

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

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Statewide Edition

March 24, 1999

## this week's news

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- ▶ Calvin Harvell battles back from cancer. — Page 7

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

## TBC president calls for solemn assemblies

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**BRENTWOOD** — Tennessee Baptist Convention President Larry Gilmore has issued a call for a day of solemn assembly in each region of the state in April.

The day is to be set aside to seek God in personal renewal, to pray for partnership missions in general, the Rio de Janeiro crusade in late May specifically, and for the convention as a whole, said Gilmore, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin.

"We can get Baptists together if we eat. Can we get them together if we spend the heart of a day in prayer seeking God and interceding for these ministries that are making a difference in our world?" he asked.

Gilmore said the solemn assemblies would be held on Tennessee Baptist college campuses:

April 13 — Union University (in conjunction with the

West Tennessee Pastors' Conference), 1-3 p.m.

April 15 — Belmont University, 1-3 p.m.

April 20 — Carson-Newman College (following C-N's Spring Pastors' Conference), 1-3 p.m.

Gilmore said he is learning more and more about the mul-



GILMORE

tiplicity of Tennessee Baptist ministries in his role as convention president. "Thousands of lives are being touched every day," he observed.

He noted the danger is that while Tennessee Baptists know how to do ministry and actually perform ministry, it may not be as fruitful as it could be "because we have prayed fast, rather than fasted and prayed.

"If missions is the focus that unites us, then my appeal to my brothers and sisters across the state is to take a day and

participate together, not to debate, not to argue, not to talk about differences, but to seek the face of God, and to pray for that which we are about," Gilmore said.

Gilmore specifically is burdened about the Rio crusade in late May. "The dream and vision of the people of Brazil is not merely to bring people in to help in churches.

"What they are asking us to participate in is a dream from the Lord — to evangelize one-half million people in their city during the crusade and to see 300,000 professions of faith," Gilmore said.

In talking with leaders from Brazil about the crusade, Gilmore said he was impacted by their focus on prayer. "They realize this (the crusade) is a God-sized task and only the supernatural power of God manifested in their midst will bring about the spiritual fruit of which they dream," he said.

Gilmore said he also will appeal to state directors of missions to lead their churches to

pray specifically for God's blessings on the Rio '99 revivals.

Gilmore has divided the state's 66 associations into seven groups (see story on page 3) and encouraged churches in those groups pray on their assigned day for the Rio crusade. "That will make a significant difference," Gilmore said, noting that the Rio Baptists "need our help.

"We are trusting God for this."

Gilmore noted God has blessed solemn assemblies in the past.

"When a leader in Israel called a solemn assembly and God's people responded with humble hearts committed to seeking the face of God, God answered them in marvelous and powerful ways.

"We, as Tennessee Baptists, can see much more spiritual fruit through our labors as we unite together to seek the smile of God's face and intercede for the ministries that he has led us into." *BE&R*

## Summit considers Appalachia

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**NEWPORT** — Approximately 40 Tennessee Baptist directors of missions and ministry-related personnel of East Tennessee associations gathered March 18-19 for an Appalachian Summit held here at Camp Carson.

The group met to discuss ways Tennessee Baptists could be involved in Appalachian Mountain Ministry, an effort similar to the Mississippi River Ministry in West Tennessee and surrounding states.

Appalachian Mountain Ministry is a cooperative effort among nine state conventions (Pennsylvania, Virginia, West

Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Ohio), said Larry Kirk, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group. The effort is supported by the North American Mission Board, Kirk added.

"Each state will have to determine how it will fit in the loose organization," Kirk said. "The structure is good. It lets each state do its own ministry."

The purpose of the summit last weekend primarily was to look at the Appalachian culture, find out what's being done, and discuss how to strengthen and enlarge existing ministries, Kirk said.

"We want to be a part of Appalachian Mountain Ministry," Kirk said.

"We know God has been at work in Appalachia for some time."

Leaders involved in ministry in the area agreed that building relationships is essential to the work already being done in the area.

— See Tennessee, page 3

## Alta Loma joins Church Page Plan

For Baptist and Reflector

The *Baptist and Reflector* staff welcomes Alta Loma Church, Madison, as the newest member of the Church Page Plan.

Alta Loma has begun printing its newsletter on the back page of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

They join several other churches across the state utilizing this service which enables church members to get local, state, and national news in one publication.

"We are delighted to have Alta Loma join our family of churches who take advantage of the Church Page Plan," said Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

"The Church Page Plan is a practical, economical way for Tennessee Baptists to get not only their local news, but Tennessee and Southern Baptist news as well," Wilkey added.

For more information about the Church Page Plan, call (615) 371-2003. ■



**DISCUSSING MINISTRY** in Appalachia are, from left, Michelle McCluskey, Bradley County Association; Gary Farley, Center for Rural Church Leadership; Becky Brumitt, Watauga Association; and Glen Petree, Campbell County Association. Farley, who also is a director of missions in Alabama, led a session on the culture of people in the Appalachia.

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## Member of Two Rivers Church

# Patray keeps morals on agenda

By Ray Waddle  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Bobbie Patray's place is in the kitchen, where she keeps up with 70-80 bills in the state legislature every year.

Her computer, fax, and printer sit near the microwave.

But you'll also find the member of Two Rivers Church here at the state Capitol, day in and day out, the most visible full-time, unpaid lobbyist for conservative Christian causes in Tennessee.

She's been at it 12 years, dogging legislators, annoying liberals, fighting the lottery with a sweet smile, a stack of research, and daily prayer.

"I love the state of Tennessee, and as long as the lottery's a threat, I'm going to fling my body in front of it so at least they'll hit a bump," she said.

Patray, 58, a wife and grandmother, is a linchpin in an informal network of state conservative advocates that includes the Christian Coalition and Tennessee Right to Life. Those groups place lobbyists intermittently at Legislative Plaza; Patray's one-woman campaign goes on year after

year.

She calls it a God-given mission. She's driven by worries about the integrity of family life, and the decline of personal responsibility.

She bears one title. She is state president of Eagle Forum, a national grass-roots conservative organization that tracks issues ranging from sex education to national defense, all in the name of protecting the family unit from invasions of privacy and destructive morals.

Patray is up each day at 3:45 a.m. She sorts through the 600 or so e-mails that await her, usually items from research centers, activist groups, or other individuals. Then she reads the Bible. Lately she's been working through the book of Leviticus.

"It's a page turner," she said, referring to that biblical book's difficult columns of ancient religious law. Lowering her tone more seriously, she said: "I wouldn't be ready for the rest of the day without that prayer and Bible time."

Then she heads to the legislature, where she chats with senators in the hallway, gives testimony at committee meet-

ings, and scribbles messages to lawmakers during floor action at General Assembly sessions.

She builds coalitions around specific issues. She's fought against porn parlors and college hazing. She travels the state to tell groups about pending pro-family legislation. She keeps nine file cabinets of research. She regularly places multicolored "fact-sheet" folders in the hands of legislators.

Her efforts, along with others, in part helped stall the lottery effort last year. Some legislators say her influence is overstated; others say she's the moral center of the opposition. The fight continues this year. This month, she used a press conference to echo a new study's claim that children are especially vulnerable to gambling addiction.

"The political process is a chess game," Patray said. "You have to know the rules, the players, and how everything moves. I think our system of government is a courageous, magnificent experiment." ■ — Waddle is religion editor of *The Tennessean* in Nashville. "Copyrighted by *The Tennessean*, March 14, 1999." Used with permission.

## Lottery issue still alive

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — A bill that would call for a constitutional convention to remove the word "lottery" from the state constitution was approved last week by the House of Representatives' State and Local Government Committee.

HB 7 passed on a voice vote after several amendments, including one which would have increased the number of delegates from 33 to 66 failed. The bill was sent to the House Calendar and Rules Committee.

Senate Bill 808 (the companion to HB 7) was slated to be discussed by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 23.

Beginning March 29 the General Assembly will go into special session to deal with tax matters. Gov. Don Sundquist has said the lottery issue was not included in the call for the special session.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to continue to contact their legislators to voice opposition against a lottery. ■

## Tennessee writer offers tribute to father/pastor

# Pastors can't be shepherds if people expect superheroes

By Terry Mattingly  
For Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Anyone who grew up in a paragonage knows that "PK" stands for "preacher's kid."

Early on, I rebelled against that label. But I wasn't rejecting my father, my family, or the faith. When people called me a "preacher's kid," I told them that my father wasn't a preacher — he was a pastor. There's a difference.

My father (Bert Mattingly) passed away March 5 at the age of 82 and I thought this would be a good time to say again, what I said to him and to others many times — I have always been proud of his work, which included the pastorates of several Texas Baptist churches and seven years as an associational director of missions.

My father preached, but that wasn't what defined him. The joy, and burden, of the job is that there's more to it than that.

The job seems to be getting tougher. Ask Jim Dahlman, a veteran editor at Focus on the Family who has specialized in issues linked to the ministry. During one research project he read many letters from clergy and their families, some of which left him weeping. Some pastors weren't burning out — they were crashing in flames.

"I read one letter after another from

pastors or their wives talking about this overwhelming sense of loneliness and isolation," he said.

The big pressure is for pastors to be ready and available to handle each and every crisis, no matter how minor.

Dahlman said people also expect pastors to be "lifestyle role models" with perfect homes and perfect spiritual lives. But it's a problem if the pastor spends too much time at family events or on prayer retreats. Church members expect well-researched, practical, and preferably, entertaining sermons. But it's a problem if the pastor spends too much time studying and writing.

The clock is always ticking.

**I'm convinced the main reason stress levels are so high is that so many people — in pews and pulpits — have forgotten that pastors are defined by who they are and what they stand for, not what skills they possess and what tasks they perform. Pastors can't be shepherds if people expect them to be superheroes.**

Why was I proud to be a pastor's kid? This may sound simplistic, but I believe churches need to hear it — again.

➤ My father was a pastor — not a preacher, CEO, entertainer, clinical counselor, self-help guru, or crisis-management consultant.

➤ He preached the Bible, not his feelings and experiences.

➤ My parents were united — for 58 years — by their love and commitment to ministry. Today, many churches place so much pressure on clergy schedules and on their spirits that the very foundations of their personal lives are weakened. This has led to clergy divorce rates that are as shameful as in society as a whole.

➤ My father wasn't a workaholic. It wasn't until college that I talked with other PKs and discovered how unusual it was that I spent many, many hours with my father. I'm convinced this was linked to a more balanced, realistic approach to ministry.

➤ He kept on loving God, his work, and his people. I have never known a pastor who didn't wrestle with fits of melancholy. Good pastors are realists who face the reality of pain and sin. And then many heap criticism on them, micromanage their lives, and expect miracles.

Truth is, I rarely saw my father move mountains. But I did see him preach, teach, pray, and embrace sinners. I was proud that he was a pastor. I still am. ■ — Mattingly teaches at Milligan College in Tennessee. He writes a weekly column for the Scripps Howard News Service. It is used in Baptist Press with permission.

With four other state conventions

## Plans finalized for partnership in Nicaragua

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director James Porch hosted representatives from four Baptist state conventions earlier this month to finalize plans for a joint Disaster Relief partnership in Nicaragua.

Tennessee will be the lead convention in the partnership with state conventions in Arkansas, Virginia, Missouri, and Maryland/Delaware, said Tim Bearden, leader of the TBC's Missions Awareness and Involvement Group.

Bearden said the proposal will be sent to the Convention Ministries Committee of the Executive Board for final approval.

The sole purpose of the partnership will be to meet needs in Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch devastated the country last October, Bearden said.

The effort in Nicaragua and



**TIM BEARDEN** addresses a group of leaders from five state conventions regarding a proposed Disaster Relief partnership which would aid the country of Nicaragua which was devastated by Hurricane Mitch last October. — Photo by Gene Williams

Central America already is the largest ever dealt with through Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Bearden said.

"Southern Baptists already have mobilized more volunteers for Hurricane Mitch than we did for Hurricane Andrew when it hit Florida about five

years ago," Bearden said.

The partnership will deal with help in three primary areas — construction, agriculture, and medical needs.

Bearden said the partnership will continue from now through December of 2000.

While this is not the first

time Tennessee Baptists have responded to Disaster Relief needs overseas, the project in Nicaragua will be the largest and longest, Bearden said.

"Usually our trips have been to meet short-term human needs. This is an effort to help long-term."

Bearden said plans call for two teams of eight to 12 volunteers each to be sent to Nicaragua each month through the duration of the partnership.

Bearden estimated the cost of the trip for volunteers would be less than \$1,000. Final costs have not yet been determined, he said.

Bearden said there are enough volunteers already on-hand to meet needs in Nicaragua through August. Volunteers are being sought beyond that point, he said.

For more information about the Disaster Relief partnership in Nicaragua or to volunteer, contact the TBC Partnership Missions Office at (615) 371-2021. ■



## Church secretaries plan April meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference, sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group and the TBC Secretaries Association, will be held April 12-14 at the Baptist Center here.

Sessions will focus on the theme "Faithfulness ... To the Father, To the Family, To the Fellowship." Breakout conferences on various aspects of church secretarial work will be offered throughout the conference.

For more information about the conference, contact Lana Rose at (615) 371-2008 or 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2008. ■

## Summit looks at ministry in ...

— Continued from page 1

"You will not change Appalachia with a group approach," said Shannon Washam, who works with Appalachian Outreach through Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. "It's one person at a time."

Michelle McCluskey, director of church and community ministries for Bradley County Association, agreed.

She observed the Appalachian area has numerous churches but are not reaching the people. "We need to demonstrate we do care about people and that we don't mind rubbing shoulders with them. "It is as we establish relationships that we will affect change," she said.

Becky Brumitt, who leads work at Hale Community Center in Watauga Association, noted the really poor people of Appalachia "will not come to our churches" because they are un-

comfortable due to a number of factors. Ministry in Appalachia has to be "relationship-driven," she agreed.

Richard Lewelling, director of Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville, recalled a definition of missions that he learned at a Royal Ambassador camp: "Missions is finding a need and filling it with God's love."

"The key to reaching people is building relationships, going into homes, and getting to know the people," Lewelling said.

Another key to effective ministry in Appalachia, leaders at the summit agreed, is finding ways to help small churches in Appalachia and to develop leaders from within.

"Nothing will be more effective than finding a way to impact the small churches and give them the know how and vision to do more in their own communities," said Bill Bargiol, director of missions

in Big Emory Association.

In closing, Ray Gilder of the TBC's Church Staff Leadership Group, reminded those present that "God is at work ... and he's inviting us to be a part of it."

Though no specific plans were finalized, Gilder observed the first strategy should be "to pray that God will rise up leadership and a consensus of where we need to go."

"A comprehensive Appalachian ministry has been a part of my vision for Tennessee Baptists," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"Over two years ago I approached leadership of the North American Mission Board concerning assisting us in this need. I am greatly encouraged because of the response of Baptists of East Tennessee to the Appalachian Summit. This is a noble beginning and will be a vibrant part of our great Tennessee Baptist idea for the future," he said. ■



### New home for Stone Association

Stone Association held an open house March 21 for its new office building in Cookeville. For the past 43 years the association's office has been housed at First Church. The new office is in a house purchased last May that has been completely renovated, primarily by volunteers. In top photo, visitors leave the new facility. Below, helping out with the open house festivities were, from left, Sue McDonald, WOM director and member of Bangham Heights Church; Donetta Sherrell, associational secretary; Director of Missions Michael Prowse and his wife, Beth; and Rosemary Deweese of Colonial View Church.



## Tennessee Baptists called to pray for Rio '99 crusade

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention President Larry Gilmore is calling upon Tennessee Baptists to pray for the upcoming crusade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has divided the 66 Baptist associations in Tennessee into seven groups corresponding with a day of the week.

"I would encourage Tennessee Baptists in these associations to diligently pray for the crusade on their assigned day. It will make a difference."

Groups are:

**Sunday** — Alpha, Beech River, Beulah, Big Emory, Big Hatchie, Bledsoe, Bradley County, Campbell County, Carroll-Benton, Central

**Monday** — Chilhowee, Clinton, Concord, Copper Basin, Cumberland, Cumberland Gap, Duck River, Dyer, East Tennessee

**Tuesday** — Fayette, Gibson County, Giles

County, Grainger, Hamilton County, Hardeman County, Haywood, Hiwassee, Holston

**Wednesday** — Holston Valley, Indian Creek, Jefferson County, Judson, Knox County, Lawrence County, Loudon County, Madison-Chester and Crockett

**Thursday** — Maury, McMinn-Meigs, Midland, Mulberry Gap, Nashville, New Duck River, New River, New Salem, Nolachucky

**Friday** — Northern, Polk County, Riverside, Robertson County, Salem, Sequatchie Valley, Sevier County, Shelby, Shiloh, Steward County and Truett

**Saturday** — Stone, Sullivan, Sweewater, Tennessee Valley, Union, Watauga, Weakley County, Western District, William Carey, Wilson County. ■



letters from  
readers/opinion

about  
letters

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

Preschool Spring  
Conference set for  
May 1 in Jackson

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — "The Colors of Love" is the theme for the 1999 Preschool Spring Conference to be held at Englewood Church, Jackson, on May 1.

The keynote address, from Chris Teague of Jackson will help teachers focus on different ways a child knows that he or she is loved.

Special conferences will be offered for directors and for teachers of babies to two-year-olds. In addition, five round-robin conferences will be available for teachers of three to five-year-olds.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and conferences are from 8:30-4:30 p.m.

The conference will benefit all preschool workers, whether in Sunday School or in a weekday ministry. Six hours of continuing education credit will be given to workers in licensed weekday programs.

The registration fee of \$25 per person includes lunch and conference materials. For more information or to register, call Sue Raley, TBC Christian Growth Development Group, at 1-800-558-2090. ■

Special prayer

As a TBC pastor, I feel led to share the following. This letter is a solemn plea to you and your church. I challenge you to join me and hundreds of other believers to set aside five minutes for special intercessory prayer on Resurrection Day, April 4.

I encourage you to allow the nature of this prayer on Easter Sunday to be for one thing — Lynn Porch, wife of TBC Executive Director James Porch. Due to her battle with cancer, please pray for the following:

- (1) A supernatural work of God in her life for healing.
- (2) Grace and strength for the entire Porch family.
- (3) A double portion of faith for all believers to pray with effectual fervent prayers.

Over the next few weeks, please challenge your church to be true to their calling of intercessory prayer on behalf of Mrs. Porch.

David L. Thompson, pastor  
Alta Loma Church  
Madison 37115

Inspiring program

I wish to commend Terry Sharp and the partnership mission section of our convention for organizing and sponsoring the Middle Tennessee Volunteer Missions Rally on Feb. 23. It was truly an inspiring and challenging service. The entire service not only lifted up our main objective — to take the Gospel to the entire world — it also powerfully communicated that everyone of

us is a part of that Great Commission of our Lord.

Jerry Rankin, president of our International Mission Board, challenged us to not allow any obstacle to stand in the way of volunteer mission service. I walked away thinking, "Now, that's what joins Tennessee Baptists together ... that's keeping the main thing the main thing."

For those of you in West and East Tennessee who have rallies upcoming, you are in for a treat. I would encourage all our pastors and lay people who have a heart for missions not to miss this exciting night in your area. I also appreciate Bro. Fred Lodge and the fine folks at Una Church for a great job of hosting this event. I move we make it an annual part of TBC life!

H. Dean Haun, pastor  
Hermitage Hills Church  
Hermitage 37076

Difference exists

According to Princeton Religion Research Center's publication *Emerging Trends*, a major difference exists in Southern Baptist beliefs and behavior. Some of their findings are puzzling as well as informative. For example, the Gallup poll found that 72 percent say religion is very important while 37 percent attend church almost every week. When asked about being "born-again or evangelical Christian," 44 percent say they are.

Do these finds suggest a need for evangelism inside and outside the church member-

ship? Do Southern Baptists have the resources and will to mount such a significant evangelism thrust? The good news, according to the poll, is that the church will continue to play a vital and pivotal role in U.S. society in the immediate years ahead.

The church then has demonstrated that she is making an impact on society. But is this enough? According to *Emerging Trends*, church attendance has changed little over the past 30 years. So, I am compelled to wonder about the effectiveness of our big events in the past.

The environment for evangelism in the 21st century may be more optimistic than its recent past testifies. Four in 10 people surveyed foresee judgment day coming in our new century. Individuals may be open to the Good News provided Southern Baptists demonstrate a better match between her talk and walk and are willing to take the time to communicate what the Gospel has to say about everyday life. This dynamic may best be gained in small groups.

Tom Lee  
Nashville 37211

Baptist beliefs

In 1899 E.C. Dargan, a teacher at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote a series of articles dealing with our Baptist beliefs. In 1905, the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) published the articles in a book, *The Doctrines of Our Faith*. An introduction was

written by George W. Truett. Here follows a portion of that introduction:

"The time is surely most propitious for a faithful restatement, in every Baptist church in the land, of the fundamental doctrines of God's Word. Every Baptist ought to know why he is a Baptist, and to know it from the specific commands of God's Word. Not to have such knowledge is for our churches to be harmed in every way. Probably not since apostolic times have Baptists had such an opportunity as they have today for faithfully teaching the whole counsel of God. If they will give themselves to such work in the right spirit, the increasing favor of God and of men must be upon them.

"It is earnestly believed that our churches would gain strength in every way if our pastors would at once arrange for a series of teaching services, week by week, wherein they might carefully discuss before all their people, especially the young, the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. Such a series of services would kindle a general interest in the study of the Bible such as we have not seen before, and thus would the faith of God's people be strengthened and their zeal for his work augmented not otherwise possible. Surely, this is a consummation most devoutly to be desired."

Let us heed these old words, for the need is greater now, than even 94 years ago.

George Tucker  
Lafayette 37083

God doesn't need automated answering machines

guest columnist

by John M. Wood  
pastor  
First Church, Erwin

A church member passed along to me the following story from the *Tennessee Federation Women's Club News*.

I have learned to live with answering machines as a necessary part of modernization. But I have often wondered, What if God decided to install an automated answering machine?

Imagine praying and hearing this: "Thank you for calling my Father's House. Please select one of the following four options: Press 1 for requests. Press 2 for a thanksgiving. Press 3 for complaints. For all other inquiries, press 4."

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer? "If you'd like to speak with Gabriel, press 1. For Michael, press 2. For an angel, press 3. If you'd like King David to sing a psalm for you, press 6.

"To find out if your relative is here, enter his/her date of death and listen for the list that follows: For reservations at my Father's House, simply press the letters J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah's ark is, wait till you get here. Our computers show that you called once today already. Please hang up immediately. This office is closed

for the weekend. Please call again Monday."

Thank God you can't call him too often. You only need to ring once and God hears you. Because of Jesus you never get a busy signal. God takes each call and knows each caller personally.

Then you will call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: "Here am I" (Isaiah 58:9, NIV). ■

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



# God indeed is at work in North America

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Many Tennessee Baptist churches have concluded their Week of Prayer emphasis for North American missions and are gearing their efforts toward the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Using the theme "God at Work," Tennessee and Southern Baptists have been reminded of the work and ministry of the North American Mission Board.

The North American Mission Board is comprised of nearly 5,000 missions personnel, most of whom are jointly appointed with Baptist state conventions. These missionaries receive support from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The 1999 goal is \$45 million with a challenge goal of \$50 million. One hundred percent of the Annie Armstrong offering goes to support missionaries on the field.

The Annie Armstrong offering supports NAMB's two major thrusts — evangelism and church planting. An estimated 200 million people in the United States and Canada do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



**Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering  
for North  
American Missions**

**National Goal  
\$45 million**

**Challenge Goal  
\$50 million**

North American missionaries perform a variety of missions tasks. The largest number are starting new Southern Baptist churches, about 1,500 new missions each year. Mission pastors serve English-speaking and language churches in rural and urban settings.

Southern Baptists in North America worship in 110 languages every week in more than 7,000 ethnic Southern Baptist congregations.

Other NAMB missionaries share the Gospel message by ministering to people's needs in church and community settings,

including senior adults, nonreaders, non-English speaking people, substance abusers, families, homeless people, disabled people, and more.

A number of missionaries serve Southern Baptist associations as associational missionaries or other mission staff, and many NAMB missionaries are volunteers who have served more than two years and provide a majority of their own funding although they receive some NAMB support.

Tennessee Baptists have been asked to help meet the challenge of spreading the Gospel to the lost of North America.

We need to join "God at Work" not only in Tennessee, but all across our land. Pray about what you will give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In a day when we are inundated for monetary appeals from worthwhile causes and organizations, we can rest assured knowing that our funds to this offering go directly to support missionaries on the field — missionaries who are dedicated to taking the message of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying land. *B&R*



**just for  
today**

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



## Start with a smile

College professor: "Now, students, let me give you a good motto for life — Never say never." Girl in class: "Never?" Professor: "Never." Girl: "You just did."

## Take this truth

Half the world's problems are caused by poor communications. The other half are caused by good communications.

## Memorize this Scripture

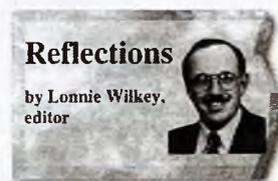
"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." — Proverbs 14:12

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to avoid getting caught in the trap of my own verbosity." ■

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

## Hockey proves you can't 'teach an old dog new tricks'



### Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,  
editor

Major league sports have hit Nashville in a big way recently with the coming of the NFL Oilers (now Titans) and the Predators, an expansion National Hockey League (NHL) franchise.

What I know about hockey wouldn't halfway fill up a thimble.

But, I try to have an open mind. A friend of mine who has become an avid hockey fan told me if I went to a game I would become "hooked" on the sport. Not true!

I went to a Predators game

last week with a church group through an effort sponsored by Nashville Baptist Association.

In between trips to the concession stand (Daniel and Joanna were with me), I tried to figure out this new (at least it is to a lifelong Southerner) sport. Several things stand out.

It was the first sporting event I have attended where I could not yell at the official. I didn't know enough to know if he missed a call or not. Evidently, however, there are a lot more knowledgeable fans (or at least they think they are) in Nashville than me because booing calls were commonplace.

Secondly, there were two halftimes. Evidently those who invented hockey also owned the concession stand rights. Give me a sport with one or no

halftimes. Daniel and Joanna would disagree, but I go to a game to watch the action, not to be a concession stand gourmet.

Then, there is the time factor. I have heard people say baseball is too slow and boring. Hockey, on the other hand, is supposed to be fast-paced and exciting.

Hockey is played in three 20-minute periods, split by two 15-minute breaks. In the third period a friend of mine in the group, who evidently knew less about the sport than me, asked how many periods were there in the game. I looked at her with a straight face and said five. This was after the game had been going almost two hours. After seeing the look of horror on her face, I assured her I was only kidding and that we were in the final peri-

od of play.

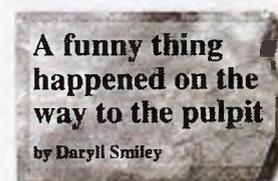
It took about the same amount of time to play the fast-action, 60-minute hockey game as it does a nine-inning baseball game.

And, finally, hockey did not offer to me what a good baseball game provides — a time to relax and simply enjoy the game and fellowship with friends and family who might be with you. At the hockey game it was constant "busyness," either with the game or someone on the public address system rallying the crowd for more noise, as if it were really needed.

There is a saying I have heard all my life: "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

That may or may not be true. But when it comes to hockey and this "old dog," give me baseball any day. *B&R*

## Great singing or joyful noise: God accepts it gladly



### A funny thing happened on the way to the pulpit

by Daryll Smiley

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

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

It was Sunday morning and the grandmother and grandfather got ready for church as always. On this weekend they had their two grandchildren as well — a 5-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl.

They got the two of them dressed and piled into the family's old pickup truck and headed from the farm to the

little country church where they attended.

There was no radio so the grandpa and his grandson began entertaining the others by singing on the way. They sang "Jesus Loves Me" and it went fairly well. But then grandpa began singing "The Old Rugged Cross" and grandson joined in with gusto.

After the second chorus was sung, the two began to sing the third verse. The little granddaughter, not knowing this song and unable to join in to sing, gently reached over and patted her grandmother on the hand. Looking painfully up to

her loving grandmother, she said pitifully, "Turn the station, grandma, this one's got too much static on it."

Everyone laughed and the singing stopped for the rest of the trip to the church. But nobody in the church could understand why this little group found the first song selection of the service so funny — "The Old Rugged Cross."

The Psalms tell us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands."

From some people, singing may be considered noise. God, however, still receives it with gladness. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### March

- 24 — Join Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Baptists in praying for the 500,000 people who will be witnessed to during the May crusade.
- 25 — Praise God for a 15-member team from Emmanuel Church, Jefferson City, led by Bob Ogle, which worked in February in Costa Rica.
- 26 — Pray for Christians across Canada to work together to present the Gospel to their nation and world.
- 27 — Pray for the staff of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and for God to bless their lives.
- 28 — Pray for the continuing work in San Rafael de Guapiles in Costa Rica where IMB missionaries Keith and Pam Travis are serving.
- 29 — Praise God that both Towers Church and Richmond Chinese Church in British Columbia, Canada, have moved into their new buildings.
- 30 — Pray for the medical team from First Church, Nashville, that will work in Rio de Janeiro in April.
- 31 — Praise God for the five-member team led by Patrick Beard of Jackson that is at work in Portugal.

# Visitor from Russia finds opportunities here

By Connie Davis  
For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Sergey Vorobyev can't believe the many blessings he has received from American Christians, especially Southern Baptists, since he arrived from Russia two years ago to visit.

Vorobyev arrived in the United States with \$300 and plans to visit fellow Baptist Marvin Fisher, a member of First Church, Sevierville, for three months. Then he would return to Russia to begin his career.

Today Vorobyev is a student at the University of Tennessee — Knoxville, and he has no idea what his future might hold.

Vorobyev isn't another foreign visitor taking advantage of the good will of Americans, said Rich Liner, pastor, First Church, Sevierville.

Vorobyev's influence in the church, where he is an active member, has resulted in about 20 Russians joining the church and the development of a ministry to a Russian community in the area, added Liner. Vorobyev also has led several Americans to become Christians and join the church.

And he's a natural leader, observed Liner, who will make a great impact on others in the future, whether he is in the

U.S. or in Russia.

## In Russia

Vorobyev met Fisher while he was ministering in Krasnodar, Russia, the home of Vorobyev. Fisher was so impressed with the young man he invited Vorobyev to visit him.

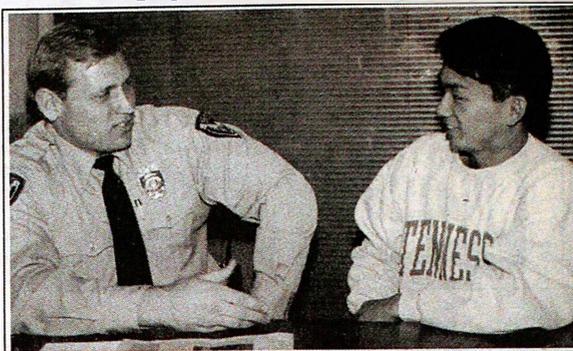
Vorobyev said he worked with the visiting Baptists because Russian Baptists appreciate any help and encouragement they receive.

Russian Baptists are a minority in their country, he explained. As a minority, they suffer discrimination. For example, he believes he was sent to North Russia for his two-year military stint because of his religious affiliation. It was worse than Siberia, he said, because of the cold climate.

Some years ago, his parents experienced the closing of Baptist meeting facilities. But actions against Baptists have diminished, he reported.

Vorobyev served with Fisher on three missions efforts and Fisher asked him to visit the U.S. each time. But Vorobyev didn't feel led to go until the third time. Then, when he applied for a visa, he was rejected.

But Vorobyev felt he should visit the U.S., even when his brother decided not to accompany him. So he applied six times. Finally the visa was ap-



VISITING during a break from his work as a security guard at the University of Tennessee Hodges Library are Sergey Vorobyev, left, and friend Hidenori Tanaka of Japan.

proved. It was a miracle from God, Vorobyev claimed.

## In East Tennessee

More miracles have occurred to this average Russian boy, as Vorobyev describes himself, he said.

For instance, when he felt he was imposing on the Fisher family, he met a man at a fitness center who offered him a place to live. And a member of First, Sevierville, gave him a car.

When Vorobyev felt God was leading him to remain in the U.S. beyond the length of his visa, he asked Liner to pray for him. Liner announced Vorobyev's request for prayer during an evening worship ser-

vice at the church.

Visiting that service was a man who was a new Christian. He asked Liner more about Vorobyev. Later, he and some family members, who wish to remain anonymous, decided to offer Vorobyev an education at UT-K.

New friends helped Vorobyev get his visa changed, which is difficult. And Vorobyev began his English language studies. He has nearly mastered the language after only a year of study. He arrived knowing a few words.

Another miracle is the contacts he has made, Vorobyev said. For instance, he has become close to the 65 people in



his English class. They are from 25 countries. At a birthday celebration held for him he was able to tell them about God's love, he explained.

And through friendships he has made with fellow athletes on campus, he has practiced with the UT football team.

## In America

Vorobyev said he realizes he has been blessed because God has been at work in his life, but he also believes he would have received none of the blessings if Christians in America, especially Southern Baptists, hadn't been willing to help him.

"It's just like 200 years ago when the pilgrims came. America is still a blessed country," he said.

Just like he dreamed in Russia, he said, there is a land where Baptists are completely free to worship and serve.

"When I hear America, I hear God. It's like synonymous."

He's not interested in money or prosperity, he explained, but about doing what God tells him to do.

"God is awesome," said Vorobyev. **B&R**

## For first joint service in 130 years

# Neighboring black, white churches in Medon meet together

For Baptist and Reflector

MEDON — According to the folks at Maple Springs Church and Bethlehem No. 1 Missionary Church here, about 130 years have passed since the two congregations have worshiped together.

That long separation ended Feb. 14 as the two churches — separated by only a few hundred yards on Maple Springs Road — met for a combined service which crossed racial barriers. Maple Springs is an all-white church, and Bethlehem is an all-black church.

"It is a privilege to be here today. Certainly history is in the making," said David L. Perry, pastor, Bethlehem No. 1, during the service at Maple Springs. The Maple Springs Church initiated the event to celebrate Southern Baptists' Race Relations Day.

Worshippers crowded into pews and metal chairs, which were brought in to accommodate the extra volume of people. Both churches have about 100 in Sunday School and a few more in worship. But on that day, Maple Springs hosted about 350 people, reported Mark McSwain, pastor, Maple Springs.

"Words cannot describe the atmosphere" on that day, said McSwain. People from both congregations clapped and

sang as they were led by choirs from both churches. Then Perry delivered the sermon.

Later, participants mingled and talked as they dined together in the fellowship hall of Maple Springs.

Founded in 1848, Maple Springs once had multiracial, although segregated, worship. But in 1868 the black members of the church left Maple Springs to form Bethlehem, Perry said.

McSwain said the idea for the event came from the church council of Maple Springs as members planned the church calendar and considered Race Relations Day for Southern Baptists. Members affirmed the idea of a joint worship service by unanimously approving the calendar, McSwain reported.

Then he presented the idea to Perry, who gladly presented it to the Bethlehem congregation. They accepted the invitation.

"I said ... wow, this is an opportunity to work on racial barriers, because they are there," Perry said.

"The racial barrier is there and we have to admit that, and we do," McSwain agreed. "But, that is what this is about."

Perry stressed he believed although race might have played a part in the separation of the churches decades ago,

it was custom and tradition that kept it that way.

"We just all got into the habit of saying, 'Me and my family go to church over here,'" Perry said.

McSwain said he is proud Maple Springs initiated a new relationship with its neighboring church.

"I realize this was a major decision for

some of us. It called on us to set aside some thought patterns, perhaps in both congregations, that have been in place many years," he said. "I recognize that and it brings joy to my heart to see that take place with so much excitement."

"If we judge people by focusing on our differences, then we show the world that Christ has really had no effect on our



PASTORS Mark McSwain, left, of Maple Springs Church, and David L. Perry of Bethlehem No. 1 Missionary Church, join in a song during the joint service of the congregations they lead.

thinking," reflected McSwain.

Now McSwain and Perry want to see the event continue as, at least, an annual event. The tentative plans are for Maple Springs to attend a service at Bethlehem the next time the two churches unite for services. ■ — Compiled from a story by Michael L. Paulk published in *The Jackson Sun*. Used by permission.

# Calvin Harvell considers cancer struggle

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

COVINGTON — "When you go through something like this, every day is a good day," said Calvin Harvell recently as he reflected on his three-year battle with cancer.

Harvell, 65, retired pastor, Eudora Church, Memphis, and his wife, Ginger, are glad to report he is cancer-free. And they are glad to share what they have learned from the experience.

### A shock at an inopportune time

Harvell was looking forward to retirement in 1995. He had served Eudora Church 12 years and had served churches a total of 39 years, including Wells Station Church, Memphis, as pastor. At age 62 he was considering new challenges and relaxation on the golf course.

Relaxation was appealing, Harvell recalled, because he had a lack of energy and recurring back pain which had stumped doctors. Then a cousin Harvell hadn't seen in about 10 years was visiting Memphis and saw Harvell's name on Eudora's sign. The cousin stopped in to visit.

That visit was a God-send, said Harvell, because the cousin told him he ought to ask doctors if the pain could be

traced to colon cancer. Several family members had suffered from it.

### Short retirement

Harvell enjoyed about a month of retirement before he learned he had colon cancer.

A United States Marine for nine years, Harvell said his battle against cancer was the most difficult of his life.

Harvell initially received good news after an operation — all of the cancer had been removed. But he suffered serious complications and was given a 40 percent chance to survive. Then he began six months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Before the series of treatments were completed, Harvell felt so badly he halted them and returned home. He felt God was leading him in that decision, he said, although it seemed he was defeated. His physicians eventually affirmed it.

During that period and at many other times, the illness brought him to tears, he admitted, from pain and frustration. But Ginger would pray for him, which would relieve the pain better than medicine, he said, and give him peace.

### Best medicine

Harvell said five things helped him win the battle — faith, family, friends, a strong

desire to live, and an excellent Baptist healthcare system.

The healthcare workers who served him just affirmed his previous experiences among Southern Baptists.

"Southern Baptists have been good to me," he said. Harvell served Southern Baptist churches exclusively after graduating from Union University, Jackson; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, both Baptist schools. He also earned a doctor's degree from Trinity Seminary, Newburgh, Ind.

Another way Southern Baptists helped him was through Eudora Church. Members paid his health insurance until he was 65 years old. And they supported him and Ginger through their prayers and many contacts, the couple reported.

Also encouraging was contact from fellow Baptists they have not seen in years who live across the United States, the couple reported. They even received notices from Baptists they don't know who were praying for them, added

Ginger.

### Lessons learned

"There's life after cancer," said Harvell, and that's what he tells others who are dealing with the illness. He meets many people dealing with cancer as he speaks in churches, he added, although he refers rarely to his struggle when he preaches.

He reported 168,000 Americans are struck with colon cancer each year. Harvell encouraged people over 50 years of



age to get a cancer check each year because early prevention is the key to fighting it.

Harvell has learned he's strong. "You can take so much more than you think."

Throughout the experience, the Lord gave him "a peace and strength that everything was going to work out fine," he explained.

Ginger Harvell said she learned the comfort gained from prayer and verses such as Philippians 4:19, and Psalms 30:5, 126:5, and 32:8.

Harvell noted he has learned angels exist, at least in the form of nurses, because one saved his life while treating him at home.

He has a new appreciation for church activities after missing so many and an appreciation for TV ministries.

And he's learned something new about ministry, he said.

"My own suffering helps me understand the suffering of others." **B&R**



**CALVIN AND GINGER Harvell** pause at First Church, Covington, where they are active members and where Calvin serves as preacher when he is available.

## Tazewell church seeks relief for damaged facilities

For Baptist and Reflector

TAZEWELL — Mt. Pleasant Missionary Church here is located in the mountains northeast of Knoxville. To provide access to the area, many two-lane roads seem to squeeze through hills. One road, Highway 25 East, takes travelers from Kentucky to Tazewell. State officials are widening it to provide easier access to the area.

Unfortunately, the blasting being done to remove parts of hills for the

highway has damaged nearby Mt. Pleasant Church, members report.

"We are devastated," said Pastor Wayne Epperson.

Members have met with representatives of the construction company doing the work. They asked for a settlement and for the company to limit blast charges to forestall further damage to the church. Company officials have denied any fault.

So Epperson and Rufus Cook, minister of youth, led the congregation to

pay for a consultation and report by a retired engineer from the University of Tennessee Engineering School. And the church leaders have been in contact with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, State Rep. Mark Goins, and State Sen. Mike Williams.

The church sits among hills just 5,200 feet from the highway construction, according to reports, although it is two-and-a-half miles by road from the highway.

The church sanctuary, which is 90 years old, is damaged beyond repair, the consultant reported. The fellowship hall, which was built by members seven years ago, should be replaced also because it would cost more to repair it than to replace it, the consultant said.

A settlement is needed because the facilities are uninsurable, said Epperson. According to insurance officials, the church site is too far from fire department equipment, he explained.

The church is located about five miles north of Tazewell.

The TDOT said the church can file a claim when road construction is completed, but Epperson and Cook fear more damage will occur which will make the buildings uninhabitable. Construction may take several more years to complete, they speculated.

Church members wish to avoid court action, added Epperson and Cook, both bivocational ministers.

The church draws about 25 people to Sunday morning services. They wish to remain in the facilities despite the damage and to remain at the church's current site, the ministers added. **B&R**



**STANDING IN** front of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Church, Tazewell, are Rufus Cook, left, minister of youth, and Wayne Epperson, pastor.



**PASTOR Wayne Epperson** shows a cracked wall by a window as Rufus Cook looks on.

# 'Wounded Heroes' told God can restore them

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Divorce, death, and disappointments along the way can rob a minister of his song, but God can start the music again, more than 100 beleaguered ministers and their wives were told.

Greg Kirksey, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, used the song and music analogy while speaking at the final session of the fourth Wounded Heroes Retreat at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Kirksey, who now serves at the Alexander Youth Services Center in Little Rock, lost his 39-year-old wife to breast cancer in 1994 and then the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Benton, Ark., when he announced he would marry a woman who had been divorced before she became a Christian.

After a "dream-come-true" existence for 40 years and a ministry that began when he was 16, Kirksey found himself out of the pastorate but exactly where he felt God wanted him — as pastor to Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden, the youthful shooters in the Jonesboro, Ark., school massacre last year.

"I broke down and cried because I knew God wanted me there," Kirksey said.

"God's presence transformed a desert night into a wonderful place. It can do the same for you. His presence in this moment can transform your life and start the music again."

Kirksey was one of more than a dozen "encouragers" who spoke to the 47 couples and seven singles attending the February retreat for ministers and their spouses, many of whom have also lost loved ones or their places of ministry or feel they are on the verge of it.

Ike Reighard, pastor of NorthStar Church, Kennesaw, Ga., lost his first wife in childbirth and had a disappointing experience at a leading Atlanta church, but was joined on the retreat rostrum by his new wife, Robin, and both rejoiced in the new life and ministry God has given them in a new congregation averaging more than 1,600 in worship.

Gary Miller, formerly pastor of Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and his wife, Dana, said the pressures of an inner-city ministry and personal responsibilities had drained them physically and emotionally, but the first Wounded Heroes retreat last year in Dallas had reaffirmed them.

"I felt like God was saying my hand is still on you," Miller said. "God gave me a new heart for ministry while I was in Fort Worth." He is now pastor of Rockdale Church, Conyers, Ga., and he and Dana are active with Wounded Heroes.

Greg Mathis, immediate past president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and pastor of Mud Creek Church, Hendersonville, N.C., reminded retreat participants they would never be forgotten by God who cared enough he gave his Son, and

that only God will be their ultimate judge.

Michael Hamlet, pastor of First Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., said it takes "real courage to attack real issues" and there is "integrity in saying I'm not going to quit."

"God is not through with you yet," he said, urging his retreat audience to "plow on."

Another Carolinian, Renee Scheidt, who has a music ministry in China Grove, N.C., told of losing her pastor husband to suicide more than 11 years ago. "The healing of emotions takes time," she said. "But as friends began to pray, I received God's grace."

Polly Cooper Brown of Dallas, who heads the counseling program for Wounded Heroes, noted in spite of a doctorate in psychology and her own profession, she had lost her identity as a pastor's wife when she was divorced after 30 years of marriage. Now remarried to Ned Brown, she said she has made a new life for herself but still has a sense of loss.

Millie Cooper, wife of Kenneth Cooper, founder of the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas, encouraged participants to become physically fit. "Nothing I know of will help your depression like walking," she said. "It's amazing how many people find time for exercise after their first heart attack."

Pastor Chet Haney and his wife, Terri, drove 850 miles from Parkside Church, Denison, Texas, to speak to the retreat participants, whom Haney described as "God's awe-

stars." Quoting Psalm 147:3-5, Haney said, "I always knew the Lord made the stars and heals broken hearts ... and numbers them in the same breath."

Two things have sustained him during his life, Haney said — "a relationship with an awesome God and my relationship with my wife."

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Church of Euleus, reminded the participants that though no two people may find themselves in the same circumstances or feel the same way about their circumstances, God cares. Jesus demonstrated his care and concern in the Garden of Gethsemane, he said.

"You can't fix everything that goes wrong in your life," he said.



"When you can't fix it, forget it."

Wendell Estep, pastor of First Church, Columbia, S.C., said that though ministers have high expectations when they begin their work, "There's always someone or something to make the ministry tough" — daily pressures and personal attacks.

"God can use difficult times for his purpose," he said. "Adversity contributes to humility. God can use the hard times to shape us" much as a blacksmith shapes steel. ■

## Retired Minister in Need? Minister's Widow in Need?

**D**o you know any retired ministers or their widows who are in financial need? If the minister had salaried Southern Baptist church or mission service of at least 10 years, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention may be able to help. Eligibility guidelines include monthly income maximum of \$900 for singles and \$1,200 for a couple, and assets no more than \$20,000 except for house and other

non-income producing property. If you will send the person's name and address, and a phone number if available, the Supplemental Assistance Manager will follow up with a direct inquiry. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program and the Annuity Board's Retired Ministers' Support Fund help hundreds every month, even if the individual never participated in the Church Annuity Plan.

Write:  
Ileen Bray,  
Supplemental Assistance  
Manager  
Annuity Board, SBC  
P O Box 2190  
Dallas TX  
75221-2190  
Or Call  
1-800-262-0511



This Space Contributed By Your State Baptist Paper as a Ministry to Ministers or Their Widows In Need

## Tennessee couple identifies with 'Wounded Heroes'

For Baptist and Reflector

MILLINGTON — John Ellzey, minister of music/outreach, East Acres Church, Millington, and his wife, Carolyn, had a disappointing experience with a Tennessee church. So they were glad to participate in the Wounded Heroes Retreat, although the incident occurred many years ago.

After serving a church as a minister for 21 years, John Ellzey's relationship with the church changed quickly and drastically. Rather than accept a new position at the church, he resigned. Two of his four children were still in school.

Today, the couple report they have learned a great deal through the experience.

"Jesus said we were going to suffer," said Ellzey. An experience like this "deepens you. It's the way God gets glory," he added.

The couple have learned a lot about forgiveness, they explained.

It's a process, said Carolyn, who said she benefited from exercises at the conference although she was hurt many years ago.

John said he was helped by praying for people involved by name each day. "I forgive them every day," he said.

The Ellzeys practiced their forgiveness by

returning to the church for a special event. They had a good time, they reported.

Another result of their experience has been an examination of their ministry.

Because of her pain, Carolyn said she has learned she may have been serving people more than the Lord.

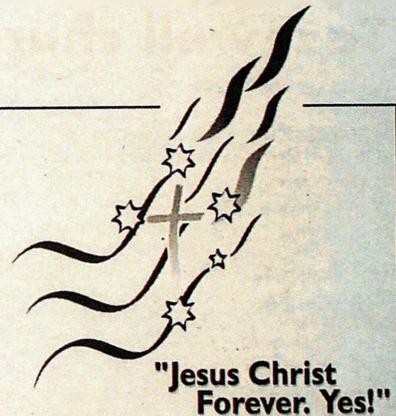
John said he has realized he may have been so busy serving a segment of the congregation, he ignored others. But he has been comforted by the fact his ministry at the church was fruitful.

They admitted they have become more guarded, but have been strengthened and become more reliant on God, they explained.

The Ellzeys are glad to report they are enjoying new ministries at East Acres Church and at a public school in which Carolyn works as a teacher.

And they plan to develop a support group for people who have been hurt during ministry or Wounded Heroes in West Tennessee. Ellzey is currently working with the organization as a consultant.

A Wounded Heroes Retreat will be held April 19-23 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. For more information, contact the Ellzeys at (901) 388-9392 or the organization at 1-800-880-0264. **B&R**



## BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS

January 5-9, 2000 • Melbourne, Australia

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Email: Congress@bwanet.org Website: www.bwanet.org

Please send me more information:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



people

■ Wildersville Church, Wildersville, ordained Jerry Don Webb and Gary Wadley as deacons recently.

■ Hebron Church, Middleton, licensed Richard Brian Smith to the ministry March 7.

leaders

■ On April 18 Robert D. McCray, pastor, First Church, Dandridge, for 40 years will be honored along with his wife, Becky. Special activities will be held during the morning worship service from 11-12:30 p.m. And a reception will be held from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

■ Myrtice Owens, retired missionary who is a member of First Church, Paris, was elected president, National Baptist



OWENS

Nursing Fellowship during a meeting in Birmingham, Ala., March 12-14. The position has a two-year term. BNF is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention and has 25 state organizations. Owens, a registered nurse and graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was president of Tennessee's BNF from 1995-98. She served with her husband, Carlos, as missionaries in Africa for 36 years.

■ Mike Winters, bivoca-



LEADING the first worship service in the new worship center of Big Emory Church, Harriman, recently are David Harmon, pastor, and Steve Mathis, music director, along with the church's choir. The church was organized in 1874.

tional pastor, Eureka Church, Rockwood, was called full-time beginning Jan. 1.

■ First Church, Sparta, has called Bob Mowrey, retired pastor, Park Avenue Church, Nashville, as interim pastor.

■ Edgemoor Church, Claxton, has called Michael D. Petty as pastor, effective April 4. He formerly served as pastor of Park Place Church, Hot Springs, Ark., and led four other churches in Arkansas. Petty is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

■ Laurel Creek Church, Bone Cave, has called Don Rigsby of Alexandria, as pastor. He will serve in a bivocational role.

■ John Thomerson, pastor, Union Church, Knoxville, will retire June 1 after serving eight years. He will serve the congregation as interim until the church calls another pastor.

■ Hickory Hollow Chapel, Antioch, has called Jim Twilbeck as pastor. He formerly was pastor in Monterey, La.

■ Jacob Kitchens has been called as associate pastor, Mt. Lebanon Church, Coving-

ton. A student at Union University, Jackson, Kitchens will work with youth and children.

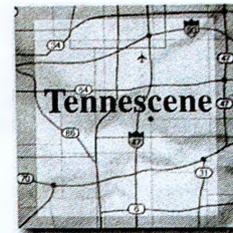
■ Aubrey Hay of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff was called as intentional interim pastor, Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, effective Jan. 24. In addition to pastoral duties, Hay will assist the work of the church's transition team preparing for a pastor.

death

■ Irene Priest of Nashville, retired staff member, Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died March 12.

associations

■ Union Association recently voted to accept Moore Cove Church, under its watch-care program. And the association will enter phase two of an effort to distribute the "Jesus" video to residents of White and Van Buren counties. Baptists already have invested \$10,000 in the project with a goal of \$20,000.



churches

■ First Church, Franklin, met in its new Worship Center for the first time March 21. On March 28 an Open House and guided tours will begin at 3 p.m. and a service of dedication and celebration will begin at 5 p.m.

■ First Church, Norris, will hold a "Senior Celebration" April 30 - May 2. George Williams, Dana Ward, and Willie Aiken will speak. For more information, contact the church at (423) 494-9692.

■ Highland Park Church, Jackson, held Men's Day recently. Activities included a breakfast, five men giving their testimonies during the church's two morning services, and special speaker Doug Brewer in the evening service.

■ Southside Church, Lebanon, will hold a revival April 4-8, beginning with a Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. Ronnie Owens, evangelist of Tazewell, will speak.

■ Hillcrest Church, Nashville, will host Stephen Hill, a Gospel singer, and several other music groups March 28 from 3-5 p.m.

schools

■ Paul Veazey has been named acting vice president for church services, Union University, Jackson. The position was part of the work of John Adams. Veazey continues to serve as director of planned giving and director of denominational support.

TBC events

■ Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union will offer an event on de-stressing life entitled "de-stress-o espresso." It will be held April 13 at Forest Hills Church, Nashville. Barbara McDougal, speaker, professor emerita of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and author, will speak. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Deadline for registration is April 2. Childcare will be available. For more information, contact Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038.

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# N.C. group hopes to depoliticize Baptist state convention

For Associated Baptist Press

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — A bipartisan group has offered a plan to depoliticize the 1.2 million-member Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

A 36-member "Summit on Balanced Leadership" proposed the plan, which is intended to alternate the convention's presidency between moderates and conservatives each year.

The plan, which must be approved on several levels and would require a constitutional change, is aimed at preventing a split like ones that caused conservative Southern Baptists in Texas and Virginia to form separate state conventions, leaders said.

The proposal, sounded out March 4 at a meeting at North Carolina's Caraway Conference Center, calls for the top two vote-getters in the state convention's presidential elec-

tion to share the office. The person receiving the most votes would serve the first year as president. The second-place finisher would be named "president-elect" and hold the office the following year. Both leaders would serve two years, with the winner assuming the title "past president" the second year.

If recent voting patterns hold true, one of the winners would likely be a conservative and the other a moderate.

Two vice presidents would also be elected in one vote, with the first and second finisher serving two-year terms as first- and second-vice presidents.

The four leaders would serve as a committee to appoint the 15-member Committee on Committees, which in turn appoints the powerful Committee on Nominations. That group nominates individuals for election as trustees

and directors of state convention agencies and institutions, as well as the General Board, the convention's top policy-making body.

The proposal also calls for a change in the way General Board officers are elected. Every two years, convention messengers would elect a General Board president, president-elect, and two vice presidents. Currently the General Board elects its own officers.

The four convention officers and the four General Board officers would all serve on the General Board's executive committee, which hires employees and appoints subcommittees for budget development and other strategic assignments.

According to a statement re-

leased by the group, the plan would "preserve the integrity of one state convention, celebrating unity in diversity."

"A lot of folks are tired of the division and concerned that each year a significant number of people have left the convention meetings feeling like losers," moderate leader David Crocker told the Associated Press.

The proposed reconciliation plan is the result of a process which began about three years ago with a "Committee of 20" which met with an open agenda to try to build relationships among leaders within the two factions.

Moderates and conserva-



tives agree that taking a stand for reconciliation would be risky.

David Horton, a conservative pastor and leader in N.C., said he was accused of "selling out" to moderates.

"I'm sold out," he admitted, "but it happened in 1973 when I sold out to Jesus." ■

## CLASSIFIED

**WORSHIP/MUSIC:** Nashville church seeks blended Worship Leader Music Minister. Send resume to ALBC, 1602 N. Gallatin Road, Madison, TN 37115.

**STUDENTS:** Gladeville Baptist Church is in the process of calling a bivocational student minister. If you are interested, mail resume and qualifications to Phil Johnsey, P.O. Box 279, Gladeville, TN 37071 or call at (615) 444-9550.

**MUSIC:** 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.

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

**MISSIONARY:** Savannah, Ga., Baptist Association is accepting resumes through March 30 for an Associational Missionary. Send to Rev. Everett Tumblyn, 1805 E. Gwinnett St., Savannah, GA 31404. A profile is available.

**YOUTH/EDUCATION:** Seeking full-time Minister of Youth/Education. Parsonage provided. Send resumes to Immanuel Baptist Church, 701 W. Pine St., Warren, AR 71671.

**PEWS:** Interested in obtaining used oak church pews that need refinishing. Call (406) 482-3417.

**EDUCATION:** Accepting resumes for Educational Director, Woodland Heights Baptist, Conway, Ark. 10 years experience, seminary degree. Mail resumes to P.O. Box 10114, Conway, AR 72033. Fax (501) 329-0027, E-mail mike.gober@conwaycorp.net.

**MUSIC/YOUTH:** Full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 46, Pea Ridge, AR 72751.

## 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.

**MUSIC:** Position available for part-time Minister of Music. Interested persons send resume to First Baptist Church, 101 Church St., Smithville, TN 37166, or call (615) 597-4275 days, 597-9300 nights.

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

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

**EDUCATION:** Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks referrals or resumes for a Minister of Education. Located in NW 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 Rd., Bridgeton, MO 63044.

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## Suffering Savior

By Roy Graves

### Focal Passage — Mark 15:22-34, 37-39

The story is told of a boy walking his dog and was asked by a man, "What kind of dog is that?" The boy replied, "a police dog." The man looked at the dog recognizing it as a mongrel and said, "It doesn't look like a police dog." The boy whispered, "He's in the secret service." Following the suffering Savior demands that we shed our secrecy and boldly stand up and suffer with him.

### The crucifixion (vv. 22-25)

Crucifixion: what a hideous execution. The soldiers were given permission to do whatever they pleased with the accused. The accused became sport. With our dear Jesus it seems they played all their dirty games before the actual crucifixion. Their brutality was vicious beyond description. When they beat him, spit upon him, and mocked him, the imperfect verb tense indicates the soldiers kept on doing these things perhaps stopping only because he died. Jesus suffered at the hands "of" man and suffered "for" man. Do we really understand what our Savior went through for us? His crucifixion should motivate us with a steadfast faith to follow him now and forever. I read in Scripture where a few faithful followers could be seen and recognized at the crucifixion. I trust we are recognized as his followers today.

### The inscription (v. 26)

"The King of the Jews." Well dear saint, he is King. The fact of the matter is, "He is King of kings and Lord of lords." As a Christian we are identified with Jesus as our King and Savior. The foolish heart and mind of Pilate unknowingly inscribed an eternal truth that some Christians haven't understood. We have dichotomized Jesus into Savior or Lord instead of declaring him Savior Lord. Jesus is both/and, not either/or. We cannot accept Jesus as "Savior of our Soul" without accepting him as "Lord of our Life."

### The separation (vv. 27-34)

Jesus experienced "separation" in order for us to experience intimacy in our relationship with the Father. Jesus was forsaken of God, and at the same time, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. The separation is a splendid paradox.

### The revelation (vv. 37-39)

The veil in the temple was torn at three o'clock, the time of evening sacrifices. Acts 6:7 tells us that "a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." We can believe that some of them were in the temple on the day of Christ's crucifixion. I'm sure the "order of service" changed dramatically during the three o'clock sacrifice service. We need more recognized revelations of God in our worship services today.

The centurion no doubt had watched many die, but none with such victory. The manner in which we live our lives before others is strong testimony. In life and death we should reveal Christ so others will believe and say, "He is the son of God."

As we sing "Footsteps of Jesus" let us be mindful that we walk as suffering servants of the Savior who suffered for us. — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

## Woman at the well

By Tommy Ferguson

### Focal Passage — John 4:7, 9-15, 28-30, 39-40

#### Racial reconciliation — vv. 4, 9

In 1986 I had the opportunity to fill the pulpit of a historic Baptist church that was located in a transitional neighborhood. While talking to one of the head deacons, I asked him "Do you have any black families worshipping with you?" His response flabbergasted me. He said none of those families could attend his church. I immediately concluded that I was talking to a lost person. The Bible plainly states "you cannot love God whom you have not seen and hate someone whom you have seen," (I John 4:7-11). The sad part was this church was a reflection of this deacon and not the pastor who was attempting to lead them in a new direction.

## Family Bible Lesson

Jesus would not have been welcomed in that church. In verse four, we have recorded that Jesus went out of his way to go to Samaria. Why Samaria? The Samaritans were a group of people who were half Jewish and Assyrians. The Jews would go out of their way to avoid contact with those "half breeds." Not Jesus. We see his passion and priority. Today, I believe the greatest medicine for racial barriers is soulwinning. Witnessing causes you to look beyond the pigmentation and look into their soul. It is impossible to hate folks whom you are sharing the love of Christ with.

#### Soulwinning is "spirit led" not "flesh led" — v. 6

I have heard pompous preachers belittle soulwinning. They ridicule one-on-one confrontation. If soulwinning was a work of the flesh, our Lord would have waited when he was not so tired. Bailey Smith in his book *Real*

## Where God is

By Jerry Reagan

### Focal Passage — Psalm 42 and 43

These psalms were at one time one psalm. Psalm 43 is a continuation of Psalm 42.

The psalmist begins by saying that his desire for God's presence is as strong as the thirst of a wild animal in a desert-like location. As the deer thirsts for water, the psalmist thirsts for God. The deer cannot survive without water, the psalmist cannot survive without God. He craves and needs God's presence as much as the deer needs water. He and the deer are in desperate situations. His awareness of what he perceives as God's absence is made worse by his tears and the taunts of his enemies asking, "Where is your God?"

He possibly believed that he couldn't properly worship apart from the Temple because he is in exile, or possibly because of some illness that would make his presence in the Temple unacceptable. His memories of attending Temple worship make his experience more painful.

There is a refrain that occurs three times in these two psalms. The first occurs in chapter 42:5: "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within

## Explore the Bible Lesson

me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise him, the help of my countenance and my God."

He seems to be voicing a determination to continue to trust in God, even though the surrounding circumstances may make him waver in his assurance. Following this he admits to being cast down by memories of past locations he has visited and the memories of the waterfalls in that area remind him of the overwhelming trouble he is experiencing.

He receives some encouragement when he trusts in God's lovingkindness in the daytime and at night God provides a song in response to his prayer. He will possibly look back at a later time and realize that God provides his sweetest music and his clearest guidance when the hours seem darkest and in the most desperate situations. But at this time it seems to him that God has forgotten him, and he mourns again because of the oppression of the enemy.

The second refrain is then stated in verse 11: "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you

*Evangelism*, said this, "Soulwinning is too hard on the flesh to be done in the flesh." Verse six records that "he was being wearied with his journey." There are those who truly have the "gift of evangelism" but we all should obey the Great Commission and share our faith.

#### Jesus connected earth and eternity — vv. 10-14

Our Lord was sitting at the well of Sychar. He was able to illustrate the thirst for water to fulfill the physical, with the thirst of the soul and it's need to be fulfilled spiritually. Jesus was not so heavenly minded he was no earthly good. He was always looking for an opportunity and thoroughfare to one's soul.

#### The woman's lifestyle — vv. 15-26

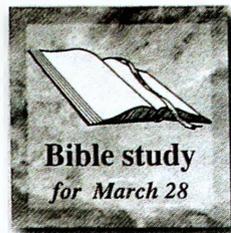
Up to this point this woman had rejected the living water. So Jesus exposes her lifestyle. She had drunk from religion and was found thirsty. So she tried five husbands and she had a live-in at home. When the Lord revealed that he was aware of her sinful living, it shattered her cockiness. Sometimes it takes a life shattering experience to awaken our need for a Savior. Maybe you have been like this woman who had religion, but not a personal relationship with the Lord.

#### Recognition of Jesus — vv. 19-26

After much effort and explanation, she sees our Lord more than just a prophet but the Christ. Only the Lord God could know what was in her heart and going on in her life. Don't give up on the one you are witnessing to. Maybe someday they will see Jesus.

#### Soulwinning will impact a city — vv. 39-42

I believe in praywalking a city. I believe Christians being involved in the political process. I believe preaching can impact a city. We see one woman totally sold out to Christ, who went to her friends and shared Jesus, moved a city. Let's do more than preach about it, pray about it, sing about it. Let's go soulwinning.— Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville.



disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise him, the help of my countenance and my God."

There seems to be an active hope that his thirst for God will be satisfied. The

psalmist then calls for God to defend him, to plead his cause, and deliver him from ungodly men.

He mourns again because of the mocking oppression of the enemy. He prays for God's light and truth to lead him as he progresses to the holy hill, then to the tabernacle, then to the altar of God, who is his great joy. Then he will praise God with his musical gifts.

The third refrain is then in chapter 43:5: "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise him, the help of my countenance and my God."

The context suggests that this time the psalmist feels a patient confidence and assurance that he will experience God's presence and his thirst will be satisfied. He now has the privilege to live before his enemies in a way that they will see his God living through him. This is an application of biblical truth that will still answer all the questions of the mockers. — Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Halls.



national/global news

## MBST accreditation notations resolved

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has received word from the Association of Theological Schools that two notations which had been in place before 1996 have been removed from Midwestern's accreditation.

The notations were regarding evaluative procedures and future financial planning.

"All notations by ATS have now been lifted," said Jim Cogdill, academic dean at Midwestern. "We are thankful for the report so that our students can know their degree is fully accredited." ■

## Baptist church aids neighboring church following murders

Baptist Press

GONZALES, La. — Blood-stained pews and flooring, together with the rancid smell of

gunpowder and vivid memories of an evening filled with petrifying horror March 10, made the New St. John Baptist Church here an unsuitable place for a memorial service. In fact, church leaders say they will never use their building again.

The pastor and members of neighboring First Church, a Southern Baptist congregation a mile away, thus opened their doors and hearts to the National Baptist church still in trauma from the carnage that occurred during their Wednesday night Bible study.

A young father, 22, known for his violent anger burst into the church at the beginning of the 7 p.m. service and began searching for his estranged wife. Within minutes, three people were killed and four others were wounded before the gunman, Shon Miller Sr., was shot and apprehended by police after fleeing the scene and hiding in a shed. He was found holding his gun to his head.

In addition to killing his wife, Carla, and 2-year-old son, one other man was killed. Before arriving at the church, Miller had killed a fourth person, his mother-in-law, Mildred Vessel.

More than 1,000 people attended a March 15 memorial service at First Church.

While the event was a monumental tragedy, First Church Pastor Jim Law, said the memorial service was "a historical event for the communi-

## Missions day camp planned during SBC

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Special activities are planned again this year for children of parents attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. The "I Can Do It, Too!" day camp will be Tuesday and Wednesday, June 15-16.

The day camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June of this year. It is contracted through the mission education team of the North American Mission Board with Duane Ortego, childhood education consultant and former missionary to South Korea. Ortego coordinated day camp activities last year in Salt Lake City.

In addition to the regular mission education emphasis, career missionaries will be on hand to share their testimonies with the children.

The day camp also will include field trips and mission points.

Registration is open to the first 200 children, and pre-registration is available by calling the LifeWay Christian Resource Center Advance Registration line at 1-800-254-2022. This year the cost is \$70 and the schedule is Tuesday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (lunch included) and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon. Parents also will be required to sign a medical release for their children.

Volunteers staff the day camp and anyone who is interested in volunteering should call Ortego at (770) 704-0267.

Day campers should dress comfortably and are required to wear a day camp wristband, day camp T-shirt, soft-sole recreation shoes, and socks. ■

ty" as "walls have been taken down as we have shared together in this great loss of life. So many people here knew and loved Mildred and Carla." ■

## FBI reports no anthrax in SBC letter

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — According to FBI lab results, anthrax was not found in a letter claiming to carry the deadly bacteria opened at the Southern Baptist Convention building here on March 5.

Officials with Nashville's Metro Health Department reported the results March 19 to SBC Executive Committee officials.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, said the SBC agency's staff "emerged from the experience with a deeper awareness that each day we live is a gift from God.

"I am grateful to the Lord for the unshakable faith of our staff," Chapman said, adding that the staff was thankful for the prayers and concern of people following the threat. ■

## New Grisham novel includes plot twist toward God, missions

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Best-selling author John Grisham has pro-

duced his best novel in years, at least in the judgment of *USA Today* book reviewer Deirdre Donahue.

*The Testament*, released in February, and his 10th novel, includes Grisham's "trademark legal wrangling, zippy plot, and engaging minor characters," Donahue writes, "but there's a fresh energy and new element — God."

*The Testament* is unabashedly spiritual without being doctrinaire," Donahue writes. "The major question he explores: What is needed for a man to live a good and happy life? While characters in previous thrillers have found joy in their offshore bank accounts, faith in God, not legal loopholes, is Grisham's new answer."

Perhaps not so new, at least for Grisham personally.

Grisham is a 44-year-old Baptist layman who has taught Sunday School to young couples as well as to 4-year-olds.

From a theological perspective, he described himself to *USA Today* as a "moderate Southern Baptist" — a "minority" within the convention. From his perspective, he said, "There's no such thing as a liberal Southern Baptist."

Grisham, the father of two teens, also has developed a heart for missions, having traveled to Brazil as a volunteer several times on trips coordinated through the SBC International Mission Board.

And despite his wealth — from 110 million books in print, with six of his novels having been made into movies — Grisham evidences a sense of stewardship.

He and his wife, Renee, "measure the success of the year on how much we give away," Grisham told *USA Today*. "They have set up a foundation to oversee their giving — 'the bulk of it goes to church and related activities.'"

Grisham's missions experiences surface in *The Testament*. ■

## B&H releases Bible with visual appeal for teenagers

By Terri Lackey  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — If your kids aren't interested in reading the *KJV*, *NIV*, *RSV*, or

even the *Good News* translations of the Bible, perhaps you could tempt them to indulge in a cartoon interpretation.

Broadman & Holman Publishers has released a Bible de-

signed in comic strip format to entice teenagers — ages 14 and up — to partake in God's Word. B&H, the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources, purchased the

rights to the Bible from a British publishing firm, Lion, to sell the *Graphic Bible* in North America and Canada.

"This is a Bible for kids who are losing interest in Sunday School or who have never set foot in a church," said

Ann Grand, manager for B&H children's products. "It's a Bible that will appeal to kids who are comic book lovers or who like to read graphic novels."

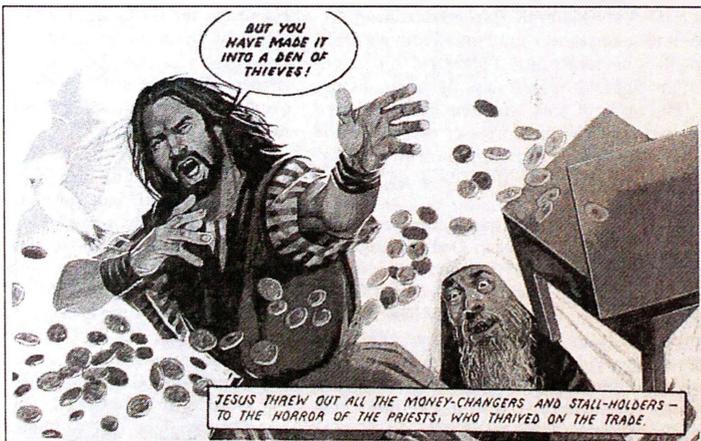
It might also catch the playful eye of "big people," she suggested. Adults who pick up one of the 256-page Bibles for their children shouldn't be surprised to find they don't want to fork it over.

The *Graphic Bible*, Grand said, is B&H's way of enticing teenagers away from their computer games and television sets and into the Word.

"We want to pull kids away from the computer screen by showing them that the Bible has just as much action and drama as those awful movies they love," Grand said.

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace and Daniel was thrown to the lions and they all lived," Grand said.

"You can't get better drama than that. And there's even a happy ending." ■



BROADMAN & HOLMAN Publishers, the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources, has released a Bible designed in comic strip format to entice teenagers to read God's Word. The 256-page *Graphic Bible* in North America and Canada. This illustration shows Jesus throwing the money changers from the temple. — Photo by Jim Veneman