

# TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this  
week's  
news

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

## Troutt resigns as Belmont University president

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Belmont University President William E. "Bill" Troutt has been named as the 19th president of Rhodes College in Memphis.

Troutt, who has served as Belmont president since 1982, will begin duties at Rhodes on July 1. He succeeds James H. Daughdrill, who retires June 30 after 26 years as president.

"Part of the joy of my tenure at Belmont has been helping to lead the university to a place that could only have been dreamed of a few years ago," Troutt said.

Over the last 17 years Belmont has experienced growth and development by increasing enrollment 75 percent, improving the average ACT scores of entering freshmen from 16 to 25, doubling the size of the campus through land acquisition, and establishing itself as a national leader in quality improvement.

Troutt, 49, earned distinction as the nation's youngest college president in 1982 and an Exxon Foundation-funded study named him one of the Nation's Most Effective College Presidents. He is also chairman-elect of the National Association of In-

dependent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and is a member of the board of directors of the American Council on Education (ACE).



TROUTT

er education community, served as a guide for the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1998.

"The influence and contributions of Bill Troutt have made a lasting impact on Belmont University," said Larry Thrailkill, a member of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, and trustee chairman at Belmont. "The entire Belmont family wishes Bill and Carole God's blessing as they assume their new roles.

"We are grateful that God led Belmont to Bill Troutt. We are confident that he will provide Belmont with a new leader, prepared to build on the strong foundation established during Bill's remarkable tenure."

Thrailkill said the board of trustees would determine the process for maintaining interim leadership and selecting a new president during their regularly scheduled meeting on April 6.

"Dr. Bill Troutt is now part of the legacy of the great Tennessee Baptist idea," said James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer.

"He came to the position as president of Belmont University to build on the mature vision of Dr. R. Kelly White and the courage and dedication of Baptist statesman, Dr. Herbert C. Gabhart.

"Today, the expanded size of the student body and wide range of curriculum and degree programs at Belmont are directly related to Bill Troutt's organizational skills and hard work. My prayer and hope is that during the next presidential era Belmont University and the Tennessee Baptist Convention will together nurture a mutual and strong relationship in which to offer quality, liberal arts education in a Christian atmosphere," Porch said. ■

## TBC giving remains strong

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — In March Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,834,954 to the Cooperative Program, more than \$900,000 over the amount given in March 1998.

For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptist churches have given \$13,829,733 to the Cooperative Program. The amount is 1,330,367 or 10.64 percent more than giving at the same time last year.

The year-to-date Cooperative Program budget for the Tennessee Baptist Convention is \$13,111,264.

"We are thrilled and pleased with the level of commitment Tennessee Baptists are demonstrating toward the missions, evangelism, benevolent, and educational causes in Tennessee," said James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer.

"Our convention adopted a challenging budget last November and Tennessee Baptists are rising to that challenge.

"We are deeply grateful," Porch added. ■

## Say conference leaders

### Alzheimer's Disease is no joking matter

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — You've heard the jokes about forgetting things and being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We've all been guilty of laughing as if it were a joke like Otis always being drunk on the old Andy Griffith television show.

Gene Nabi, however, opened a conference on Alzheimer's disease March 27 by reminding participants Alzheimer's Disease is not a joke. Nabi told those attending the conference that every church in Tennessee is touched in some way by the incurable disease.

Nabi, special education consultant with the Christian Growth Development Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention, reminded the participants that though there is no cure for Alzheimer's, caregivers and other family members do have some helps available.

The thrust of the six-hour conference was to provide a medical update, a theological base, and to look at some resources for caregivers.

Faculty for the Baptist Center conference included Dr. Joseph Francis, chief medical officer for the Veterans' Ad-



PARTICIPANTS IN THE Alzheimer's Conference held March 27 at the Baptist Center included, from left, Joe Francis, Donna Peterson, Lavan Modling, and Gene Nabi. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

ministration's Mid-South HealthCare Network, Nashville; N. Lavan Modling, pastor of Covenant Church, Nashville; and Donna Peterson, program director for Middle Tennessee Chapter, Alzheimer's Association.

Francis agreed with Nabi's assessment that most churches are touched by the disease. In his VA work, he deals mostly with Alzheimer's and dementia patients. He told the audience that during the conference he was speaking for himself and

not for the Veterans' Administration.

"It doesn't take a medical degree to care for an Alzheimer's patient," he said, but it is a learning process. Health care systems are not well-designed to care for elderly patients anyway, he added, and specifically Alzheimer's patients. To make the system fit the needs, millions more dollars will be needed.

"For those who are concerned about forgetfulness," he — See Conference, page 4

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## During S.P.O.T.S. mission trips

# C-N students share Christ's love

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — More than 200 Carson-Newman College students returned recently from missions trips during Spring Break.

The students participated in C-N's annual S.P.O.T.S (Special Projects Other Than Summer) missions trips. The program, sponsored by the Baptist Student Union, was comprised of 15 teams stationed in many Tennessee cities as well as eight other states.

BSU President Chad Hartsock served as student leader for the Atlanta team. "We spent a lot of time clearing a brush field in a low income neighborhood so soccer and softball teams can be started for children in the area," he said.

In addition to this work, the Atlanta

team taught Backyard Bible Clubs in the inner city, spent time serving food in a homeless shelter, and led worship services in a number of churches.

Sophomore Melanie Jordan participated on the Knoxville team. "We had the opportunity to serve food, give clothing, and lead worship services in some of the inner city areas," she said.

The Knoxville team also worked at Positively Living, a home and help center for terminally ill patients.

"Most of the time we were with AIDS patients, so I learned a lot about the disease," Jordan said.

"Above all, I learned that loving people is one of the most important things we should do as Christians. Only then will people become more open to hearing about Christ." ■

## IRS stripping of tax exemption upheld

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has upheld the loss of tax-exempt status for a church that warned Christians about voting for Bill Clinton as president, leading critics of the ruling to issue their own warnings to other congregations.

In supporting the revocation of the tax exemption of The Church at Pierce Creek in Vestal, N.Y., federal judge Paul Friedman said the IRS clearly may do so when an organization "publishes an advertisement in opposition to a candidate for public office," according to *The Washington Times*. It is the first IRS ruling stripping the tax exemption of a church not accused of being a "sham church" or whose

sincerity was unchallenged, Friedman wrote, but he also said there was no proof of a previous incident where a church "so brazenly claimed responsibility for a political advertisement in a national newspaper and solicited tax-deductible donations" for it, *The Times* reported.

The IRS ruled against the church in 1995 after a two-year investigation of advertisements in *USA Today* and *The Washington Times* four days before the 1992 election. In those issues, the church and others sponsored the same full-page ad under the title "Christian Beware." The ad warned Christians not to "put the economy ahead of the Ten Commandments." It asked how Christians could vote for Clinton, citing his support of abortion, homo-

sexual rights, and condom distribution in schools, as well as presented Scriptures opposing such positions.

"The Bible warns us to not follow another man in his sin, nor help him promote sin — lest God chasten us," the ad said. It did not endorse either of the other candidates, incumbent President George Bush or Ross Perot.

A Southern Baptist public policy specialist called Friedman's March 30 decision an "atrocity."

"It's scary when the government starts going after legitimate churches simply because it does not approve of the content of the church's free speech," said Will Dodson, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission's director of public policy. ■

## SBC CP totals up for month and year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for March were up more than 2.5 percent and the fiscal year's total nearly 5 percent compared to last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

In March Southern Baptists gave a total of \$13,056,386 to the CP, an increase of 2.56

percent over last March's total.

For the SBC fiscal year, after six months, Southern Baptists have given a total of \$83,257,241, an increase of 4.94 percent over the same period last year.

Designated gifts for the month of March totaled \$21,766,337, an increase of 21.01 percent over March 1998 gifts. For the year-to-date, designated gifts totaled \$94,791,111, an increase of .52 percent over the previous year's total. ■

## Spring Fling set for senior adults

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Live in the Spirit" is the theme for the Senior Adult Conference's Spring Fling April 26-28 at East Ridge Church, Chattanooga.

Registration cost is \$15. For more information, contact Don Mauldin, TBC Christian Growth Development Group at (615) 371-2047. ■

## Tennesseans asked to aid Kosovo refugees

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists may respond to the Kosovo-Serbia crisis by sending in teams to distribute food and blankets and help with housing needs in the Macedonia refugee camps, according to Tim Bearden, State Disaster Relief director.

"Until an International Mission Board assessment team, led by North American Mission Board International Disaster Relief Director Mickey Caison, returns this week from the areas surrounding Kosovo-Serbia, the best way Tennessee Baptists can help the refugees is to send money," he said.

Tennessee Baptists who are willing to go to Macedonia or other areas to work with refugees are asked to call the TBC Disaster Relief office at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7926.

Donations may be sent to Macedonia Fund, TBC Disaster Relief Office, MAI Group, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

## Child-care policies can protect church: lawyer

Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Churches can help prevent child abuse and protect themselves and their workers from lawsuits by putting together prudent policies, a Texas attorney told participants at a Baptist-sponsored church-state conference.

Liability arises from alleged negligence in selection, supervision, and retention of workers with children, said Butch Korb, an attorney from Fort Worth.

Korb suggested four actions churches can take.

(1) Adopt worker-screening policies. The courts have ruled that churches and charitable organizations have a duty to exercise reasonable care in selecting workers who are in contact with children. Screening is needed both for volunteer and paid workers, he said.

(2) Follow the two-adult rule. At no time should one adult be left alone with children. This can help both prevent abuse and protect against false claims of child abuse.

(3) Practice the six-month rule. Churches should determine a reasonable time, usually six months, to become acquainted with new members before recruiting them to work with children.

(4) Memorialize due diligence. Document everything. Write down every step taken in the selection and supervision of workers with children. ■

## Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



# Funeral home stands now as lighthouse for Christ

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

WOODBURY — A "house of sadness" is being used here now as a "house of gladness", according to Pastor Tom Norton of Cannon Community Church.

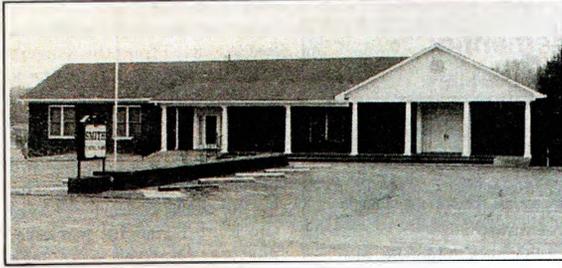
After purchasing a funeral home, Norton noted they realized that it was dark in most areas of the building. Members have begun adding lights throughout the facility, along with photos and pictures of lighthouses.

"We want this dark house to be a lighthouse for Jesus Christ," Norton said.

How a small church not quite a year-and-a-half old came to acquire a \$300,000-plus facility is nothing short of a miracle, Norton said.

When the church was first formed late in 1997 it began as an interdenominational congregation with eight people in a Bible study. "But the Lord sent us primarily Southern Baptists," Norton said. After some inquiry and discussions, the church was accepted under the watchcare of Concord Association with First Church, Murfreesboro, as the sponsoring church. As an indication of his commitment to Southern Baptists, Norton will be ordained as a Southern Baptist minister April 18 at First Church.

Shortly after it was formed Cannon Community Church,



**THIS FORMER FUNERAL** home in Woodbury now serves as home to the congregation of Cannon Community Church.

which targeted the unchurched and unsaved in the area, began meeting in a storefront building off the square in Woodbury, Norton said. Attendance grew steadily and the church soon began to run out of space, particularly for Sunday School classes.

"I had been praying for some land west of town on Highway 70 toward Murfreesboro, but I had not been praying for a building, he said.

He learned about the funeral home from his dentist, Daryl Deason, a member of Northside Church in Murfreesboro, while having his teeth cleaned.

Norton began to pray about the matter and asked the Lord to send him a sign through his church members if it was meant for the church to pursue the funeral home. "The next night five people during Wednesday night Bible study told me we needed to buy the funeral home," Norton said.

The church had a lot to do in the 11 days before the auction that was scheduled for the funeral home, Norton recalled.

First, members had to decide that's what they wanted to do and then commit financially to bring it into reality, he said.

Within 11 days the church came up with the \$15,000 needed to go into the auction and had pledged more than \$2,000 over their current giving to pay the mortgage note, Norton noted.

On the day of the auction, the church had a prayerline going continuously, Norton said, noting the congregation had set a limit of \$300,000 that they were willing to bid.

Instead of buying just the funeral home and 2.2 acres of land, the church had to bid on everything involved which brought the final bid to \$337,500. A local funeral home owner gave them the extra

money needed to bid with the promise he would buy everything the church did not want. After all was said and done the church's total cost was under the \$300,000 limit, Norton said. In addition, the church will receive a \$10,000 gift from Concord Association, according to Director of Missions James Powers.

"We were totally awed at what God had done."

The church also received an added plus out of the funeral home package. The facility includes a 2,000-square-foot apartment underneath the sanctuary which is being used by the family of Dave Dawson, the church's associate pastor.

Growth has continued since the congregation began meeting in its "ready-made" church building. The church celebrated three consecutive Sundays of record attendance in March with a high of 63, Norton said.

Norton especially is grateful to Pastor Mark Gregory and the members of First Church, Murfreesboro, for their support as well as that of Powers and Concord Association. "They have been so encouraging.

"I've never been part of a denomination before, so I've really enjoyed being part of a group that is so missions-minded," said Norton, who is a bivocational pastor.

"We felt God leading us to join the Southern Baptist Convention and that is where God wants us." *B&R*



## Foundation to build chapel in Rio de Janeiro

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Foundation, in cooperation with the TBC partnership/volunteer missions office, will join forces to build a chapel in the Sacred Heart area of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 19-28.

The Foundation has granted \$10,000 from the TBF Special Ministry Fund to pay for the construction.

The trip, led by Foundation President W. L. "Bo" Childs, will be organized through the Partnership/Volunteer Missions office. A construction foreman from Tennessee will be on site prior to the team's arrival. In addition, some have expressed an interest in leading Backyard Bible Clubs for children or training for local church leaders.

Childs said "it would be an honor" to work alongside other Tennessee Baptists.

The cost of the trip for each participant is approximately \$2,000.

Tennessee Baptists interested in participating in the project should contact Childs at (615) 371-2029 or 1-800-552-4644. ■

# Linda Dykes of Halls 'sees' opportunities in life

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

HALLS — Linda Dykes might be considered an average, active Baptist woman.

At Milan Church, Maynardville, she is substitute pianist; a member of Willing Workers, a woman's group; and member of a trio. She works as a hospital darkroom technician at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Dykes and her husband, Gordon, work in churches through their evangelistic ministry. Gordon preaches and she plays the piano. Gordon also manages a vending machine business in Knoxville.

And Dykes serves her church and Northern Association as a Vacation Bible School (VBS) trainer and leader.

The couple lives in a spacious home here which they open often to friends. Linda likes to cook for her guests.

When she doesn't feel like cooking, Gordon's employee, a friend, or relative chauffeurs them to a restaurant.

Wait. Using a chauffeur is not average among Baptists. But the Dykes need a chauffeur because they are both blind.

### VBS in churches

Linda Dykes has enjoyed VBS for

years. She led it for nine years for Stonewall Church, Knoxville, while a member there, helped several churches start the program, and has served as associate director and a teacher for Milan Church.

At Stonewall Church Dykes "saw" about 100 children come to VBS, more people than attended morning worship service. And over the years, she has "seen" dozens of children make professions of faith during VBS.

Dykes has other fond memories of VBS activities despite the challenge of enlisting teachers. She led one year although she broke her ankle. And she enjoyed an unplanned water balloon fight. But her fondest memories are of dramatic productions.

Dykes said she has formed boats with rows of chairs, used a trash can for a well, and helped children develop costumes. In past years she has had to rely completely on her memory of a Bible story to lead a drama. Today she can easily translate that story into braille or speech via a computer.

Dykes enjoys pretending along with the children to be characters in the Bible and leading them to enact the experiences of those characters. It is "fascinating," she said.

She also has led Christmas dramas

in churches. **Leading a VBS clinic**

Dykes is glad to use her VBS experience to help other teachers, she said. She and Patricia Cox of Milan Church will train teachers of younger and older preschoolers in Northern Association.

To prepare, Dykes has made construction paper circles for an activity, but she's not sure how good they look. She tried to cut around the edge of a lid she placed on the paper, she described.

She and Cox have a lot of fun working together, said Dykes. They are "partners in crime," she said, laughing.

### Using her talents

According to Gordon, Linda also is a very good musician. During the 20 years of their evangelistic ministry, she has been able to play from memory every requested song except two, he recalled.



**FRIENDS**, from left, Karen Gayle of Knoxville; Gordon and Linda Dykes, and Flowers Bates of Mississippi, visit at the home of the Dykes recently.

Linda said she's never had trouble finding ways to use her talents in churches.

If a person will "be patient and let people recognize your talents, believe me, they'll (church leaders) let you do whatever," she said.

About being blind, she basically jokes about it. "We save a lot of electricity," she said. She's so used to it, she doesn't wish for her sight, she added.

Her hope is to "be a blessing to someone in some way to honor the Lord." *B&R*

## Say conference leaders

# Alzheimer's Disease is no joking matter

— Continued from page 1

said, "not remembering names is not dementia, it is just a natural process of growing older."

For the future, care for Alzheimer's patients won't change much, he said. In reality, families and caregivers will be doing the bulk of the work in day-by-day caring — and communities, churches (including clergy), and professional groups need to get more involved.

### One type of dementia

Alzheimer's is only one type of dementia, said Francis. Dementia is "an acquired, persistent impairment of intellect with memory loss — plus language problems, mental lapses, emotional/personality changes, and disturbance of daily functions." It causes major problems in social or work functions such as how to put on clothing. Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia in North America. It is marked by distinct pathological changes — as brain cells die by strangulation or collapse in structure.

The only certain way to pinpoint the disease is by examining the brain after death. It is hard to detect specifically because other disorders and/or diseases may be present, Francis said. A probable diagnosis can be determined if dementia is established by doctor's examination, progressive worsening of memory and function, the patient is awake and alert, it happens between ages 40 and 90, and there are no other disorders or disease that could account for cognitive decline. A "definite" diagnosis can be made when all of the above are true — plus autopsy or biopsy.

Despite what most people feel is a grim outlook when Alzheimer's is discovered, with help from a caregiver a patient can function well into the latter stages of dementia, the doctor said. Mental exercise may help temporarily.

Francis listed certain risk factors — advanced age (at 85, risk is 25-50 percent), family

## Facts about dementia:

- ▶ **Depression — a Cause of Excess Disability:** Occasionally mimics dementia, often complicates dementia, treatment can improve function even if memory remains impaired.
- ▶ **Delirium — a Medical Emergency:** Acute onset and fluctuating course, patient does not pay attention, altered consciousness or speech. Common causes: drugs, infection (bladder, respiratory, skin), dehydration.
- ▶ **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Physician diagnosis, prescribes drugs, manages medical problems. Nurse: case management, home assessment, family education, phone consultations. Social Worker: coordinating community services, long-term care planning, supportive counseling. Others: pharmacist, dietician, therapists.
- ▶ **Elder Abuse/Neglect:** Common but often missed. Risk factors — substance abuse, shared home, financial stress, isolation, history of abuse. Usually a sign of overwhelmed caregiver — be nonjudgemental and empathetic, offer help and referral, followup is a must.

history, and exposure to head injury, low education, alcohol intake increase, and certain over-the-counter drugs. He also said that estrogen may stimulate growth of brain cells but may have costly side effects. As for treating severe cases when death is certain — and near, Francis answered a question from a participant, "Our answers sometimes for prolonging life seem to come from computers, when God's will and nature should be allowed." He added that in his opinion, "assisted suicide is an abomination."

He recommended several resources for caregivers, such as Alzheimer's associations, publications, support groups, ID bracelets, referrals, books (including *The 36-hour Day*, by Mace and Rabins, and *The Loss of Self*, by Cohen and Eisendorfer), and the Internet.

### Role of the church

"What is the role of the church in all this Alzheimer's caregiving?" Lavan Modling asked, in addressing theological issues in caregiving. He recounted his personal involvement as an Alzheimer's caregiver. His family "adopted" adult sisters who were their

neighbors. They were close for years. One of the sisters developed Alzheimer's and the Modlings continue to care for her even though they are not geographically close. The relationship helped him to understand the Biblical concept of caregiving, he said.

In discussing the role of the church, Modling discussed the life and "hard times" of Job. Though Job's friends thought surely he had sinned, Job was bold enough to ask God what he had done.

Job realized that the world is not fair. God agrees, said Modling. But though God does not keep innocent people from suffering, he does not prevent evil from prospering. God does not always control forces in the world, but he can help us, and help us to help others — widows, sick, children, without having to know what happens to cause the affliction, he said.

"We can acknowledge our anger at injustice and feel compassion for the afflicted. Our own indignation we can express to God," Modling said. A better question, he said, is, "Now that whatever has happened, what next?"

"So God inspires people to

help other people, to help them feel protected from the dangers of being alone, abandoned, without help. Each of us is a priest for God, we make a kingdom of priests. And we are priests to one another. God helps us to find a way of helping, to show concern, to help the healers, social workers, pastors, relatives — to seek cures for life's tragedies. He gives us strength and knowledge to help the afflicted."

Most of all, Modling said, God gives us the ministry of presence — just to be present for the afflicted. "Friends are to go to friends, the theology of friends to friends is important in caregiving." And we need to be present in their lives when God seems to be silent, and we can give comfort through simple acts of grace."

Alzheimer's patients often ask, where are my friends?, Modling said.

### Resources

Donna Peterson discussed resources provided for caregivers and relatives through the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Alzheimer's located in Nashville. She also pointed out there are several other chapters in the state, and gave participants a list.

She said the Middle Tennessee chapter covers 23 counties, and has a toll free phone (1-800-876-8098). She said the chapter tries to calm the agony of patients when they are diagnosed. Assistance comes through doctors, attorneys, books, a help line for 24-hour service.

Educational programs also are provided. Those seeking that service may call for availability Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Messages are taken during off hours, and the caller will get an answer.



## Alzheimer's Association Chapters in Tennessee

- ▶ **Northeast Tennessee Chapter** — 207 North Boone Street, Suite 1050, Johnson City, TN 37604; (423) 928-4080
- ▶ **Eastern Tennessee Chapter** — 600 Henley Street, Suite 50, Knoxville, TN 37902; (423) 544-6464
- ▶ **Southeast Tennessee Chapter** — 6925 Shallow Ford Road, #305, Chattanooga, TN 37421; (423) 510-8883 or 1-800-616-1922
- ▶ **Middle Tennessee Chapter** — 1915 Glen Echo Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-4938 or 1-800-876-8098
- ▶ **Highland Rim Chapter** — P.O. Box 1004, Tullahoma, TN 37388; (931) 455-3345
- ▶ **Mid-South Chapter** — 3960 Knight Arnold Road, #215A, Memphis, TN 38118; (901) 565-0011 or 1-800-237-3225

Peterson speaks to groups across the mid-state, especially for churches. A teaching manual is available, and training is available for care groups. Chapters have speakers bureaus to help inform about Alzheimer's. More volunteers are needed for that. Chapter assistance and information is geared for all stages of dementia, applying to differing needs as well as grief counseling. ■

## Exciting Career in Christian Retail Management

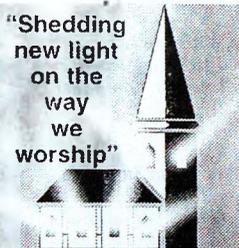
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# Gambling's not addictive? Think again

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Last week's *Baptist and Reflector* ran information about attempts to make a lottery legal in Tennessee. Hopefully, Tennessee Baptists opposed to the idea of a state-supported lottery have contacted their legislators.

When the word "lottery" is removed from the state constitution, the door is opened for any and all forms of gambling including casinos and video poker.

Yet, most Tennesseans are not aware of that possibility. And the sad truth is, many Tennesseans and many Christians have no problem with a lottery in the state. Polls show that 80 percent of Tennesseans want a lottery. I always wonder about who is being polled. I have never been polled on anything and I've only met one person who said he has been.

Tennesseans, in general, apparently think that a lottery is harmless. What's the matter with buying one ticket?

First, whether you buy one ticket or 20, it goes against the teaching of God's Word.

Second, buying one ticket could lead to another, then another, and yet another. In other words, gambling can be addictive.

Consider this following true story.

A dear friend of my family has an elderly father who lives in a state where the lottery is legal. Ann (not her real name), a committed Christian and Tennessee Baptist, knew her father had been buying tickets occasionally and had discouraged him, but her dad and mother saw it as harmless.

Last fall, however, Ann received an unusual call from her father. He needed some money. It struck her as unusual because she assumed they were doing ok financially and her father had never asked her for money before.

She gave him what he needed and then learned he also had requested and received money from her brother who lives in another state as well.

Her dad repeatedly denied gambling. It was just a matter of several bills coming due at once, he told his daughter.

Everything seemingly had settled down until a few weeks ago when Ann received a phone call from a creditor trying to locate her dad. It seems as if the car that supposedly he had paid off still had some payments to be made.

Ann and her brother finally confronted her dad and he admitted to buying lottery tickets over the past five years.

Unfortunately, the story gets worse. He

obtained a \$40,000 line of credit on his farm and has used every cent of it.

Now, Ann's parents have a severe financial problem with no other assets than their heavily mortgaged property. Ann and her brother, who both have families of their own, are now having to develop a strategy to help their parents.

What began as something supposedly "harmless" has turned into a tragedy. A couple in their mid-70s who have worked hard all their lives shouldn't have to contend with this problem today. Yes, Ann's dad has to shoulder a lot of the responsibility. He made some bad decisions. Yet, the gambling industry targets senior citizens and the very poor, selling them on the idea that the next dollar may land the huge jackpot.

Gambling is addictive and it has tragic consequences. Let's keep Tennessee lottery-free. Continue to contact your senators and representatives in the days ahead if you are opposed to gambling. In last week's issue we ran names and phone numbers of every Tennessee senator. You may use that list or use this toll-free number (1-800-449-8366). Just follow the instructions to reach your senator or representative. Make your feelings known. **B&R**



editorial/  
opinion

just for  
today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



Start with a smile

Mother (who paid \$500 for a parrot to give her son as a birthday gift): "How did you like the present?" Son: "Fine, Mom. We took him on our camping trip. He tasted delicious." Upset mother: "Didn't you know he could speak five languages?" Son: "Why didn't he say something in one of them?"

Take this truth

Formal training through education is fine, even essential in this specialized world. It is, however, never merely an end in itself. Education merely gives us the tools. We must use them wisely and constantly.

Memorize this Scripture

"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom; and with thy getting get understanding." — Proverbs 4:7

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me not only to amass knowledge, but help me use it constructively." ■

## CP enables Tennessee Baptists to 'Go Make Disciples'

making  
Christ  
known

by Gary Rickman,  
TBC staff



"Century," a program hosted by Peter Jennings, looks back over this century at some great accomplishments. Some of these accomplishments were recognized with great fanfare at the time in which they took place. Others happened quietly, but had a profound impact on the 20th century.

In the 20th century, one of

the great moments of Christian missions happened among Southern Baptists.

It was the development of the Cooperative Program in 1925. This method of supporting missions was passed quietly at that year's convention in Memphis.

Little did the people realize that this method of funding missions would make Southern Baptists one of the greatest missions-sending denominations of modern time.

The task that inspired the development of the Cooperative Program "Go Make Disciples ..." (1999 Cooperative Program Day theme) is still the

challenge before us as we are approaching the dawn of a new century.

Giving through the Cooperative Program has served Southern Baptists well in accomplishing the task of making disciples and will continue to serve Southern Baptists in the 21st century as long as the people in the pew understand its importance.

One of the ways to continue to teach the importance of cooperative missions is to lead your church to celebrate Cooperative Program Day. The day set aside by our denomination to celebrate the Cooperative Program is April 18. However,

you may choose any Sunday during the year to emphasize the Cooperative Program.

To help your church celebrate the Cooperative Program, your state convention office provides, free of charge, materials which share the Cooperative Program story. You may order these materials by contacting the Executive Leadership Group by mail, phone, or by e-mail.

May God bless our Tennessee Baptist churches as we "Go Make Disciples ..." together. ■ — Rickman is ministry coordinator of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## A major ingredient of family stability is intimacy

families  
matter

by Paul Barkley,  
counselor,  
educator, pastor



I saw a definition of intimacy years ago that I really liked. Intimacy was defined as INTO-ME-SEE. Real intimacy occurs when we are able to risk allowing someone else to see who we really are. This self-disclosure, transparency, and genuineness is one of the major ingredients of family stability.

There are at least four techniques or skills that will develop or nurture this intimacy in families. They are communication, community,

constant effort, and protecting individuality.

Communication is a major factor in maintaining intimacy. Most of us need to be reminded, however, that communication and talking are not synonymous.

Communication involves listening more often than it does talking. Listening requires that I struggle to understand what my wife thought she said. I listen not only with my ears, but with eyes and every sense I possess. I attempt to empathize, get inside her skin, and understand from her perspective. Then I will be more capable of saying things that she will truly understand.

Community is the second skill for nursing intimacy. We must be willing to spend time together in shared activities. I

am not talking about sitting in front of the same television set in the same room. I am talking about sharing activities that allow us to see inside each other. To people who are genuinely intimate, these kinds of activities will develop into rituals.

One of these that jumps out in my mind is the way the writers used to end the old "Waltons" television program. That "good night" ritual made everyone feel important, included, valuable, and gave a sense of belonging.

The third skill for building intimacy is constant effort. I continually remind my clients that you do not coast but one direction. We live in a world that tries to convince us that marriage demands a 50-50 commitment. May I suggest

that marriage demands 100 percent from both parties all the time. Couples who try to live out a 50-50 commitment are continually inviting a fight to renegotiate to whose 50 percent each activity and responsibility belongs.

The fourth skill is protecting individuality. When I tell couples that they have to give 100 percent to their marriage, some get the idea that they have to give themselves away.

There is an old adage that points to the balance which must be maintained: Too much intimacy will destroy individuality, but too much individuality will destroy intimacy.

The key here is interdependence instead of either dependence or independence. It is vital that each be able to maintain their own ego integrity. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests

April

- 8 — Pray for Jose de Sousa, president-elect of the Portuguese Baptist Convention, who will serve as president for the next three years.
- 9 — Pray for Nelda Popkey, WMU president for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 10 — Pray for Karen Peterson of Dryden, Ontario, who has cancer. Her father, Jerry Wortman, is a pastor in Canada.
- 11 — Pray for Guy and Elena Key, IMB missionaries in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who are training Brazilian leaders for cell groups.
- 12 — Pray for Nicole Emmons, an IMB journeyman in Portugal, as she travels for medical tests and treatment.
- 13 — Pray for James Jones, evangelism ministry leader for the Michigan convention, who will retire Aug. 31.
- 14 — Pray for Mel and Marybelle Cruikshank, NAMB missionaries in Alberta, Canada, who were featured during the recent Week of Prayer.



## IMB trustees report God at work

Baptist Press

LANSING, Mich. — International Mission Board trustee chairman Bill Sutton and four other IMB trustees say they have seen firsthand how God is at work overseas bringing the lost to salvation.

Sutton recently returned from a three-week trip covering 27,000 miles and 17 countries in Africa. The other four trustees were involved in a major evangelistic effort in Salvador, Brazil.

The trustees shared their experiences during the IMB trustee meeting March 22-24 here.

In business matters, trustees approved a new program — the Master's Program which is created for people age 50 or older available to make two-to-three-year commitments to serve overseas, "utilizing the maturity,

skills, and experience they have gained over a lifetime." Masters is being likened to the board's popular Journeyman program which allows single college graduates under 30 to give two years on the mission field before beginning their career or graduate school studies.

Southern Baptists interested in learning more about this program can call (804) 219-1359. ■

## Missions leader outlines prayer list for Kosovo-Serbia

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Prayer and preparation are key actions Christians can take as the Kosovo-Serbia crisis continues to escalate, an official of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has noted.

Bill Cashion, who directs the IMB's volunteers in missions program, outlined a number of ways Baptists can pray and prepare for ministry in the Yugoslav region, now the focus of air attacks by the United States and its NATO allies to curb Serb-led "ethnic cleansing" of Albanian Kosovars.

Cashion urged prayer for those in "authority in these

lands, in the U.S. and in NATO. The decisions that have been made and will be made will impact the lives of thousands of people."

He also called for prayer that missionaries and short-term volunteers be ready to enter Serbia and Kosovo, as well as other Balkan nations, just as soon as doors reopen.

"Peace will never come between the peoples of the Balkans until peace has come to the hearts of people," Cashion said.

"Peace is not a process. Peace is a Person. His name is Jesus. This is way it is so important that we earnestly pray for laborers to be thrust into the harvest fields of the Balkans." ■



CASHION

## WMU accepting nominations for post

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The search committee charged with finding the next executive director of Woman's Missionary Union is ready to accept recommendations for the position, according to Ann Coffman, chair of

the committee. Recommendations will be accepted through June 1.

Current WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien will retire Sept. 1 after 10 years of service.

Letters of recommendation should be mailed to: Ann Coffman, Box No. 302, 5224 State Road 46, Sanford, FL 32771. ■

## Discrimination to gays banned at UR

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The University of Richmond has added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy, a move some says

puts it at odds with the Baptist General Association of Virginia which founded the school 169 years ago.

The rewritten policy, approved by trustees March 5, prohibits discrimination of gays and lesbians in recruiting and promotion of students, faculty, and staff.

Though UR loosened ties with the BGAV in 1969, the BGAV still allocates about \$230,000 annually to UR for scholarships to Baptist students.

This action is very disappointing, said Reginald McDonough, BGAV executive director. He noted the BGAV's support for UR may need to be changed to reflect current realities. ■

## CLASSIFIED

**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.

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

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**TREE STRUCTURE:** Seeking Singing Christmas Tree. Contact Don Chandler, Hillcrest Baptist Church, New Albany, Miss., (601) 534-4821.

## 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.

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**EDUCATION/ADMINISTRATION:** Associate Pastor for Education and Administration. Young, growing church in a rapidly growing community is seeking a full-time Associate Pastor for Education/Administration. Send resumes and/or recommendations to Dr. Eric Goforth, Senior Pastor, Chancellor Baptist Church, 11324 Gordon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 or e-mail egoforth@juno.com

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

**STUDENTS:** Minister of Students needed, a full-time position working with children through college with an emphasis on youth. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 497, Pocomoke, Maryland (MD) 21851.

**YOUTH:** Part-time Youth Minister. Send resume: Personnel Committee, Georgian Hills Baptist Church, 3759 N. Watkins, Memphis, TN 38127.

**MUSIC:** Calvary Baptist Church, Alcoa, Tenn., is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. Please call or send resume to Music Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. 309, Alcoa, TN 37701, (423) 982-8712.

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## Through fear to faith

By Roy Graves

**Focal Passage — Judges 6:11-16, 20-24, 33-35; 7:19-21**

Fear is a frightful emotion. It will render it's victim useless. "President and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison were so intimidated by the newfangled electricity installed in the White House they didn't dare touch the switches. If there were no servants around to turn off the lights when the Harrisons went to bed, they slept with them on."

There seems to be a phobia for everything. Phobaphobia is the fear of being afraid. "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not" (Isaiah 35:4).

### Faith's perspective (vv. 11-13)

Satan is gratified when he sees a fearful heart. When God called Gideon he was afraid and in hiding. The sin of the Jewish people had reduced them to a weak fearful people. Sin will do that (ch. 6:1-11). Israel had had its eyes upon the Lord and lived with victory upon victory. But now, its eyes were upon the Midianites and victory was replaced with fear.

Where have you cast your eyes? "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." Fear will displace faith, but looking "upon the face of God" will replace faith.

### Faith's promise (vv. 14-16)

Fear is overcome by faith in God. Even though Gideon was hiding, God saw his potential and called him a "mighty man of valor." God knows our weaknesses and strengths and says to us as he did Peter, "You are ... ; You shall be" (John 1:42). In other words, God is developing our faith so we can overcome fear.

Remember how Peter fled because of fear at one point in his life, but later stood faithful and fearless even unto death. Gideon conquered fear by trusting in God. So can you.

### Faith's peace (vv. 20-24)

Some have said fear is the absence of peace. Well, dear saint, that being true, praise the Lord, because you have the "Prince of Peace" living in you. He will cast out fear. A John Hopkins University doctor reported worriers die sooner than the non-worriers, although the cause isn't known.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones said in response, "We are inwardly constructed in nerve and tissue, brain cell and soul, for faith and not for fear. God made us that way. To live by worry is to live against reality."

To live in Christ is to live in peace. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27).

### Faith practiced (6:33-35; 7:19-21)

Gideon's army fought the most frightful enemy — fear. God had depleted the army from 32,000 to 10,000 to finally 300 men so they would completely trust him.

When God strips away your resources, it is not to impoverish you but to enrich you. God used weak men to defeat a great army because Gideon and his men were finally living by faith.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith" (1 John 5:4).

You can overcome fear by faith. "Faith keeps the person who keeps the faith." — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

## Jesus appeared to disciples

By Tommy Ferguson

**Focal Passage — John 20:19-29**

**Peace with revealing his presence — vv. 21-22**

**Revealing his presence.** The hatred of the Jews for Jesus and his disciples continued! But the disciples could be comforted after the resurrected Jesus appeared in their midst despite their undesirable circumstances! Peace doesn't mean lack of conflict as much as it means harmony or wholeness within.

### Family Bible Lesson

**Application:** Our Lord never leaves nor forsakes us (Hebrews 13:5). We need not live with our "heart doors" shut and locked. Peace from God is described as authored by the Lord (I Corinthians 14:33); not as the world gives (John 14:27); that guards and rules our heart (Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:15); perfect! (Isaiah 26:3); not easily offended (Psalm 119:165); goes with us to our death (Luke 2:29).

We can have this peace despite experiencing sickness (Mark 5:35); when falsely accused (Luke 24:37); despite a tainted past (Luke 7:44-50); when facing a test (Acts 15:33); when facing death (Luke 1:79, 2:29). Peace is mentioned 429 times in the Bible. Take your concordance and do a study on peace!

These disciples were living in fear. We are not to operate our lives like this! (II Timothy 1:7) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

**Peace as he reaffirmed his purpose (vv. 21-23)**

The Lord's resurrection reaffirmed for the disciples their purpose. Many times people are not encountering peace because they lack purpose!

The peace of God was never meant to sit in our hearts, but to be shared with people! When the Lord gave those

disciples the Great Commission, he gave them purpose, something to live and die for! What are you living and dying for? **We have the Great Commission, lets get with it!**

The disciples received the Holy Spirit to carry out the Great Commission. God breathed into Adam the breath of life. Before the first Adam could carry out the ministry which God gave him — that of tending the garden and replenishing the earth — he needed the life and power that made this task possible.

And before the disciples could accomplish the task presented by their master, they needed his strength and presence. Therefore Christ breathed upon them, and the Holy Spirit at that moment began to reside in their hearts. These 11 men were the first to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost they were anointed with the power for service. **The battles within must be won, otherwise campaigns without will fail before they begin.**

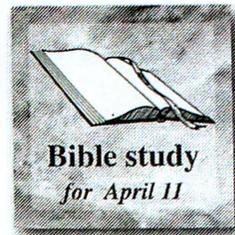
The resurrection allowed the disciples to face their task with confidence, affirming that if a person accepts Christ as Savior and Lord, his or her sins were forgiven. If a person rejects the Gospel their sins will not be forgiven (v. 23). The Resurrection gives Christians that authority and assurance that we otherwise would not have.

**Peace with resounding his pre-eminence (vv. 24-29)**

Our Lord spent time with the disciples after his resurrection. But Thomas was missing. His comrades tried to convince him that Jesus was alive!

Eight days later Jesus appeared to all the disciples. Our Lord said to Thomas, "behold my hands and side, put your hands upon them and see that I'm real." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God," (v. 28).

By this proclamation Thomas revealed our Lord's deity, his pre-eminence! Jesus is God. And he is above any adversity that we face. — Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial, Nashville.



## Triumph over agony

By Jerry Reagan

**Focal Passage — Psalm 22:1-8, 16-19, 22-24, 26-27**

The writer of Psalm 22 finds reasons to feel rejected, and to rejoice.

**Rejection (vv. 1-21)**

**His approach (vv. 1-5).** The psalmist approaches God along a path that leads through pain and prayer. He seems to suffer from some disease that makes him socially objectionable. He is referred to as "afflicted." When he cries out to his God for help, he doesn't get the answer he thinks he needs.

He still believes in God, for he still calls him "My God." In his desperate attempt to find comfort, he clings to a thread of hope. He remembers the history of his people, and how God has been faithful to them throughout the centuries.

**His attitude (vv. 6-11).** His period of relief seems to wear thin when his affliction continues and God still seems to be silent. Now the people around him began to mock him because of his faith in a God who doesn't seem to care. But again he searches for and finds another thread to cling to. He recalls his own personal history with God and how God has cared for him since his birth.

### Explore the Bible Lesson

**His attackers (vv. 12-21).** He likens his enemies to strong bulls and dogs who attack him with their mouths, indicating verbal abuse. As a result he feels disoriented, dehydrated, and as useless as a cracked pot.

The dogs, the assembly of the wicked, have pierced his hands and feet. He can count his bones through his skin. His enemies behave as if he is already dead and begin to gather his belongings and cast lots for his garments. This time he finds no external reason to be comforted, so he makes a feeble cry for help.

Somewhere between v. 21 and v. 22 God made himself known to the psalmist. The psalmist makes the transition from rejection to rejoicing.

**Rejoicing — vv. 22-31**

**Praise (vv. 22-24).** He begins to praise God as an expression of his gratitude for hearing and heeding his cry. He calls for others to praise God. We are not told the reason for God's silence, but the psalmist doesn't seem to care anymore.

**Payment (vv. 25-26).** The psalm-

ist vows to keep all of his vows and share what God has done for him with people far and near.

**Proclamation — vv. 27-31.** Those that praise the Lord shall live forever. All

the earth will recognize the kingdom of God. Even those yet unborn will praise God and declare his righteousness.

Throughout the history of the church, this psalm has been used in the worship of the church to picture the crucifixion of Jesus. The Gospel writers refer to the casting of lots for his garments, the piercing of his hands, and the cry from the cross. "My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken me?" as a fulfillment of prophecy.

Physicians have even said the description of the suffering of the psalmist in Psalm 22:6-11 would also describe someone who has been crucified. This psalm is thought of by many, many believers to be a prophetic psalm foretelling the one that would come and save us all from ourselves.

We can learn from this psalm that regardless of how much we suffer, or how long God seems to be silent, God hears and is preparing our deliverance. Let us praise him for his patience. — Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Friendship.



■ **First Church, Saltillo**, ordained **Larry Hightower** as a deacon recently.



■ **Old Friendship Church, Finger**, called **Daryl Azbill** as pastor, effective Jan. 31.

■ **Ron McConnell** has been called as associate pastor, **Third Church, Murfreesboro**, effective April 16. He previously served on the staff of **Central Church, Johnson City**.

■ **John Noland**, pastor, **Twin Oaks Church, Cedar Grove**, has been called as pastor of a church in **Potts Camp, Miss.**

■ **First Church, Maryville**, has called **Chris Gaither** as minister of students, effective April 18. He formerly served as a staff member of a church in **McCaysville, Ga.**

■ **Mt. Zion Church, Scotts Hill**, has called **R.L. McCollum** as pastor. He was ordained March 14 to the ministry by the church.



■ **Underwood Grove Church, Cumberland Gap**, will hold a **Spiritual Success Institute** April 11-16. **Ron Hood** will speak.

■ **Gibson Station Church, Ewing**, will hold revival beginning April 18.

■ **Southside Church, Parsons**, will hold revival April 12-16. Speaking will be **Ronnie Geary, Don Jones, Charles Taylor, Danny Raye, and Glen Kolwyck.**

■ The annual **Women's Conference of Mt. Olive Church, Knoxville**, will be April 16-17. The theme is "Women in Combat" and it is for women and young women, including teenagers. **Heather Beier** of **First Church, Morristown**, will speak. She speaks on the TV program, "Sela," produced by the church. **Worship leaders** will be **Paula Head and Ann Jackson**. The conference begins at 6 p.m. on April 16 and ends at 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information including cost, contact the church at (423) 577-5559.

■ **Calvary Church, Mooresburg**, held revival March 21-24. As a result, five people made professions of faith and many people made other spiritual decisions. **Evangelist Perry Neal** of **Montgomery, Ala.**,

spoke.

■ **Sand Ridge Church, Lexington**, will hold revival beginning May 23. **Michael Duff** will speak.

■ **North Jackson Church, Jackson**, will hold revival April 18-21 at 7 p.m. **Bill Oakley** of **Dyersburg** will speak. For more information, contact the church at (901) 664-9618.

■ **South Knoxville Church, Knoxville**, held **Women's Day** March 21. **Women** led the morning worship service, including **Carolyn Isley**, who spoke.

■ **Brook Hollow Church, Nashville**, will celebrate its 45th anniversary May 2 with a **Homecoming Celebration**. Activities will include presentations by several choirs during the morning worship service, a potluck luncheon, "lifesize" historical display, and a program at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 352-1295 or the pastor, **John Fairless**, at [jjfair@bell-south.net](mailto:jjfair@bell-south.net).

■ **Old Friendship Church, Finger**, held a revival March 21-26. Seventeen people made professions of faith, four people requested baptism, four joined the church from other churches, and other people made other spiritual decisions. **Pat Kough** spoke and **Conroy Ryan Jr.**, of the **Madison-Chester Association** staff led the music.

■ **Holmes Street Church, Memphis**, disbanded recently and gave its property to **Briarwood Church, Cordova**, and its remaining funds to the **Shelby Association** for an endowment for the **Church Starts Fund** in memory of **Milton A. Webb**. **Webb** was a former pastor who served **Holmes Street** for more than 19 years.

■ **Mt. Moriah Church, Whiteville**, will hold revival April 11-13. **Rhesa Davis** will speak.

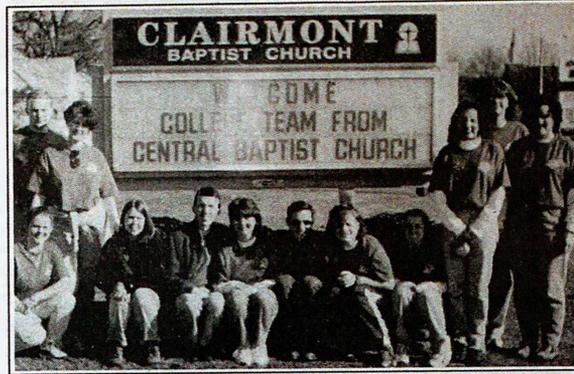
■ **First Church, Oakland**, will hold revival April 11-15. **Don Evans** will speak.

■ **Kensington Church, Memphis**, has a new web site which may be accessed at [www.hows.net/38118kbc](http://www.hows.net/38118kbc).

■ **First Church, Rossville**, will hold revival April 23-25. **Roger Mardis** will speak.

■ **Feathers Chapel, Somerville**, will hold revival April 25-28. **John Bomar** will speak.

■ **Gap Creek Church, Arthur**, will send a team to **North End Church, Mt. Morris, Mich.**, in June to support the **Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership**. The team will do construction. For more information, contact **M.C. Mc-**



*POSING outside the church in Atlanta, Ga., they helped during spring break are members of Central Church, Martin. From left, standing, are Steve Lyles, Heather Sue Payne; sitting, Cheri Spencer, Lorrie Dillon, Lyndel Littleton, Cheryl Littleton, Ryan Walker, Jessica Black, Brandi Scott; standing, Tammy Keyser, Kelly Murphy, and Shari Thomas. The team painted the church facilities, worked with children, led puppetry and clowning workshops, and distributed information in the community to strengthen its ministries to Americans including new Americans who were Russians, Hispanics, and Asians.*

**Carter** at (423) 869-3581 or **Walter Dunn** at 869-3531.

■ **Blue Springs Church, Rutledge**, will hold revival April 11-14. **William Burton** will lead worship and **Eddie Pullen**, new pastor of the church, will be the evangelist.

■ **Calvary Church, Parsons**, will hold revival April 11-14. **Jimmy Burroughs** will speak.

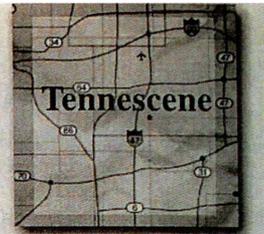


■ A team from **Cumberland Gap Association** will serve June 17 - July 1 doing construction of a chapel in **Brazil**. The association also is paying for the chapel.

■ **Polk County Association** will hold an **Area-wide Crusade** April 18-22. It will be held at the **Benton Elementary Auditorium, Benton**. **Larry Draper** will speak and **Ronnie Phelps** will lead the music along with a choir. For more information, contact the association at (423) 338-2749.

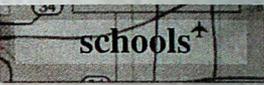
■ For the ninth year, **Cumberland Plateau and Sequatchie Valley associations** will form a construction team and work together in **Michigan** to support the **Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership**. They will work on **Pine Run Church, Clio**, July 10-17. For more information, contact **Cumberland Plateau Association**, at (931) 484-1858.

■ **Shelby Association** will hold training for church planting efforts in the association April 16-17. For more information, contact the association at (901) 756-4012. Also the association recently changed the name of the association's

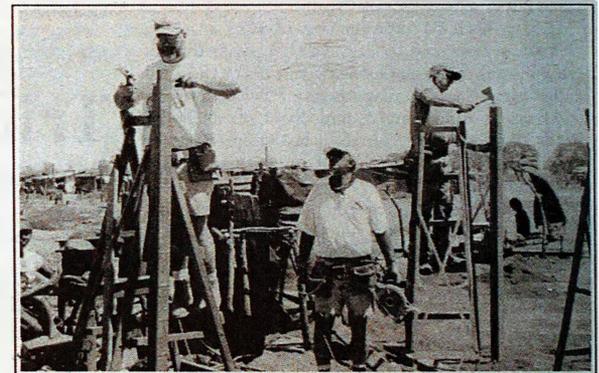


activities and assess needs there. For more information, contact the association at (901) 772-4826.

■ The membership of the **Woman's Missionary Union** organizations of **Fayette Association** increased 176 percent in 1997-98. All four age levels from preschool to adults added members, reported the association.



■ **Novelist and writer-in-residence of Belmont University** **Richard Speight** will teach two six-week creative writing courses. One class will meet on **Wednesdays** from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., **April 7 - May 12**, and the other will meet on **Thursdays** from 6-8 p.m., **April 8 - May 13**. For more information including cost, contact the school at (615) 460-5485. The university is located in **Nashville**.



*WORKING in Nicaragua are members of team which included 11 people from Tennessee. They were from First Church, West Jackson Church, and Northbrook Church, all in Jackson; and First Church, Trezevant. The 15-member team served Feb. 19-27 building 67 shelters near Managua for families displaced by Hurricane Mitch. This is the second time a team from First Church, Jackson, did hurricane relief work there. Church members have built and funded 125 shelters. The church plans to send another team in August.*

