encourage. ■

## Deaf Congregation of First, Memphis, serves deaf in Costa Rica

For *The Macedonian Call*

First Church, Memphis, Deaf Congregation recently sent a four-person volunteer team to Costa Rica to work with a San Jose Deaf school and several Deaf communities.

"Costa Rica, like many Central and South American countries, has a large population of deaf people," said First Church, Memphis, Deaf Congregation pastor, Donnie Wiltshire. "Many of the people are deaf due to inadequate health care."

The request from the Costa Rican Mission asked for an audiologist to test children in the San Jose Fernando Centeno Guell Deaf School and fit the children with hearing aids. In addition to the audiological work, the team would lead seminars for the deaf school parents and work with several deaf ministries in the San Jose area.

In response to the request, First Church, Memphis, Deaf Congregation sent audiologist

Ben Cox and his wife Brenda Cox, both members of First Church, Memphis, and Wiltshire and his wife, Irma Wiltshire, on a partnership trip to Costa Rica Nov. 6-14, 1998.

All day Sunday the deaf team met with the Costa Rican Mission. The team worked with churches with deaf ministries, and with churches trying to start deaf ministries. The Coxes helped lead a church in Cartago in worship. Then they talked with a group of deaf people and with church leaders on how to start and strengthen a deaf ministry. The Wiltshires met with another deaf ministry in San Jose where they led worship at Templo Bautista and met with the pastor to encourage him.

The team worked Monday through Friday conducting long hours of hearing tests and family services. The Coxes saw most of the children in the deaf school and tested their hearing. A total of 61 hearing aids were fitted and given to the children. New Testaments and

tracts were given to every family that brought a child to be tested.

"Working with the children opened the door to the hearts of their parents," said Donnie Wiltshire. "We met with the parents each morning to talk with them about raising a deaf child, which we approached with a spiritual basis." One of the main goals of the seminars was to help parents see the spiritual needs of deaf children, and how they could be met in Christ. Parents who were evangelical Christians

also shared their faith in the seminar.

Missionaries in Costa Rica also took the team to a local orphanage where dozens of children were tested. The orphanage is a special project of the Cartago Church. Working with the orphanage was one way that the team could help the Cartago Church further its community relations.

At the end of the week Donnie Wiltshire went with IMB missionaries Nancy and Clive Buttemere to the main downtown square in San Jose where

several hundred deaf people gather each weekend.

A group of deaf Christians holds a worship service in a church near the square each Friday night. Wiltshire preached to several hundred people. Many of the deaf people who were at the square came to the worship service. Wiltshire was able to preach in Costa Rican sign language, which is about 70 percent of American sign language. At the end of the sermon, many people indicated they wanted to follow Jesus. ■



**A STUDENT** of a deaf school in Costa Rica gets a hearing aid fitted by audiologist Ben Cox, a member of First Church, Memphis.

### Missions Skills School

The Missions Awareness and Involvement Group is offering two Missions Skills Schools. The first is at Camp Linden, Linden, Tenn., April 9-10. The second is at Camp Carson, Newport, Tenn., Oct. 22-23.

The concept of the Missions Skills Schools is to provide missions skills training for those wanting to gain or improve their skills for mission trips and education. Both locations will include missions

skills for both overseas and at home experiences in a variety of offerings.

The offerings for the Linden location are listed on the registration form. You will want to sign up soon, as the deadline is March 22. Information on the October Missions Skills School will be provided at a later date.

#### Missions Skills School

Registration Form for April 9-10, Camp Linden

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for the following conference(s): Some conferences are full-time conferences (marked with\*) requiring the entire time. Other conferences are offered at various times, and you can choose another conference. Please mark your conference of choice by placing a 1 in your first conference and a 2 in the second.

#### Entire Time Conferences

- \*Adventure: Recreation for Mission Trips \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Mission Survival Skills \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Puppetry for Home and Overseas Mission Trips \_\_\_\_\_

#### Select Time Conferences

- Blue Cap for Assoc. and Church Leaders, Sessions III, IV \_\_\_\_\_
- Challengers Leaders, Sessions I, II \_\_\_\_\_
- Church Preparedness, Sessions III, IV \_\_\_\_\_
- Conducting Block Parties, Sessions II, III, IV \_\_\_\_\_
- Construction for Overseas Trips, Sessions III, IV \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Preparedness, Sessions I, II \_\_\_\_\_
- Introduction to Disaster Relief, Sessions I, II \_\_\_\_\_
- Men on Mission Leaders, Sessions I, II \_\_\_\_\_
- Prayerwalking, Sessions III, IV \_\_\_\_\_
- Royal Ambassador Leaders, Sessions I, II \_\_\_\_\_

School begins with check-in at 4-6 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 3 p.m. on Saturday. Cost - \$50 each, or \$45 each per group of 5 or more (includes room, meals, linens/towel, insurance, and conference materials) Deadline to register - March 22. Sorry NO walk-ins.

Please send this registration form and fee to Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, Attn: Carol Davidson, Executive Board Ministries, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

For questions call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2025 or 1-615-371-2025; or e-mail dbavidson@tnbaptist.org.

# The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed	Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Contact Persons
<b>Rio de Janeiro Projects</b>					<b>Tennessee Projects</b>				
Rio de Janeiro	Church Dev	Church Planting	Open	45 teams	Benton	T-99-74	Evangelism	5/30/99-8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 423-338-4153
Rio de Janeiro	Medical	Medical Clinics	Open	27 teams	Benton	T-99-73	Evangelism	5/30/99-8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 423-338-4153
Rio de Janeiro	PM41998905	Drama Teams	Open	Open	Benton	T-99-72	Construction	5/30/99-8/14/99	Andy Jordan - 423-338-4153
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999996	Construction	Open	25	Beulah	T-99-61	Construction	Open	Jerry Essary - 901-885-2151
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999994	Piano Tuner	Open	1	Beulah	T-99-62	Construction	Open	Jerry Essary - 901-885-2151
Rio de Janeiro	PM21999902	Evangelism	Open	20	Bolivar	T-99-51	Camp	Open	Hardeman Assoc. - 901-658-3534
Rio de Janeiro	PM21999901	Construction/VBS	Open	25	Bolivar	T-99-55	Special Services	Open	Carolyn O'Hara - 901-658-7273
Rio de Janeiro	PM21999904	Student Ministries	6/06/99 - 8/03/99	2	Chattanooga	T-99-11	Construction	6/27/99-7/03/99	Stan Braley - 423-267-3794
Rio de Janeiro	PM41999904	Revival	5/23/99 - 6/01/99	450	Chattanooga	T-99-12	Construction	7/04/99-7/10/99	Stan Braley - 423-267-3794
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000900	Student Ministries	1/03/2000 - 1/12/2000	1	Chattanooga	T-99-13	Construction	7/11/99-7/17/99	Stan Braley - 423-267-3794
Rio de Janeiro	PM41998931	Hospital Chaplain	Open	1	Chattanooga	T-99-10	Construction	6/20/99-6/26/99	Stan Braley - 423-267-3794
<b>Canada Projects</b>					<b>Mission Service Corps (MSC) Projects</b>				
Prince Albert, SK	98MID032	VBS/BYBC	7/04/99 - 7/11/99	6-10	Cordova	T-99-49	Construction	Open	Mike Mathis - 901-381-1979
Allan, SK	98NOR030	Evangelism	July	10+	Cordova	T-99-48	Construction	Open	Wrex Hauth - 901-835-4654
Charlottetown, PEI	98NOR039	Evangelism	7/19/99 - 7/23/99	10	Cordova	T-99-65	BYBC	Aug. 9-15	Effort Alexander - 901-398-5000 or 544-3607
Coaldale, AB	98MID035	Construction	June	10-20	Cordova	T-99-63	Construction	June	Effort Alexander - 901-398-5000 or 544-3607
Edmonton, AB	98MID033	Summer Missionaries	7/15/99 - 8/15/99	2	Covington	T-99-77	Construction	Open	Mike Howard - 901-476-5632
Love, SK	98NOR032	Construction	7/17/99 - 7/24/99	4	Covington	T-99-59	VBS/BYBC	Open	Donna Ralph - 901-476-8761
Love, SK	98NOR031	VBS/BYBC	7/03/99 - 7/10/99	4	Dyersburg	T-99-46	Special Services	Open	Joe Naylor - 901-285-2727
Montague, PEI	98NOR037	Evangelism	6/27/99 - 7/04/99	Open	Dyersburg	T-99-47	Evangelism	Open	Joe Naylor - 901-285-2727
PEI	KC4	Church Planting	Open	2	Elizabethton	T-99-26	Camp	8/01/99-8/07/99	Becky Brumitt - 423-547-2560
Pincher Creek, AB	98MID034	VBS/BYBC	July	4-6	Elizabethton	T-99-25	VBS/BYBC	7/25/99-7/31/99	Becky Brumitt - 423-547-2560
Prince Albert, SK	98NOR034	Evangelism	7/08/99-7/19/99	15+	Elizabethton	T-99-24	VBS/BYBC	7/18/99-7/24/99	Becky Brumitt - 423-547-2560
Surrey, BC	98CAP016	Evangelism	5/21/99-5/24/99	2	Elizabethton	T-99-22	VBS/BYBC	7/04/99-7/10/99	Becky Brumitt - 423-547-2560
Vanderhoof, BC	98ALP002	Construction/VBS	July	Open	Elizabethton	T-99-20	VBS/BYBC	6/20/99-6/26/99	Becky Brumitt - 423-547-2560
<b>Michigan Projects</b>					<b>Mission Service Corps (MSC) Projects</b>				
Ann Arbor	GD-3G	Dry Wall	6/01/99-6/21/99	3 teams	Fayette	T-99-54	Construction	Open	Bob Campbell - 901-854-6290
Ann Arbor	GD-3F	Masonry	6/01/99-6/21/99	3 teams	Henry	T-99-27	Construction	Open	Larry or Tammy Bell - 901-243-7150
Ann Arbor	GD-3E	Painting	6/01/99-6/21/99	3 teams	Jackson	T-99-58	Construction	6/01/99-7/31/99	Carol Vaughan - 901-668-5690
Ann Arbor	GD-3D	Plumbing	6/01/99-6/21/99	2 teams	Knoxville	T-99-32	Construction	3/20/99-9/30/99	Walter Taylor - 423-693-9097
Ann Arbor	GD-3C	Electrical	6/01/99-6/21/99	2 teams	Memphis	T-99-29	Student Ministries	Open	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Ann Arbor	GD-3B	Roofing	6/01/99-6/21/99	3 teams	Memphis	T-99-71	Special Services	Open	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Ann Arbor	GD-3A	Construction	6/01/99-6/21/99	3 teams	Memphis	T-99-70	Construction	Open	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Cadillac	N-3A	Revival	10/02/99 - 10/09/99	2	Memphis	T-99-28	Student Ministries	6/13/99-8/07/99	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Cadillac	N-6	VBS/BYBC	7/18/99-7/23/99	15-20	Memphis	T-99-66	Special Services	Open	Bobbie Clark - 901-386-8141 or 458-0617
Detroit	GD-4	Construction	Open	Open	Memphis	T-99-31	Special Services	8/01/99	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Detroit	GD-3	Construction	Open	Open	Memphis	T-99-69	Special Services	Open	Tim Cox - 901-372-7477
East Jordan	N-1A	Block Party	Open	Open	Memphis	T-99-68	Special Services	Open	Sam Wilson - 901-458-0617
Eaton Rapids	C-1	Sports Evangelism	7/26/99-7/30/99	15-30	Memphis	T-99-78	Construction	Open from April	Ricky Ray - 901-357-9581 or 353-4532
Grand Rapids	W-4	VBS/BYBC	7/18/99-7/24/99	10	Memphis	T-99-67	VBS/BYBC	Open	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Grayling	N-4D	Plumbing	7/09/99-7/16/99	Open	Memphis	T-99-50	Camp	Open	Penny Looney - 901-372-6835
Grayling	N-4C	Electrical	6/19/99-6/26/99	Open	Memphis	T-99-30	Construction	Open	Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Grayling	N-4B	Construction	6/11/99-6/17/99	Open	Nashville	T-99-43	Construction	Open	Paul Morris - 615-776-2266
Kalamazoo	SC-2A	Roofing	Open	Open	Nashville	T-99-44	Construction	6/20/99-6/26/99	Paul Morris - 615-776-2266
Lansing	C-2	VBS/BYBC	7/19/99-7/23/99	1	Pulaski	T-99-76	Construction	Open	Darrell Lingerfalt - 931-766-0749
Marquette	UP-4	Masonry	Open	1	Pulaski	T-99-75	Construction	Open	Carl Bond - 931-363-3529
Mt. Clemens	M-2	VBS/BYBC	Open	Open	Ripley	T-99-45	ESL/Education	Open	Joe T. Naylor - 901-285-2727
Prudenville	N-5	Music	Open	1 or 2	Ripley	T-99-56	Construction	Open	Wayne Rowan - 901-635-7128
Roseville	M-4	Sports	Open	2	Rossville	T-99-52	Construction	Open	Bob Campbell - 901-854-6290
Roseville	M-1A	Block Party	Open	Open	Shelby	T-99-60	VBS/BYBC	Open	Don Aycock - 901-274-3766
Sault Ste Marie	UP-3	Painting	7/18/99-7/25/99	5	Shelby	T-99-64	VBS/BYBC	Open	Ronnie Wilburn - 901-458-4469 or 684-8088
Southfield, Mich.	SEM10	Student Ministries	6/10/99-8/12/99	20	Somerville	T-99-57	Construction	Open	Ronald Gruenwald - 901-867-7259
Taylor	GD-2A	Construction	Open	20-25	Somerville	T-99-53	Construction	Open	Bob Campbell - 901-854-6290
Taylor	GD-2B	Electrical	Open	20-25					
Taylor	GD-2C	Dry Wall	Open	20-25					
<b>Portugal Projects</b>									
Lisbon	GEN1999205	Drama Teams	8/04/99-8/22/99	8	Cleveland	MSC2	MSC	Open	Michelle McCluskey - 423-476-5493
Portimao	EVN1999077	Street Ministries	8/01/99-8/15/99	10	Cleveland	MSC4	MSC	Open	Michelle McCluskey - 423-476-5493
Porto	GEN1999206	Construction	7/30/99-8/14/99	6	Ducktown	MSC1	MSC	Open	Al Patterson - 423-496-7977
Porto	GEN1999177	Construction	8/14/99-8/28/99	6	Memphis	MSC6	MSC	Open	Sam Wilson or Tim Cox - 901-458-0617
Portugal	EVN1999043AD	Prayerwalking	Open	10	Memphis	MSC7	MSC	Open	Sam Wilson or Tim Cox - 901-458-0617

For more information about the above projects, call the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021.

## leaders

■ **Jon R. Roebuck** began serving March 14 as pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville. Roebuck, a native of Georgia, had been serving as pastor of First Church, Gatlinburg. He also has held pastorates in Alabama and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and holds the master of divinity and doctor of divinity degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Roebuck and his wife, Linda, have three children.



**ROEBUCK**

■ **Greg McGosh** has been

called as pastor of Lakeside Church, Ten Mile. He began serving March 7. This is his first pastorate.

■ **Fort Robinson Church**, Kingsport, has called **Conway Ledford** as minister of music and **Michael D. Harvel** as youth director.

■ **Central Church**, Crossville, recently called **Jeremy Busler** as music minister. He formerly served as minister of youth at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville.

■ **Bethlehem Church**, Springfield, has called **Thom Rawls** as director of music and **Angela West** as director of youth ministries.

■ **Tulip Grove Church**, Old Hickory, recently called **Paula Bussell** as preschool and children's director.

■ **Bob Cardinal** has been called as executive pastor/ad-



**BELMONT UNIVERSITY** recently received a \$1 million gift/challenge from **Barbara Massey Rogers** to go toward the development of the **Jack C. Massey Chair of Entrepreneurship for the Massey School of Business**. With **Belmont President Bill Troutt**, right, are **Barbara Massey Rogers**, center, and **Jim Clapper**.

ministration at Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville.

■ **Don Foster** has resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Gray, to accept a position at Higher Ground Church, Kingsport.

■ **David Simmerman** has been called as minister of youth at First Church, Joelton.

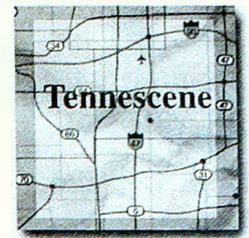
Campbell, director of missions, Fayette Association.

■ **Walnut Grove Church**, will hold revival services April 4-7 with **Mark and Becky Howard** as speakers.

■ **Central Church**, Crossville, broke ground March 7 for a new church sanctuary.

■ **Beverly Hills Church**, Memphis, will host its second annual Women's Conference April 23-24 with guest speaker **Shelia Medlin**, an experienced teacher in the Word of God through Precept Ministries. In addition to worship, there will be five seminars to choose from. Lunch and child care is included in the cost of \$15 per person. For more information or to register, call the church office at (901) 743-4120.

■ **Lincoln Park Church**, Knoxville, will observe its 90th anniversary on March 21, with **Walter Taylor**, director of



missions, Knox County Association, as guest speaker.

■ **Riverview Church**, Columbia, held revival services recently with **Henry Linginfelter** and **Carolyn Reed**. There were two saved and 11 re-dedications.

■ The music and drama ministry of **Grace Church**, Nashville, will present the musical "The Power of His Touch" on March 26 at 7 p.m.; March 27 at 5 p.m.; and March 28 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (615) 865-6262.

## churches

■ **Hornsby Church**, Hornsby, will hold revival services April 11-14 with **Steve Cole**, pastor of Faith Church, Henderson, as evangelist.

■ **Tom's Creek Church**, Linden, will hold revival services March 21-24 with **Hugh Callens** as guest evangelist.

■ **Trinity Church**, Bolivar, will hold a weekend revival April 23-25 with **Bob**

## state event

■ A "Signs of Faith" workshop for individuals involved in deaf ministry will be held May 15 at Providence Church, Seymour. For more information, call **Judy Hurst** of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at (615) 371-7916 or 1-800-558-2090.

## death

■ **Julian Simpson Suggs Jr.**, 85, died March 10 in Hickory, N.C. Funeral services were held March 12 at First Church, Hickory. He was the father of **Julian Suggs**, church music specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## Alzheimer's Conference

"Caring for the Caregiver"

March 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Baptist Center, Brentwood

Free Conference, Lunch Provided

Speakers include **Dr. N. Lavan Modling**, pastor, Covenant Baptist Church, Nashville, and **Joseph Francis, M.D.**, chief medical officer, VA Mid-South HealthCare Network.

To register and for more information, call **Leanne Robbins** or **Gene Nabi** of Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2083, or (615) 371-2083.

## CLASSIFIED

**PEWS:** 30 veneer pews with cushioned seats, 20 yrs. old, good condition. Assorted lengths. \$4,000. Call **Antioch First Baptist Church**, (615) 832-7486.

**ORGAN:** Kawai electronic two-manual organ with foot pedals and bench. Excellent condition. Call to make appointment to see, (615) 883-7111.

**MUSIC/YOUTH:** Full-time music and youth minister needed. Send resume to **Lucy Baptist Church**, 4005 Lucy Rd., Millington, TN 38053.

**SECRETARY:** Position available, church office secretary, full-time, computer skills required. Send resumes to **Personnel Committee**, Haywood Hills Baptist Church, 255 Haywood Lane, Nashville, TN 37211.

**MUSIC/YOUTH:** Seeking part-time minister of music and youth. Will consider full-time. Please send resumes to **Southside Baptist Church**, P.O. Box 865, Dyersburg, TN 38024, Attn: Search Committee.

**STUDENTS:** Big Spring Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., seeking full-time minister of students. Send resume to **Search Committee**, Attn: **Doug Jenkins**, 1415 Hardwick St., SE, Cleveland, TN 37311.

**MUSIC/YOUTH:** Seeking part-time Music and/or Youth Minister(s), **New Hope Baptist Church**, Dyer, Tenn. Send resume to **Wallace Alford**, 96 Gravelle's Crossing E, Dyer, TN 38330, or call 1-800-427-3490 for information.

**CHILDREN:** Second - Ponce de Leon (SPdL) Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., is seeking a Minister with Children. This person will serve as one of 12 Pastoral Staff team ministry equippers. SPdL is a 3,600 member congregation in north Atlanta drawing people from 108 zip codes throughout the metro region. Offering both traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, SPdL offers its members the choice to support missions and ministries through either the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention and ordains women and men to the diaconate. Applicants should have a seminary degree, professional experience in Baptist congregational leadership with children's ministry, awareness of the contemporary challenges facing children and their families, and a desire to build a team of children's teachers and leaders. Resumes with references should be sent to **Second - Ponce de Leon Baptist Church**, Minister with Children Search Committee, 2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. (Deadline is April 28, 1999.)

## Hunter First Baptist Church, Elizabethton

will hold a

### Spring Revival

featuring **Rev. Jamey Ragle**

of **Life Changing Ministries**, Burlington, Ky.

**Sunday, March 21 - Wednesday, March 24**

**Sunday Services - 10:25 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**Weeknight Services - 7:00 p.m.**



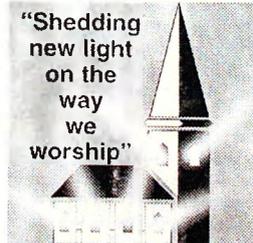
**RAGLE**

Ragle is co-founder of **Firm Foundation Student Conferences**. He has served as a pastor in Florida, a youth director in Cincinnati, and staff evangelist for 10 years at **Landmark Baptist Temple** in Cincinnati. Ragle also sang with the Grammy-nominated **Dixie Melody Boys** for four years, and recorded over a dozen music projects with the group and as a solo performer.

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## No illness reported after anthrax scare

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — No illness was reported by employees as the Southern Baptist Convention Building reopened March 9 after a suspicious letter opened March 5 prompted a number of precautionary steps by Nashville emergency officials.

Four employees of the SBC Executive Committee and a fire department captain underwent a decontamination wash of 10-percent Clorox and water, in addition to being given antibiotics, for possible exposure to deadly anthrax bacteria. The building was closed March 8.

The letter, postmarked on the West Coast, was forwarded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to a lab for tests, but results are not in.

The letter was opened in the Executive Committee offices on the SBC Building's seventh floor late on the morning of March 5. Bill Merrell, vice president of convention relations for the Executive Committee, said local authorities were contacted immediately and precautions were taken, including limiting access to the building. ■

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## Families that pray together 'lay hold' of God's power, Shirley Dobson writes

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A call for families to pray together has been sounded by Shirley Dobson, who chairs the National Day of Prayer task force, in the April issue of *HomeLife*, a family magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Families that pray together don't just stay together, important as that is. They lay hold of the very power of God to cope with the challenges of daily living," writes Dobson, who is the wife of James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family.

"Mealtime and bedtime prayers are a great starting point," Dobson writes, "but

they're only the first step."

Among her suggestions for establishing more in-depth family prayer:

► Set regular times for family prayer gatherings.

► Keep a journal of prayer requests. "Occasionally read back over former prayer needs and concerns to refresh your memory and jump start prayers of thanksgiving," Dobson adds.

► Pray aloud together, which is "the best way for young children to learn the 'mechanics' of effective prayer," Dobson writes. "With children, prayers can be sung, staged, danced, painted, drawn — the

possibilities are practically limitless.

"Families that pray together are committed, communicative, loving, and built upon the one firm foundation," Dobson writes. "Their health and wholeness shine like lights in a rapidly darkening and dysfunctional world. Their eyes are open to realities that others refuse to see; they walk hand in hand with Christ through a larger, more wondrous world than some are capable of imagining.

"Through prayer they've established direct links between their homes and the heart of the King of all creation."



A booklet on "The Power of Family Prayer" is available from the National Day of Prayer offices at 1-800-444-8828. The cost is \$4.

This year's National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6. ■

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**EDUCATION/ADMINISTRATION:** First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Ga., approximately 1,400 members, is searching for and accepting resumes for an Associate Pastor/Minister of Education and Administration. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1009, Leesburg, Ga., 31763 or fax (912) 759-1887.

**EDUCATION:** Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks referrals or resumes for a Minister of Education. Located in northwest suburban St. Louis County, we average in excess of 650 in two morning services, over 500 in Sunday School. Fee Fee is a strong, traditional Southern Baptist church. Responsibilities include directing ministry programs for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and Missions. Strong Christian character a must. Send referrals/resumes to Minister of Education Search Committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

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## Staying focused

By Roy Graves

### Focal Passage — Mark 13:1-7

A few years ago the privilege was mine to pass a man who was a veteran of the war in Vietnam. His story was one of a body maimed by an enemy land mine. He was left as dead for two days. His limp was noticeable and the back of his scalp showed the signs of scarring and reconstructive surgery. The most revealing triumph of his ordeal was his testimony of survival. Upon being asked how he survived, he always replied, "I kept my focus on Jesus as the blessed hope." That's good advice in all circumstances of life.

### The warning of the Savior — (vv. 1-8)

Jesus is instructing his disciples to wait for the orderly and ordained unfolding of his plan upon "last things." They were not to believe the quick and misleading conclusions of men who believe themselves possessors of the secrets of the second coming. Jesus warned them that they would see chaos on earth, but heaven was calm awaiting God's plan to unfold. Jesus warned them of personal sacrifices they must experience, but reminded them of how he too would be sacrificed but raised again.

Disciples of the Savior, then and now, are not too busy themselves with endless speculation, but holy living. The warning we need to heed is not so much of what is coming, but to keep focused on our responsibility until that time. Jesus was concerned his followers would involve themselves in matters they have no control over and would not invest themselves in the ministries of "missions and evangelism."

### The promise of the Spirit — (vv. 9-13)

Every true believer of the Lord Jesus "will" experience tribulation and disappointment. As I looked at chapter 13 it impressed me how many times the word "will" appeared (NASB). "You will be misled," "nation will rise against nation," "will be earthquakes," "will be famine," "will deliver you to courts," "you will be flogged," "you will stand before governors and kings for my sake," "you will be hated by all on account of my name." A few references point up the fact that we will experience a measure of tribulation and persecution. But not alone. The Holy Spirit "will" be a present help. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper (Paracletos, one called alongside to help), that he may be with you forever," (John 14:16).

### The encouragement to the saints — (vv. 33-37)

The children of God are praying and watching for the second coming as a time of hope and glory. The tribulation of this present age is designed to usher in and prepare us for a "golden age" that has no end. We toil with great encouragement because the purpose of God will be fulfilled and evil will be overcome and death will be swallowed up in life eternal. We will live in the truth of Revelation 21 which in part says, "He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." We are encouraged that the first things will pass away in order that we might live in the eternal things of glory. — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

## Nicodemus visits Jesus

By Tommy Ferguson

### Focal Passage — John 3:1-17

By studying how Nicodemus and Jesus interacted, we will be able to take home five valuable truths in witnessing to those that Jesus brings across our paths.

**We must be available (v. 2a).** Nicodemus came to him by night. Despite this inconvenient time, Jesus did not turn him away. God's dealings in the lives of those who he wants us to touch may require that we minister on the Lord's timetable not ours. Dear reader, is your life so structured that there is no flexibility for ministry?

**Our works will validate or violate our witness (v. 2b).** Nicodemus' attraction with Jesus was heightened by the miracles he performs. He realized that a mere teacher could not do these, except God be with him. Nicodemus would have never come to Jesus without the miracles. It was the miracles that separated Jesus from all the other teachers.

## Family Bible Lesson

Today people do not care how much we know until they know how much we care. One of the most effective teachers I know is a lady from my former pastorate named Mary Etta Nixon. She sent cards when you were sick, words of appreciation and encouragement. No, I've never heard her teach, but her class was always full, and those she taught reflected our Lord's heart.

**"Chitchat" must not replace confrontation about one's soul (v. 3).** Nicodemus suspected that Jesus was the coming Messiah. Jesus listened to him "chitchat" and then confronts the question at heart, "the kingdom of God." In order for there to be a kingdom of God, there has

## Responding to God' revelation

By Jerry Reagan

### Focal Passage — Psalm 19:1-14

### God's revelation through the created world — vv. 1-6

The psalmist describes the heavens continuously declaring, or recounting, the glory of God and the firmament (the expanse of the heavens) showing his handiwork. God's work is so complex, and yet his method of teaching is similar to the method used in kindergarten. God uses nature to "show and tell" his glory and handiwork. God uses the visual in nature to express what is usually expressed vocally in his law. Day speaks, the night shows God's glory, yet the sound is inaudible. There is no place where this testimony is not seen or heard. He pays special attention to the sun. He pictures the sun as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber on his way to his bride-to-be's house to escort her to the wedding, and as a strong man getting ready to run a race. The creation of God, like the sun, has a universal influence. God's creation bears witness to him wherever the heavens can be observed, just as the sun's heat is felt throughout the heavens and earth.

### God's revelation through his creative word — vv. 7-14

The psalmist looks at God's

## Explore the Bible Lesson

Word, or Torah, from several different viewpoints God's law is perfect, or complete, able to convert, or restore the soul. His testimony is sure, making the simple wise. His statues, or directions, are right, rejoicing the heart. His commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. His judgments, or decisions, are true and dependable, and righteous altogether. His law is a treasure to be treasured, and a delight to experience. Better than gold and sweeter than honey. The law to the psalmist is not a burden to be borne, but a delight to be enjoyed.

The psalmist reveals his relationship with God when he refers to himself as "thy servant." The servant of God is warned and rewarded by God's law. He is warned about the presence of sin. He is warned about the progression of sin. He sees sin as possibly beginning with errors, or unconscious mistakes, then the hidden faults, unseen by the servant, but known to God. The progression continues to presumptuous sins. Sins of arrogance and

to be a King, a Messiah. This is what was really on Nicodemus' mind. Jesus startles him by saying, "You cannot even see the kingdom of God, unless you have been born again."

**Salvation is not complicated and must be presented in easy to understand terms (vv. 4-18).** Jesus uses a baby being born, the wind blowing, and a snake on a pole to illustrate salvation. He compares the natural birth to that of the supernatural birth that is from heaven. I like what Warren Wiersbe said when explaining verses 5 and 6. "Just as there are two parents for physical birth, so there are two parents for spiritual birth; the Spirit of God and the Word of God. The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and, when the sinner believes, imparts the life of God."

Nicodemus does not fully comprehend it at first. Jesus says you do not see the wind, but you feel and hear and see the results of the wind. Likewise, you cannot deny the work of the Holy Spirit in the world of conversion.

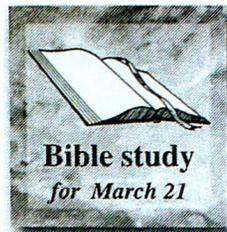
Jesus illustrates salvation by narrating the story of Israel's wicked rebellion. Bitten by the poisonous snakes, the only way that they could live, was to look upon the exalted, brazen serpent that set atop a pole. Jesus would be suspended between heaven and earth for the rebellion of mankind. And only those who would by faith look unto Jesus could experience forgiveness.

**Sin keeps people from becoming Christians (vv. 18-21).** The real reason people do not get saved, is because they love their evil deeds. For some it is an immoral lifestyle, for others a bottle of liquor, and there are those who worship their intellect. And many it's their pride and self righteousness. Jesus is light and their deeds are darkness and they have no desire to walk in the light. — Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville.

sins against knowledge and revealed truth. He prays for God to keep him back from such acts and to enable him to be free from their domination. Then he will be clear from great transgression.

He closes with a prayer for help from God. He knows that the law itself cannot keep him from sinning. The law can make him aware of his sin. It can warn him of the consequences of his sin, but it cannot save him from sin. He realizes that sin expresses itself through wrong thoughts and wrong words. And he prays that the words of his mouth, and the meditations of his heart will be acceptable to his lord, his strength, his rock, his place to stand, and his redeemer. He claims close kinship to God, as he asks God to do for him what a near kinsman would do for a relative in an urgent situation.

The Christian application of this teaching would still recognize God's creation bearing witness to God's glory, and God's written Word, or Scripture being all that this psalmist says that the law is. But look into the heavens, and into the written Word, and by his spirit experience the living Word, Jesus, who is God's finest, fullest, and final revelation to us.— Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Halls.





## ERLC to drop annual conference

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Only hours after the conclusion of the agency's annual conference, trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission decided March 4 to make this year's conference the last such event for the ERLC.

During their semi-annual meeting here, trustees voted to discontinue the traditional practice of holding the seminar that for 33 years attracted well-known speakers in the area of ethics, morality, and public policy, focusing on some aspect of applied Christianity.

The annual conference, which was held in various

cities during its history, was successful in its night sessions, but failed to draw strong crowds during the day, according to staff member Barrett Duke.

"We came to a decision that this type of education process was no longer the most effective way to present the kind of issues we were trying to address," Duke said.

The decision to cancel the conference was not reached overnight, he continued, noting the ERLC was committed to seeking alternative means to equip and encourage Southern Baptists to be "salt and light in their community." ■

## Corporate prayer needed to reach nation's inner cities

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Corporate prayer is one of the most important keys to reaching the inner city for Christ, said David Galvan at the annual conference of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics &

## Romance blooms at Chattanooga book store

Baptist Press

CHATTANOOGA — Lamar Overby didn't fall in love at Baptist Book Store here, but his devotion to his bride-to-be certainly blossomed there.

Citing frequent enjoyable visits to the store, Overby, 28, chose the store as the memorable location for his recent proposal to Heather Ely, 25.

Book store manager Tim Burton knew the plans when the couple came to the store recently. Overby had asked permission to propose there and had ordered a T-shirt airbrushed with the message: "Heather, will you

marry me?"

The two walked up to the counter and Overby asked if the shirt was in. Onlookers said when Overby unfolded the shirt and showed her, Ely spun around with a look of surprise, but was affirming in her answer when he dropped to one knee and proposed.

"It was the furthest thing from my mind," Ely admitted. "We'd talked about it, but I had no idea. We were looking at gifts and now I understand why he wasn't paying much attention."

The couple met last May at Temple Church in Chattanooga and will marry there on April 17. ■

Religious Liberty Commission.

"We have not seen America's cities experience a mighty sovereign-led move of God because prayer has not been a priority," Galvan said. He has been pastor of an inner-city church in Garland, Texas, since 1981.

Galvan challenged conferees to follow the example of the Apostle Paul's ministry in Ephesus as a model for capturing the nation's urban populations for Christ in the next millennium.

Paul's three-pronged strategy, Galvan explained, focused on seeking out people with whom to share the Gospel, utilizing the gifts and talents God provided to minister to people's needs, and depending upon the power of corporate prayer. ■

## State conventions join to produce stewardship materials

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Four state conventions have joined forces to produce stewardship materials for use across the Southern Baptist Convention.

"New Century Giving provides materials for a three-Sunday emphasis which places the lordship of Jesus Christ as the declarative biblical principle and sacrifice as the giving model," said Jim Rich, stewardship director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

The guide includes instructions, sample worship service agendas, worship handouts, preaching suggestions, dramatic sketches, offering envelopes, age-graded Sunday School leaflets, teacher's guides, poster and clip art, and follow-up ideas.

The effort was a cooperative venture between the state conventions of Missouri, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Florida. Rich said the idea "came from the vision of those who promote stewardship growth every day." ■

## Texas Baptists to produce literature

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist General Convention of Texas will produce its own "biblically-based, Texas-focused" Bible-study material, beginning next March.

Texas Baptists authorized publication of the material in 1997, when the state convention approved a slate of recommendations by an Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee, revamping the 2.5 million-member organization's programs and operations.

The convention's Sunday School/Discipleship division has developed the literature project. Two committees recently authorized spending up to \$250,000 for the development, production, and distribution of literature, which will be released for use beginning in March 2000.

Mateo Rendon, chairman of the convention's administrative committee, said publication of the materials does not signal that the Texas convention is forming a "publishing house" as some critics have claimed.

Rendon cited several "safeguards," including the fact that Cooperative Program unified-budget funds will not be used to print and distribute the materials, and that the literature is to be published on a cost-recovery basis with subscription fees paying for publication. This is to be done "as soon as possible," probably within three years, he said. ■

## Court rules against pre-game prayers

Associated Baptist Press

GALVESTON, Texas — Student-led prayers may be appropriate at high school graduation ceremonies, but not at football games, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on a 2-1 split March 1.

The case, which stemmed from complaints by two parents here, could alter a long-standing tradition of pre-game prayers at high schools in the Bible Belt.

In Texas, for example, many schools routinely broadcast invocations over the public-address system at football games.

While the ruling of the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit affects only Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, it is consistent with an earlier ruling by the 11 Circuit Court of Appeals in Georgia. ■

## South Carolina editor elected to lead organization

Baptist Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Associations representing executive directors of Baptist state conventions and editors of state Baptist papers met here recently for their annual sessions which include a workshop on "Leading a Winning Organization" and election of new officers.

The editors, executives, and their spouses met jointly for an all-day workshop led by Reggie McNeal, director of leadership development for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

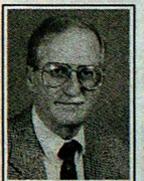
The two associations traditionally meet at the same time and location, holding some joint sessions as well as separate business sessions.

Don Kirkland, editor of *The Baptist Courier* in South Carolina, was named president-elect of the 41-member Association of State Baptist Papers. He will succeed Mark Wyatt of the *California Southern Baptist* who will serve this year as president.

Wyndell Jones of Iowa was named president-elect of the state executive directors. ■



TENNESSEE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION recently held a training session for young ladies who will be serving this summer as Acteens Activators, working in missions projects in nine states and the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic team, above, is from Germantown Church, Germantown. Pictured are, from left, front row, Susan Todd, Karen Chapman, Kristel O'Malley; second row, Sharon Atwell, Cindy Batner, Janice Robbins, Erica Harms, and Kristen Blair. BELOW, sharing after a conference, are, from left, Threasa Jones and Natalie Hammons, Pine Ridge Church, Harriman; Jessica Heim, First Church, Manchester; Amber Frost, Edgemoor Church, Clinton; and Mariilyn Stout, Central Church, Selmer. — Photos by Connie Davis



KIRKLAND